On October 30-31, 2009 leaders, key staff persons, and board members of Holy Cross Hospital, Maria High School, Villa Joseph Marie High School and the Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse took part in the SSC Sixth Biennial Leadership Conference.

The conference began on Friday evening with a social. Sr. Immacula welcomed everyone and highlighted the goals of the conference: to deepen our understanding of the importance of spirituality for the leader and what it means to lead from within, to ensure the Catholic identity of the institution, and how to make the mission come alive.

The keynote speaker was Sr. Anne Munley, IHM, president of Marywood University in Scranton PA, who brought a wealth of experience as an administrator, educator and sociologist, as well as a variety of global experiences. Being a member of the Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sr. Anne also has a personal connection with the Sisters of St. Casimir. It was the IHMs in Scranton who welcomed Mother Maria and gave her the spiritual foundation she needed to respond to God’s call to the needs of her time.

**Rooted in the Mission of Jesus**

In her opening conference, Sr. Anne spoke of the sponsorship of Catholic institutions as being rooted in the mission of Jesus. Rootedness in God and in the mission of Jesus is clearly reflected in the documents of each institution sponsored by the SSCs. While we may meet the same human needs that many other organizations meet, we also transmit Gospel values and to influence policy for the common good in witness to those values.

Sr. Anne expressed that because the responsibility for mission has been broadened to include appropriate

("Leadership Conference" Continued on page 8)
Dear Friends,

Every year at this time we take the opportunity to acknowledge the monetary gifts that have come to us through our “Journeys” publication and donations throughout the year. We want to thank you and to let you know that it is because of your generosity and sacrifice that we are able to fulfill our mission and to care for our Sisters who have given their lives in service to the Church. There are five areas designated on the donation envelope, and I would like to share with you something about each of these opportunities to support the Sisters of St. Casimir.

**SSC Ministry Fund** This fund supports the various ministries of the Sisters of St. Casimir, especially in education, health care and the SSC food pantry. This year there was an urgent need for financial aid as scholarships to a number of incoming students to Maria High School.

**Mother Maria Kaupas Fund** Mother Maria’s Cause is moving forward and we are awaiting word from Rome that the “Positio” written about her life has been read and approved. The miracle attributed through her intercession will then be thoroughly reviewed, and if accepted as unexplainable by natural causes, will lead to Mother Maria being declared “Blessed.”

**SSC Retirement Fund** The monies from this fund are used for the health care of our senior Sisters. As you surely know from your own lives, these are challenging economic times. For us, too, the cost of healthcare continues to escalate, and there are fewer Sisters today earning a salary to support these costs. Our senior Sisters are an integral part of our community. We are grateful for their dedicated lives and their continued prayers and witness to God’s love.

**Journeys** Although this publication is sent free of charge to relatives, friends, and benefactors of the Sisters of St. Casimir, we are grateful for donations that you send to help us defray the cost of printing, postage and handling.

**Congregation’s Greatest Need** These donations are used for whatever is needed, whether it be for ordinary living expenses or bigger capital needs in the upkeep of our Motherhouse.

One of the ways we can all respond to the needs of the world is through prayer. Many people send us their prayer requests for the urgent needs in their lives, and we remember them every day. This ministry of prayer is paramount in our lives as Sisters of St. Casimir and has been a blessing of hope and gratitude to so many.

Thank you for being part of our lives and for sharing in our mission. Every day in our morning prayer there is an intention for all of our benefactors, those who do good to us in God’s name, who believe in what we are about – bringing a sense of God’s presence and love wherever we are and whatever we are doing in a world hungry for spiritual values, justice, and peace.

May God bless you and continue to shower you with His love and goodness.

Sister M. Immacula
General Superior, Sisters of St. Casimir

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**SSCs Welcome College Students**

Students from the University of Notre Dame and St. Mary’s College spent time in Chicago over the holidays exploring community organizations dealing with various issues in a number of neighborhoods in the city. Locally they visited with organizers and leaders from the Southwest Organizing Project, including Sister Margaret Zalot, President Emerita of Maria High School, who shared her experiences in organizing over the past 17 years. Sister Grace Ann provided hospitality at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir where the participants in the program had the opportunity to interact with the Sisters.

