

Mercy, Mercy, Mother Goose

By Peggy Ann Russell, Director of Associates, Atlantic-Midwest Province

For many of us, when one hears about a mother goose the mind rolls back to childhood memories of the stories of Mother Goose.

Recently, I was mentally engaged in a different story as I watched a mother goose sitting upon and guarding her nest in the Jubilee Garden at Waterdown, Ontario. During the weeks since my visit there, I have pondered the goose, her eggs and mercy.

Although she shows no mercy to anyone who comes close to her nest, she is surrounded by mercy. The sisters have marked her area with yellow tape that is designed to advise people of dangers ahead.

They provide bread crumbs through the sliding glass door, not daring to actually go out. She, in turn, responds by banging on the glass to announce when they are late with the feeding. She shows no mercy to the dear sisters. Her mercy is focused on her vulnerable eggs.

Pondering how the associates live mercy, we recall many who serve in drop-in shelters and soup kitchens and address other needs of the homeless from Chicago to Florida.

Associates **Faye** and **Dave Helmerson** of Saskatchewan, Canada, and **Suzy Blackburn** of

Maryland have visited Douglas, Arizona, and placed water bottles in the desert.

Associate **Mary Gunning** of the Baltimore area is serving on the Haiti Committee and recently traveled there, sacrificing showers and other necessities to join the efforts of the sisters to continue to transform the world through education.

Associates are driving efforts against human trafficking in their local communities in Canada and the United States, and appealing to legislators to make the world a safer place for all. They are collecting clothing, books, whatever they hear is needed, and getting it to wherever it is required.

They are tutoring, teaching, directing and advising to ensure that each person has the opportunity to become all God created him or her to be.

Are associates men and women who sit like our mother goose? No, indeed, but they do have some of her characteristics. They show mercy for the vulnerable. And, they not only show, they do.

They are not afraid to squawk about injustices. They are not afraid to bang on doors to change the world. They are not afraid to wait patiently for new ideas to come to life. They are not afraid to answer the call of the sisters, "Come, follow us, live mercy." □

