

KATHLEEN KLUTHE: ALIVE AND WELL AND LIVING IN OMAHA

by S. Winifred Whelan

It was a beautiful September day in 2015 when Joan Wageman picked me up at the airport in Omaha. The weather seemed to portend something wonderful. To me, New Cassel was a name, something that I had heard Sister Regina Pacis talk about. Nothing prepared me for what I would find, something truly amazing and surprising.

The first surprise was that there are seven of our retired sisters living there, each with their own small apartment, but fairly adjacent to one another. Maureen Connolly was away taking care of her dying sister; she generously lent me her room while she was gone. This enabled me to be close to the Sisters and just to be around for the weekend.

The second surprise was that it happened to be Kathleen Kluthe's birthday, and everyone was invited to her apartment, more or less next door to New Cassel, for cake and ice cream. Mary Ann Schmieding, who lives nearby, joined the party, and it felt like a real reunion and fun gathering.



Jan Guenther had brought a Dairy Queen ice cream cake, but it was so frozen that no one could cut it. Luckily, there was another chocolate cake that was not frozen that Kathleen's brother and sister-in-law (Mel and Lois) brought to the party. After singing Happy Birthday and a lot of conversation, we were able to finally cut the frozen cake. I was thrilled to be part of the event.

On Saturday, Kathleen did not have to go to work, so we had a chance to talk. I asked her about her job. Kathleen works as a hospice chaplain for a company called Serene Care, which is composed of about twenty nursing homes in the city. Each day,

Kathleen and one other hospice chaplain are assigned to go to one of the sites to be with dying patients. When Kathleen began looking for a job in Omaha, she applied to be a chaplain in campus ministry at Creighton University. But as she saw, for example, that some meetings with students would begin at 9:00 p.m., she had second thoughts. She felt that God had something else in mind.

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One of the most enjoyable aspects of Kathleen's job is that it is multicultural and nondiscriminatory. There are all religions, races, and cultures, someone with a Chinese background, or Native American. "I feel blessed," says Kathleen, "that a job like this would come to me that would be fulfilling, and where I'd be able to use my talents."

For eight years, as President of the School Sister of St Francis International Congregation, Kathleen was very much into intercultural, multilingual, international affairs. No matter where she went, whether in Germany, Latin America, North or South India, or even in the United States, meetings were conducted using various languages and with a mixture of cultures coming together. Very often, members of the group would start speaking in English, forgetting that not everyone was catching what was said. "In fairness," said Kathleen, "we had a professional translator with us all the time." It slows you down. Once in a while we'd have three languages, and Thomas would say, "Do you want that translated?" It meant speaking in sentences and waiting until it got translated before starting another sentence. Otherwise the next person talks and they can't understand because they haven't gotten the message from the first person.

When something was going to be sent out to the entire congregation, it was tempting to send it to the English speakers right away because it was ready. Kathleen and the International Team insisted that it would not go out to the English-speaking Provinces before it got translated. In this way, everyone receives the international news at the same time. It was a learning experience, and very difficult at first, but everyone knew that it was the right thing to do.



Another plus for Kathleen is that her job is part time, no nights or weekends, and it is one-on-one. She is able to visit people in need of consolation and prayer. She is able to talk to dying people about their families and how their faith has helped them through life. Many talk readily about the blessings in their life. She makes small index cards with Scripture quotes on them, and then reads and talks about them to the patients. They may be quotes from Isaiah, John, or the Psalms. "They love the scriptures, you can just see how they relax, they just come alive when I read to them," she reflected.

This is something family members don't often do. They worry more about seeing that their loved one has what they need. But Kathleen will often ask the family members to recall

something about their loved one, and they are very happy to do that. People have very vivid memories of their involvement in church. Families love the scripture quotes, typed in big print so

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they're readable. Kathleen also plays music for the patients and their families. Familiar songs like "Amazing Grace", "How Great Thou Art" and "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" are especially meaningful and bring much comfort and peace to the patient and their families. The songs and scriptures are all about how loving God is and how God keeps us under protective wings.

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When Kathleen's term on the international leadership team was up, after eight years, she knew that she needed time to integrate all the global experiences and to discern what to do to go forward. She decided on a three-month retreat at Mercy Center in Colorado Springs. During one week the group went out to a different mountain each day. They packed a lunch and spent the whole day, arriving at 8:00 or 9:00 in the morning, optionally meeting up for lunch to share scripture and reflections, and then start back. This was especially delightful because of the beautiful fall colors. Each week they would have a different topic: the enneagram, Myers-Briggs, dreams, grief, anger, vows and religious life, art classes and various exercises. Kathleen enjoyed the fact that there were two people from Africa and one from Viet Nam in the group. She felt right at home with this international inclusion.