Students pictured (from left) are Anita Marquez, Maeve Raphelson, Mallory Price, Matthew Robinson, Patrick McCormick, Denise Baron, Ryan Brelenthalin, Kristi Haas, and Sister Grace Ann Kalafut.
these words from Leviticus have been key to the discussions that we, the Sisters of St. Casimir, have been having with each other and those with whom we minister. In fact we have been particularly mindful of this scripture passage and its implications in our world today, and have taken measures to learn more about immigration and what we as individuals and as a Congregation can do to address this issue in a compassionate way. In addition to education, prayer, and reflection, we, Sisters, have had the opportunity for some concrete actions regarding immigration.

**National Days of Interfaith Action**

During the National Days of Interfaith Action for just and humane immigration reform (December 10-18, 2009), we were invited to pray particularly for immigration reform, send postcards to our senators and representatives asking them to support immigration reform, share in a neighborhood holiday party celebrating the cultures and religions of those in our neighborhood, and participate in a “Posada” from the Bridgeview detention center to Mt. Carmel Church.

**National Migration Week**

We began National Migration Week (January 3–9) by viewing and discussing “Strangers No Longer”, a DVD explaining the pastoral letter concerning migration from the Catholic bishops of Mexico and the United States. Each discussion table in the auditorium had reminders of our immigrant roots and ministry experiences with creative displays from Lithuania, Argentina, Mexico, Poland, Ireland, Burundi, and Bolivia.

**Prayers for the People of Haiti**

On Sunday, January 14th, a number of Sisters of St. Casimir came together with local Catholics, Jews, and Muslims at St. Rita Church to pray for our Haitian brothers and sisters, and to share the ways we were supporting the Haitian relief efforts. Gratitude was expressed for our government’s efforts to temporarily cease deportation of Haitian immigrants from the United States, but concerns were raised about how our country would deal with future Haitian refugees. Before leaving the Church all participants were invited to have a brief conversation with someone they had never met before, realizing that each of us might soon be challenged to “welcome a new alien/stranger to our land.”

Our efforts, however small they may seem, are joining a nation-wide movement for a compassionate and just immigration reform by the United States Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops and an organization called Justice for Immigrants. Our hope and prayer is that others will join in similar efforts to make a difference for our many immigrant brothers and sisters.

To learn more about immigration reform and to stay informed on the latest news and information, visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

— **Sister Margaret Zalot, SSC Chair, SSC Mission Committee**
On Saturday, December 5, 2009, during the Mass praying for the Beatification of Maria Kaupas celebrated by Rev. Terrence Moran, CSsR, the SSC Associates made their annual commitment. The ceremony took place after the homily with Sister M. Immacula Wendt, General Superior, calling the Associates to the altar. After making their commitment, Sr. Immacula commissioned them to live intentionally the Gospel of Jesus for the life of the world through the vision of our Foundress, Servant of God, Maria Kaupas. All the Sisters of St. Casimir who were present then blessed the Associates and promised to support them in their special call from God. Sr. Immacula and Sister Marilyn Karpovich, Associate Co-Director, presented each Associate with a Certificate and a copy of the book, THE FOUNDING OF THE SISTERS OF ST. CASIMIR. The Associates were very moved by this ceremony and expressed that this was truly a holy and memorable experience which further challenged them to live Gospel values.

Cecilia Hirtzel made her initial commitment at the ceremony while the following Associates renewed their commitments: Paul and Susan Binkis, Loretta Ezerski, Andrea Gaytan, Mary Anna Gercius, Ginger Madden, and Toni Paciora. Associates who were not able to be present include Ruth Hoffman, Karen Naumes, Bette Pienta, Loretta Girzaitis, and Roseanne Scoggins. The SSCs are truly blessed to have these dedicated men and women partner with them in furthering their Mission.

Sisters of St. Casimir Associates —
– pray daily for the Sisters of St. Casimir and the Sisters pray daily for the Associates
– live Gospel values and spread the kingdom of God with justice and compassion
– volunteer their service within and beyond the SSC Community
– meet regularly to deepen their spirituality, for faith sharing and companionship
– participate in the spiritual and social functions of the SSC Community
– share in the hospitality and friendship of the Sisters.