I asked Kathleen whether she missed being in office. "I was ready," she said. "I had two terms. I was truly OK with handing it over." What she would miss, she thought, would be seeing the sisters and being able to talk with them. She had been to India seven times, to Europe eight times, Latin America six times. The General Assembly of 2006 had asked the international leadership team to spend extended periods of time in each Province, so they could experience the culture and see how the mission was doing, how relationships were working out, and how the formation process was going. The team would always do a retreat with various groups using spiritual exercises and centering meditation. This richness is what she would miss most. At the same time, Kathleen knew that it was time & that now she would be spending that energy on something else.

Since I only knew Kathleen as President of our School Sister of St Francis International Congregation, I was surprised to learn about her past 37-year history as a youth minister in Arizona. Here is a small part of her resume:

1980-1985: Director of Youth Ministry - Church of the Resurrection, Tempe Arizona

1986-1990: Director of Youth Ministry - St. Pius, Tucson

1969-1980: Director of Youth Ministry - Mother of Sorrows Church, Tucson Arizona

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1968-1969: Master's Degree in Religious Education, Fordham University, New York

1990-2000: Salpointe Catholic High School in Tucson - Director of Campus Ministry and Retreat Program for Grades 9-12 and Parent Retreat Program

2000-2001: Master's Program: Culture and Spirituality -Holy Name University, Oakland CA

2001-2006: Team member of the Jordan Ministry Team, a traveling spirituality center providing certification and retreats for Catholic School Teachers and youth ministers, Tucson Arizona

2006-2014: President of the School Sisters of St Francis International Congregation

Last January (2015) Kathleen went back to the Phoenix area where she had spent so many years. "Some of my colleagues organized a picnic & over 100 former members of the youth group & their parents came!"

Last January (2015) Kathleen went back to the Phoenix area where she had spent so many years. "It was January," she said, "but it was great weather. Some of my colleagues organized a picnic and over 100 former members of the youth group and parents came! They came with their spouses and their kids and it was just great." They were happy to see each other too and share pictures and treasured memories of those years. Many spoke about how important the Youth Group was in their teenage life and how it influenced many of the choices they made for their future. This wonderful get-together was a rewarding experience for everyone.

On Saturday evening, I suggested to Kathleen that we buy pizza and wine and have a last get-together before I had to leave early Sunday morning. As on Friday evening, the whole group met at Kathleen's apartment: Joan Wageman, Betty Steffensmeier, Gretta Schmitz, Joan McCoy, Frances Kloewer, and Mary Ann Schmieding. We missed Janet Guenther who was not able to be there that night, and Maureen Connolly who was with her dying sister. I thanked everyone profusely for their overwhelming gift of hospitality. On Sunday morning both my body and my spirit flew high before I landed back in Chicago. The spirit that I found in Omaha is still with me.

THANK YOU, KATHLEEN, FOR SHARING YOUR STORY WITH US!

Conflict Resolution Stories

In preparation for our 2016 Seminar on Peacebuilding, in the last issue we invited members to **REFLECT** on this **QUESTION**: *Can you remember a time when you or other School Sisters of St. Francis took part in a conflict resolution or other peacebuilding effort, or some action in support of oppressed people in a conflict situation?* We received these responses for sharing in the Newsletter:

From Sr. Mary Ann Schmieding:

When I was in Paducah, KY, there was an empty school building on our church property. We were approached by a private company who wanted to lease the building as a half-way house for men who had been incarcerated for non-violent crimes. When the neighbors found out what we were going to do, some of them picketed in front of our property and the local TV station came to interview me. I don't remember exactly what I said in the interview, but I think it was "What you do to the least of these, you do to me."

At least one parishioner's attitude toward the deal was changed for the positive because he told me so. Ultimately we did lease the school building and our parishioners would invite the residents to our annual church picnic.

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From Sr. Bernadette Salm:

Stationed in Jackson, Mississippi, I recall the discrimination between the black and white people. At one time a group of us present sang the song, "We Shall Overcome."

Another time, when I was stationed at St. Martin's in Chicago as the liturgist we had adult rehearsal and after rehearsal we sang a Colored Song. A male choir member saw me after rehearsal, his face red with anger, and said to me "Sister, never, never use those words again."

From Sr. Felicia Wolf:

I'd be glad to write about my work as a professor in the Master of Conflict Resolution Program---if that's the kind of story you are looking for. *(Editor: Yes, we'll pursue this for another issue!)*

I wish there was a good story of how we (SSSF) used conflict resolutions among ourselves.



HOLY LAND ADVENTURE

~ by Sister Teresa Engel

A Holy Land pilgrimage was never something I imagined before my sister, Karen, in Colorado insisted that I join her parish group going to Israel 6-17-2015. Knowing it was once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, I gathered what resources I could, including gift money from generous parishioners, and took to the skies. We were encouraged to keep a journal; here are a few highlights.

- 12½ hour flight from Houston to Istanbul. Another 2 hours to Tel Aviv, arriving at our hotel in Bethlehem where we stayed for four nights. The Basilica of the Nativity, and the Shepherds' Field were the first among the sites we visited. A silver star with a hole in the center marked the spot where Jesus was born--not exactly a poor stable! Many of the sites visited seemed far removed from their original setting because of the ornate churches built over them.
- A painting in small Shepherd Chapel had a little boy carrying a lamb. Rami our tour guide pointed out that when a lost lamb was found, the shepherd broke one of its legs so it couldn't walk. The shepherd had to carry it and feed it until it healed. During that time the lamb bonded to the shepherd and wouldn't leave again.
- A swim in the Dead Sea was unique. Because of the high salt content, there was little chance of drowning. After floating on my back, I had trouble getting my feet down in the water in order to stand. People were putting the mud on their whole body including their face because of this water's alleged beautifying qualities. Beauty products are made out of it.

- Renewing my baptismal promises with Jordan River water poured on my head at the spot where tradition says Jesus was baptized was a special event.



- “According to tradition” (a phrase we repeatedly heard for lack of proof), Zechariah and Elizabeth had a summer home in addition to their home in the village because it was embarrassing to have conceived at an old age.

- Busing north to the Sea of Galilee: Regarding the catch of 153 fish, Rami explained that in Jesus’ time 153 species of fish existed in the lake. There were also 153

known nations at that time. Thus, the apostles, as fishers of men, were going to catch all nations and bring them into the church.

- Daily we had Mass at one of the sites. The most unique place for Mass, and a first for our spiritual leader, was celebrating Mass in a boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee. Imagine seeing the priest at the altar with his back to the bow of the boat framed by the blue waters of the Sea of Galilee (also called Lake Genesareth and Lake Tiberius.)
- While walking down one of the streets we discovered that the Holy Land holds not only Israeli-Palestinian tensions. There was a big billboard with this Muslim message: **“O people of the Scripture (Christians). Do not exceed the limits in your religion. Say nothing but the truth about Allah (the one true god). The Christ Jesus, son of Mary, was only a messenger of God and his word conveyed to Mary and a spirit created by him. So believe in God and his messengers and not say three gods--- (trinity). Cease. It will be better for you indeed. Allah is the one and the only God. His holiness is far above having a son.”**
- In one church that was not destroyed by Muslims, the faces in the paintings were rubbed off, obviously as something not permitted by their faith.
- Cana, the wedding feast: Why did Jesus use the term “woman” when Mary said that they have no wine? Rami explained that Muslims and Jews do not say a person’s name in front of others, thus Jesus was most respectful. Again on the cross, “Woman, behold your son....” In Genesis we read “A woman will crush the head...” Jesus is referring to Mary as being this woman.

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- Town or location reputations: Jericho—laziest people; Bethlehem—sinners; Cana—bad people; Nazareth—most beautiful women; Mt Olives—famous for pickpockets.

- In Gethsemane, there are not many olive trees anymore. Olive trees never die, if given good care. Here they were 2000 years old. In places, some are 6,000 years old. As fire, they burn very hot. When Romans destroyed Jerusalem, they dug up olive trees and burnt them in the temple to get

the dome to collapse, to get the metal from the gold-covered dome. After they had the gold, the trees kept burning and the stones disintegrated.