If you are interested in learning more about the Sisters of St. Casimir Associates, please contact Sister Marilyn Karpovich or Sister Jean Girzaitis at the Motherhouse. Call 773-776-1324, or email mkarpovich@ssc2601.com.
It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge the love and dedication to our mission shown by so many generous supporters. We, Sisters, pray daily for our benefactors.
“My wish for you all is — a great love of God and a trust in Him that is born of love.”

Servant of God, Maria Kaupas

Kantutis, Joseph & Angela
Kapuskie, Chuck & Marian F.
Karckie, Sister Madge SSJ-TOSF
Karpovich, Anna
Kasarskis, Edward J. & Val
Kaslawage, Leonard & Patricia
Kaufman, Rick
Kaug, Karen
Kaunas, Vanda
Kay, Mary
Kaye, Mary Ann
Kazlauskas, Ruth
Kelly, Bernard & Rose Marie
Kelly, Robert & Marilyn
Kelmanis, Victor
Kern, Donald
Kerr, Ken
Kerr, Wm. & Anita
Keske, David & Alice
Kilkus, Lucille
King, Art
Kirk, Kristy
Kirkland, Kevin
Kirvelaitis, Vitenis
Kitterman, Coral
Kizelievicius, Raymond
Klapinski, Bridget
Kniber, Berenice
Knights of Columbus, Mt. Vernon
Kowalczyk, Albina
Kretiner, John and Kathleen
Kretzer, Maureen
Kriauclunas, Mary
Kripas, Sister Genevieve
Krol, Adeline
Krupka, Sheridan, & Carol Lillian
Kuch, Frederick
Kucha, Chester
Kukulski, Edna
Kukulski, Suzanne
Kundrotas, Adelle
Kuniaitis, Kazys
Kuraitis, Ausrine
Kurek, Crystal
Kutansky, Janice
Kuzminska, Rev. John
Kuznickas, Virginia
Kwasienski, Helen
LaCanna, Ralph J. and June M. Lake, Genevieve
Land, Rose
Langdon, Kathleen
Larkers, John
LeBrun, Denise
Leggiere, Jeannine B.
Leon, Brendan
Leonaitis, Rita
Leonard, Catherine
Leone, Victoria

Lepar, Connie
Lerner, Wayne & Sandy
Levaniene, Gitana
Leonaitis, Raymond
Lewis, Debbie
Liakas, Elaine
Limanski, Ann M.
Liotine, Joseph
Lipperini, Ann
Lipsett, Rose
Lisauskas, Robert A. & Kathleen
Listecki, Most Rev. Jerome
Lithuanian American Roman Catholic Women’s Alliance
Lodato, Joseph & Beverly
Logue, Katherine & Neal
Long, Coletta
Lucci, Majorie R.
Luksta, Robert
Luksta, Virginia & Walter C.
Lynn, Art & Wendy
Lyons, Margaret Mary
Macaluso, Michael & Carol
MacDonald, Christine & Jeff Lobel
MacDonald, Mildred
Machak, Bernice & Al
Macias, Patrick
Maciel, Berth
Macier, Mary
Macroney, Mr. & Mrs. J. R.
Madden, Joseph W. & Kathleen R.
Madden, Steve & Jennifer
Maggio, Carolyn
Maher, Elsie T.
Manno, Maryfrancis

Mazurkiewicz, Connie & Lynda
Mazurkiewicz, Margaret
Mazzella, Amand J.
McAdams, Judith
McAuliffe, Daniel and Kathleen
McBrice, Mr. & Mrs. Win.
McCabe, Irish
McCarthy, Mary
McGowan, Helen
McManus, Ken
McNamee, Natalie
McQuade, Christine

Nedzveckas, Bernice
Novak, Mr. & Mrs. Frank
Novak, Robert
Nowakowski, Joseph A.
O’Connor, Michael
O’Reilly, Edward and Polly
Odjiotti, Angela
Oliver, Delores F.
Oliviera, Helen
Olson, Lawrence
Olsson, Ms. Barbara
Oniss, Jennie
Ormond, Neil and Mary Clark
Oshman, David & Dawn
Oshman, Joseph E. & Family
Osman, Stanley
Ouellette, James
Ozels, Evelyn
Ozim, Patricia
Pachankis, Lorraine
Palis, Peter and Virginia
Palof, Helen
Palunas, Mecys
Panchari, Anna
Panek, Joseph & Audrey
Paris, Warren
Parker, Rev. John
Parkinson, Robert & Betty
Pater, Gerald & Mary Ann
Pauksta, Anne and Leon
Pauksta, Fred & Mary
Paulauskas, Patricia Neila
Pauzas, Rev. Peter
Pauzuolus, Juozas
Pavone, Helen
Payne, Deborah
Peetz, Dwayne
Peregrina, John
Persico, Sister Mary & IHM Srs.
Pervenecki, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley
Peterson, Marie
Peterson, Sheila
Petkus, Alice
Petrauskas, Berenice
Petravicz, Justin
Petronis, Anne
Petrosius, Mickey
PHA Interdiocesan Funds for Religious
Piacentini, William
Piente, Elizabeth
Pierce, Mr. & Mrs. Dean
Pike, M. & Margaret
Pirotrowski, Marion
Plapols Family
Pluzymski, Mildred
Pocius, Edward & Anele
Polikaitis, Darius & lidija
Politz, Joseph, Jr.
Pollack, Bob
Ponlock, John
Ponstein, Mr. & Mrs. Jack

Maria High School Staff and Student Body
Markel, Dorothy
Markus, Thomas and Ann
Martin, Michael, Jr. & Family
Martin, Robert, Jr. & Family
Martinez, Donald and Julie
Maskalunas, Leo A.
Matela, James
Mattis, Clare
Matrick, John & Lynn
Matrick, William & Jane
Mazgelis, Sister Clement

Holy Cross Hospital employee
Pam Stefani (left) and Sr. Jean Girzaitis.

Sr. Marilyn Karpovich (left) and SSC computer instructor Karen Strabel

St. Mary’s High School Staff and Student Body
Murphy, James
Murphy, Jim and Bernice
Murray, Dale
Muscente, Margaret
Mustelka, George
Nativiy B.V.M. Parish and School Children
Nau, Suzanne
NAujokas, Joseph
Naujokas, Richard
Nauseda, Mary
Nausedas, Virginia
Nauyokas, Don & Theresa
Nave, Roseanne

Maria High School Staff and Student Body
Markel, Dorothy
Markus, Thomas and Ann
Martin, Michael, Jr. & Family
Martin, Robert, Jr. & Family
Martinez, Donald and Julie
Maskalunas, Leo A.
Matela, James
Mattis, Clare
Matrick, John & Lynn
Matrick, William & Jane
Mazgelis, Sister Clement

Maria High School Staff and Student Body
Murphy, James
Murphy, Jim and Bernice
Murray, Dale
Muscente, Margaret
Mustelka, George
Nativiy B.V.M. Parish and School Children
Nau, Suzanne
Naujokas, Joseph
Naujokas, Richard
Nauseda, Mary
Nausedas, Virginia
Nauyokas, Don & Theresa
Nave, Roseanne

Maria High School Staff and Student Body
Markel, Dorothy
Markus, Thomas and Ann
Martin, Michael, Jr. & Family
Martin, Robert, Jr. & Family
Martinez, Donald and Julie
Maskalunas, Leo A.
Matela, James
Mattis, Clare
Matrick, John & Lynn
Matrick, William & Jane
Mazgelis, Sister Clement

Maria High School Staff and Student Body
Murphy, James
Murphy, Jim and Bernice
Murray, Dale
Muscente, Margaret
Mustelka, George
Nativiy B.V.M. Parish and School Children
Nau, Suzanne
Naujokas, Joseph
Naujokas, Richard
Nauseda, Mary
Nausedas, Virginia
Nauyokas, Don & Theresa
Nave, Roseanne

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Murphy, James
Murphy, Jim and Bernice
Murray, Dale
Muscente, Margaret
Mustelka, George
Nativiy B.V.M. Parish and School Children
Nau, Suzanne
Naujokas, Joseph
Naujokas, Richard
Nauseda, Mary
Nausedas, Virginia
Nauyokas, Don & Theresa
Nave, Roseanne
Legislative Forum Held at Holy Cross Hospital

On January 20, 2010 Holy Cross Hospital sponsored a forum to focus on key issues and to elicit a commitment from legislators that they will support funding for these programs. HCH joined other providers of health care in the area (Metropolitan Family Services, Greater Southwest Development Corporation, Gage Park/Chicago Lawn Safety Net Works Coalition, Southwest Organizing Project, Southwest Youth Collaborative and Chicago 8th District Community Policing Project) for this event. About 130 people attended the forum, including 20 Sisters of St. Casimir.