+++ We had Mass at the altar of Mary Magdalene, next to the tomb where Jesus was laid. +++

- We had Mass in the Upper Room in front of a gorgeous life-size, bronze sculpture of the Last Supper. The tabernacle was at the heart of Jesus. Because I know by heart the scripture verses from John 14:1-15:17, this site was a special highlight for me.
- At the Western Wall—Wailing Wall—we were invited to write an intention on a piece of paper and put it in a niche or wedge in the wall. Mine was for “all those for whom I promised to pray”-- SSSF and Associates, you were on the list.
- Plans to walk the Stations of the Cross from Mt. Olives to Calvary at 5:30a.m. to avoid the crowds were literally dampened by a steady downpour of rain. I was grateful for the EXT LG fleecy jacket I had purchased earlier because of the cold spring weather in Israel. We ended by praying all of the Stations at the altar where St. Helen found the true cross.
- Six churches, including Greek Orthodox, Catholic and Armenian, have a part of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We had Mass at the altar of Mary Magdalene, next to the tomb where Jesus was laid, after which we got into a tourist-packed area and waited a long time to have a turn to go in and touch the spot under an altar.
- Our last stop was the Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center which Pope John Paul II entrusted to the Legionaries of Christ. One of the three sections of the Institute houses the Shroud of Turin. The guide giving explanations of the shroud and other items related to the crucifixion was a consecrated virgin from Germany who lives in community.

The warmth & energy of Jesus came through the people who made this pilgrimage possible: the tour guide, the photographer, the travel agency owners.

The eleven-day pilgrimage gave me a surprising gift in the end. As expected, we saw, touched and experienced where Jesus was while here on earth. Much of it is rocks, slabs, stones—all *cold* to the touch—and ornamented churches that were dark and *cool* inside. These I can now visualize when I read the New Testament. For this I am grateful. However, the **warmth** and **energy** of Jesus came through the people who made this pilgrimage possible: to the max in Rami, the tour guide; and to a lesser degree through the photographer Sheraz; Elias and Issa, the Good Shepherd Travel owners; and Amir, the bus driver. They gave their all to meet our daily needs. The **gift** was this: a renewed awareness that it is in *people* here and now, more than in *places*, that we experience the living Jesus—available to all who, in Jesus’ words, “Remain in my love.”

My Transition to Retirement

by Jo Ann Miller, OSF

Are you in a transition? About to be? Is it a lesser one or a major one? Mine seemed major. Every ministry move I ever made, except my first appointment, was my choice; and always in response to a challenge from a friend or an invitation to increase my impact.

I have left 54 years of education ministry beginning in 1960 at Alvernia H.S., followed by six years of teacher education in Chicago, and then a nation-wide ministry extending 40 years. In 1974 I answered an invitation from Dr. Don Clifton, president of Selection Research, Inc. (SRI) to join his young company's Education Division in Lincoln, NE. I only accepted once I knew I could work from Chicago. He encouraged me to come to NE for at least six months. I did, and then chose to remain there for no less than 40 years! I joined a small group of mostly educators then; in 2014 I left a global company, Gallup (acquired by SRI in '88) with 2,600 associates. As exciting as the world grew around me, I was always able to pursue my chosen ministry: teaching education and church leaders sophisticated research-based selection tools to identify and develop talented personnel, thus enriching the lives of those selected and countless others.

As exciting as the world grew around me at S.R.I./Gallup, I was always able to pursue my chosen ministry: teaching education & church leaders research-based selection tools to identify & develop talented personnel...

In May of 2013, at age 75, I began my 14 month transition from Gallup to Milwaukee. I had some good advice from Shane Lopez, Gallup's senior scientist and hope researcher, who said, "Jo Ann, you need to write a story for these next 14 months *and* for the next 10 years." Of course, he meant a hope-filled story. "You're hopeful", Shane says, "if you believe the future will be better than the present *and* that you have the power—and multiple plans—to make it so." I went to work and succeeded with the 14 months. Writing my next 10-year story was more challenging. "Try this," he said: "Do a future-self intervention. Tell a story of what you want your future-self to be 10 years down the road."



The latter became easier in Milwaukee as I met sisters I had known for many more years than 10, beautiful, living examples of realized future-self stories. Since I always wondered how many of those sisters could name their precious talents hiding in plain sight, I decided I would ask them and offer an opportunity not only to name them; but to claim them. I first asked S. Agnes Marie Henkel. What a joy to watch her awareness peak! I do believe learning, loving and living our God-given potential/gifts to the fullest is our life's work, our call to holiness. "How many people go to their grave without ever knowing their strengths?"...mused Don Clifton as he often drove between blocks of cemeteries on O Street in Lincoln.