The honorable members of the Illinois General Assembly who participated were State Senators Jacqueline Collins and Mattie Hunter, and from the Illinois House, Barbara Flynn Currie, House Majority Leader, Daniel Burke, Esther Golar, and Andre Thapedi.

The issues presented to the legislators concerned programs for safety and violence prevention, human services in the area of behavioral health and programs for early child education, and healthcare costs being absorbed by hospitals because of the rising number of uninsured and underinsured persons. The latter issue was presented by Dennis Ryan, Vice President, Community and External Affairs of Holy Cross Hospital.

After each issue was presented, legislators were called to respond as to their willingness to take the lead on supporting funding for these programs. All the legislators voiced their understanding and support, but were also very honest and up front about the huge debt that Illinois has amassed and that there is very little money to fund all the programs that have been available in the past. They explained that the shortfalls are due primarily to the loss of revenue during the economic recession that is facing the country.

The final issue was presented by David McDowell from the Southwest Organizing Project. He asked the legislators if they would be willing to meet with key people from the community to work together on surfacing revenue building ideas. The question was addressed to Barbara Flynn Curry who heads the appropriations committee. She welcomed the offer and promised to set up a meeting.

Holy Cross Hospital and the Sisters of St. Casimir have been involved in advocacy for health care issues and the broader needs of the people in the area surrounding the Motherhouse. The Sisters and those who attended felt that the open forum was a step in the right direction in alerting key legislators as to how their decisions affect peoples’ lives, and for the people to see the bigger picture and offer collaborative efforts in seeking good solutions.

Leadership Conference continued from page 1

partners, each institution needs to invest time and resources in developing lay leadership, mission integration, and trustee education.

In a discussion on leadership, Sr. Anne highlighted different aspects of a leader: spiritual, relational, formative, transformational, collaborative, and servant.

Friday evening ended with a special dinner at Holy Cross Hospital. The President of each institution gave an interesting and hope-filled presentation of the accomplishments and the challenges facing each ministry.

“To evaluate leadership effectiveness, a servant leader asks: Do those served grow as persons; do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants?” – Robert Greenleaf

(“Leadership Conference” continued on page 10)
Maria High School Bestows Honors at 14th Annual Snow Ball

Maria High School celebrated its 14th Annual Snow Ball Dinner and Dance on January 16, 2010 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook, IL. The highlight of the evening was the honoring of three award recipients. Rev. Bruce Wellems, CMF received the Maria Kaups Award for his work with at-risk youth. Rev. Bruce was instrumental in establishing two alternative high schools and a Marimba Band whose reputation has gone far beyond the neighborhood where it had its humble beginnings. The Daniel Murphy Scholarship Foundation was also a recipient of the Maria Kaups Award for the generous contributions they have made over many years. The Foundation not only gives money for scholarships, but maintains a relationship with each recipient throughout her years at Maria and even beyond, demonstrating their care for each student to ensure her success. Each year at the Snow Ball an alumna of the school is inducted into the Hall of Fame. This year’s inductee was Mary Anna Gercius. Mary Anna worked as a registered nurse and also cared for disabled children. Throughout her life, she has been a member of a wide variety of organizations, accepting leadership positions in many of them. Currently she is a Vice-President of the St. Casimir Auxiliary and is an SSC Associate. (See the article on the SSC Associate Program elsewhere in this newsletter.) Mary Anna’s volunteer service and self-giving are exemplary and reflect her dedicated life.

The evening also included a silent auction. More than 200 guests took advantage of the opportunity to bid on a wide variety of attractively displayed items. The $10,000 grand prize raffle was won by Bob Marschalk, a board member of Maria, who generously donated the money back to the school.

The education mission of the Sisters of St. Casimir continues at Maria through the excellent leadership of President Wendy Lynn and Principal Margaret Hayes, and the dedicated teachers and staff. The Snow Ball was a great success and a wonderful evening to celebrate the people and the mission of Maria.

Villa Joseph Marie Alumnae Gather in “Oz”

Sisters Immacula, Regina Marie, Margaret Zalot, and Theresa Dabulis attended the reunion of Villa Joseph Marie High School on November 14, 2009. Alumnae from various years of Villa’s history gathered to see the school play, “The Wizard of Oz.” Everyone agreed that it was an excellent presentation by Villa students whose talents in acting and singing were greatly praised. The alumnae then gathered for a reception in the new student lounge and dinner in the cafeteria that was transformed into a banquet room as in one of the finest restaurants. It was a wonderful evening. Alums sang the two different versions of the school song and happily recalled humorous incidents from their days at Villa. All commented on the many opportunities that are now available to the young women in academics, fine arts, and sports. They heard of the changes that had taken place in the school from President Terri Michel and Director of Development Maureen Cleary, and the need for funding as the strategic plan continues to unfold.
Sister M. Tarcisia Stuglis was born in Chicago, Illinois, to Adam and Casimira Zidonis Stuglis. Salome Frances, or Sally as she was called, thrived on the love and attention that her three brothers showered upon her. The children were taught to know and respect the customs, culture and history of their parents’ native Lithuania.

The Stuglis family were parishioners of Nativity B.V.M. in Marquette Park where Sally attended school. As was the custom, many of the children attended the early daily Mass that was celebrated before classes began, and by the time Sally was in the 8th grade she resolved to be present for Mass every day. When the Sisters needed help after school hours, Sally always volunteered. She enjoyed the company of the Sisters, and once wrote, “I believe that those times of staying after school were the beginning of my future vocation.”

Sally became better acquainted with the Sisters of Saint Casimir during her high school years at Saint Casimir Academy. She took part in school activities and offered help to the Sisters whenever possible. Gifted with musical talent, especially a beautiful singing voice, Sally participated in many of the musical productions. After much prayer and reflection, she entered the Sisters of Saint Casimir during her senior year.

On August 15, 1942 Sally, now known as Sister Tarcisia, pronounced her first religious vows. With enthusiasm and joy, she began her ministry of teaching in the various elementary schools across the country that were staffed by the SSCs. Half of her 42 years of teaching were devoted to students in the 8th grade. She also served 12 years as Principal. During all this time, she diligently worked with her students, directed choirs and musicals, and played the organ.

In 1988 Sister Tarcisia began a second career as Housekeeping Supervisor at the Motherhouse. She devoted 15 years to these new responsibilities.

During the past few years, Sister found time to indulge in her hobby as amateur photographer. She could be found happily snapping pictures of guests and Sisters at various Motherhouse events. She also continued her participation with the Knights of Lithuania and its choir, and in 2008 was honored for over 20 years of service to this organization.

Sister Tarcisia lived her life faithfully to the service of God and to the convictions she held deep in her heart. She was called to her eternal home on November 23, 2009.

Leadership Conference continued from page 8

CORE ELEMENTS OF MISSION INTEGRATION: FIDELITY, INTEGRITY, COMMUNITY AND STEWARDSHIP

On Saturday morning, Sr. Anne continued her presentation, using the core elements of mission integration – fidelity, integrity, community and stewardship – reflecting on them as related to preserving the Catholic identity of our ministries.

Sr. Anne emphasized the core value of integrity, the need to strive for consistency in one’s personal, social, and moral values and to act with the courage of one’s convictions. She spoke of the importance of prayer, reflection, and Sabbath time – times when we tend to the heart, realizing our identity and value apart from what we do. This attentiveness to the inner world is something that is recognized across spiritual traditions. When leaders are aware of their inner life and values and tend to them, they are more likely to act out of them, inspire others and create environments that reflect Gospel values and compassionate care.

There was time for the participants to share with one another and to enter into discussion about the meaning of Catholic identity and the points brought out by Sr. Anne as they related to each participant’s institution. Many of those who attended expressed that the conference helped them realize that they were part of a larger story and a greater mission. This insight energizes them to keep the ministry of their particular institution vibrant and compelling for our times.