I came to Milwaukee with many Gallup discoveries, insights, nation-wide contacts and some connections with people here eager to mobilize the spreading of strengths. Always inspired by this quote from an unknown author: *"The greatest good we can do for another person is not so much share our riches with them, but reveal to them their own"*, my strengths ministry continues. I have created a non-profit, Strengths Development Center, with an office at St. Joseph Center. Its mission is to equip individuals to use their strengths in developing the strengths of others for meaningful engagement in life, service and work—especially in education and non-profit organizations. (Right: Jo Ann with one of her Listening Groups →

So how is my transition going? It is too slow for me. I desire more impact, but am experiencing some surprises in realizing that my continued strengths-study makes much sense in my own application. Coming to grips daily with my talent themes is good work! Themes are those recurring patterns in my personality that when productively applied have always explained my success—and still do. I think lots about my talents and those of others in my transition as I did in my Gallup ministry.

The StrengthsFinder *is* a TALENT FINDER!

As I talk with others about their talents and think about my own, I continually appreciate how our talent themes help us understand the ways we most naturally think, feel and behave as unique persons. They explain the consistencies in our personality that represent natural power and potential for excellence. Regardless of our age and maturity, we exhibit them in raw or seasoned form: that is, undeveloped and uninformed or developed and well informed. An example of raw form is that of an eighth grade student commenting on her Command theme who said: "I was grounded a lot!" At times our themes can even get in our own way or in others' also. When themes are misapplied, not understood or even just different from our own, they are often labeled as weaknesses.

Building our talents into strengths "productively applying them," is hard work.

This is the challenge. Our talent themes are neither positive nor negative. It is

our perception of them in others, and our own application, that make them one or the other. In other words, we choose to view others' behavior as good or bad, and they ours. Building our talents into strengths, "productively applying" them, is hard work. A strength is the ability to consistently produce *a positive outcome* through a near-perfect performance in an activity/task. So understanding our talent themes, their value as well as their potential vulnerabilities, involves life-long work.

It is not a "new me" to grasp. It is the "same me" I am facing each day, but in a new geography, with former colleagues and new friends. For me, becoming whole and holy might just be about increased understanding and a daily commitment to fully use all my God-given strengths in the requisite transitions of my retirement. I continue to thrive, and with God's grace am having a positive impact through my strengths ministry, now in Milwaukee.





The Shape of the Liturgy.

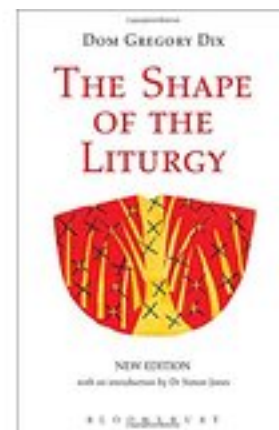
by Dom Gregory Dix.

London: Bloomsbury 2015.

Reviewed by S. Win Whelan

This 764-page work was first published in 1945 and has had seven reprintings, the latest in 2015. The author, Dom Gregory Dix (1901-1952), was an Anglican monk of Nashdom in Buckinghamshire England, an Anglo-Papalist community, that is, a community who wanted the Church of England to remain Roman Catholic.

Dix looks into every available source to tell the story of what happened at the time of Jesus' Last Supper with friends before his death, how the "shape" of the supper developed into a full blown liturgy, how it developed through the Middle Ages and down to the present day. The author maintains that the Last Supper was not the same as the Passover meal. Jewish people met each week to celebrate a "chaburah" (friends) meal in which they took bread and wine and passed these around the table. It was at Jesus' last meal that he gave this practice a new meaning by saying "Do this in remembrance of me." The author insists that Jesus is not instituting a new custom, but investing a universal Jewish custom with a new meaning for his own chaburah.



The apostles continued this practice and only gradually, when they had to accommodate more members, did they begin to gather in the homes of wealthy people. And only gradually, then, did the chaburah meal become separated from the actual Eucharist where Bishops and deacons appeared. But even as it developed, and to the present day, through all of the twists and turns of history, the essential shape of the liturgy has remained the same: the offertory, the prayer, the fraction, & the communion.

The book is not for casual reading, but it is full of interesting facts of history related to the liturgy.

2016 PMN Pastoral Ministry Network Seminar:



Peacebuilding: Global & Local

Dr. Gerard Powers

Coordinator, Catholic Peacebuilding Network

Director of Policy Studies, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

University of Notre Dame

Afternoon Panel: Peacemaking on the Local Scene

Associate Maureen Hellwig; Sisters Maureen Connolly & Joan Wageman;

Fr. Tim Kitzke

JULY 19, 2016, 9:00a.m. – 7:00pm

St. Joseph Center (1501 S. Layton Blvd), Milwaukee, WI