The conference ended with a missioning ceremony in the chapel. This is always one of the most poignant moments for our leaders who receive the blessing of the Sisters, many of whom have worked in these institutions and may even have been part of the early years of their establishment. The Sisters blessed these leaders to whom they have entrusted the carrying forward of these good works. “In the words of Mother Maria, ‘May you live by faith. May you take up with joy the mission entrusted to you by God.’ May you use the gifts God has given you to lead and inspire others, and to make a difference in our world. With confidence in God’s faithfulness and the support of our religious community, may you go forth in a spirit of collaboration, joy, and peace. Amen.”
On March 4th, we will be celebrating the feast of St. Casimir, Patron of the SSCs. Do you know how our Congregation received the name “Sisters of Saint Casimir”? In 1907, Casimira Kaupas (Mother Maria) and her two companions, Judith Dvaranauskas and Antanina Unguraitis, had been in the novitiate of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for two years. Bishop J.W. Shanahan of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA who sponsored the three young women, and Mother Cyril, IHM, General Superior, deemed it the right time for the new community to be established.

There was much discussion about the name. Bishop Shanahan thought they should be called the “Sisters of St. Casimir” because St. Casimir was the patron saint of Lithuania. Casimira, on the other hand, wanted the new congregation to have Mary’s name in its title since she was very devoted to the Blessed Mother. A second reason why she did not favor St. Casimir’s name was because her own name was its feminine form and she, in humility, did not want people to think the congregation was named after her. Already in Switzerland, where Mother Maria and her companions had studied prior to coming to the U.S., people were referring to them as “Casimirites.” The Bishop’s wish prevailed. He felt that the immigrant Lithuanians among whom the Sisters would be working would be happy to see the patron saint of Lithuania in their name. This would also make them more acceptable to the Lithuanian people since they were not accustomed to seeing Sisters of any congregation because the Russian Czar had prohibited the existence of any active religious congregations in the Russian Empire.

Bishop Shanahan, realizing how much Casimira loved the Blessed Mother, gave her the religious name “Maria.” Judith became Sister Immaculata and Antanina became Sister Concepta. The three of them were very pleased with their new names because all were devoted to Mary and grateful to Mother Cyril and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters for their love and concern throughout their formation.

We Sisters of St. Casimir celebrate the feast of St. Casimir and honor him for his holy life, his love of the Eucharist and his devotion to Mary. This deep spiritual foundation inspired his love and care for the poor and his efforts to bring peace and justice throughout the country. Although St. Casimir lived in the 15th century, the example of his holy life spans the centuries and reaches into our own. All of us can reflect on our own lives and ask ourselves:

What am I known for? What are the qualities/virtues that are evident in my life? What is the meaning of the name that has been given to me?

– Sister Marilyn Kuzmickus, SSC

Masses praying for the beatification of Servant of God, Maria Kaupas have been held monthly for over 20 years. Attendance has grown as favors are received through Mother Maria’s intercession. April 17, 2010 marks the 70th anniversary of Mother Maria’s death, and we will remember her in a special way that day at a Mass in her honor. We welcome Most Rev. John Gorman as the celebrant of this liturgy.

Saturday • April 17, 2010
9:30 AM
SSC Motherhouse Chapel
2601 W. Marquette Rd., Chicago, IL

All are invited to join the Sisters for Mass and for coffee and fellowship afterwards!
A PRAYER FOR IMMIGRANTS

God of the journey, God of the traveler, we pray for those who leave their homes in search of new beginnings and possibilities: may they know your presence with them.

We pray for those who seek to make a home in this country: may they find us welcoming and willing to help them find a path toward citizenship.

We pray for our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation: may they find the wisdom and courage to enact new policies that do justice for our country and for those who would immigrate here.

We pray for those who fan the flames of fear and discrimination against the undocumented: may they be touched with your divine compassion.

We pray in Jesus’ name.
Amen.

— THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, ADAPTED

SATURDAY, MARCH 6
9:30 AM Mass for the Beatification of Mother Maria
SSC Chapel

SATURDAY, MARCH 13
Vocation Voyage (for young women of high school age)
Guerin Prep High School
Call (815) 464-3873 for information.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MARCH 19-20
Chicago Area Nun Run (for single women ages 18-38)
Visit Sisters’ convents in the Chicago area
Call (800) 860-1840, x2897 for information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26
6:00 PM One Hour of Quiet Prayer in SSC Chapel

SATURDAY, APRIL 17
9:30 AM Mass for the Beatification of Mother Maria
70th Anniversary of her death, SSC Chapel
Most Rev. John Gorman, Celebrant

SUNDAY, APRIL 25
12:00 Noon SSC Auxiliary Games-Bingo Party
Maria High School Cafeteria

Friday, April 30
6:00 PM One Hour of Quiet Prayer in SSC Chapel