

New associates active in retreats, prayer, building relationships

By Val Harlynn, Communications and Community Engagement Manager, Central Pacific Province



From left, Associate Debbie Anderson, S. Lorraine Landry, S. Judy Bourg, Associate Christine Ingrassia and Associate June Wichers.



Front Row: Associates Monica Scurlock, Annabella Riemer, Emmerlinda Olsen and Marietta Clemens and S. Pat Frost. Back Row: Associates Mariellyn Kuske, Leon Heck, Barbara Sanders, Pam Ryan and Father Gene Stenzel.

New associates throughout the Central Pacific Province are embracing and carrying the vision of Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger and sharing the charism with those they meet through retreats, presentations, prayer and the building of relationships.

Twenty-one women and men made their initial covenants in 2017 in the Central Pacific Province. However, their commitment to live out the spirit of Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger and the charism of the School Sisters of Notre Dame has already been evident.

Christine Ingrassia and **Debbie Anderson**, two new associates who live near Chatawa, Mississippi, along with a committee of sisters and associates, planned an immigration presentation and service project which



Associate Judy Lance, of Ferguson, Missouri, receives a blessing as part of her initial covenanting ceremony.

was held in August. Sixty participants heard **Sisters Judy Bourg and Regina Palacios** speak about their experi-



ences working in ministries surrounding immigration.

Three nursing assistants at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minnesota, **Annabella Riemer**, **Monica Scurlock** and **Emmerlinda Olsen**, also became associates this year. Working with sisters on a daily basis inspired them to join SSND on another level.

Suzuyo Miyagi had been involved in the associate relationship in Okinawa, Japan, but family commitments prevented her from renewing her covenant for several years. In 2017, she became an active associate again because the circumstances in her life allowed the opportunity to continue in relationship and community with sisters and associates.

Father Gene Stenzel, a retired diocesan priest who lives on his family farm near Mankato, presides at Mass several times a week for the sisters at Our Lady of Good Counsel. His relationship with sisters at Mass and understanding of the charism of the community was taken to another level by becoming an associate.

Leon Heck made his first covenant in May. His wife, Alicia, has been an associate since 2008. They have been missionaries in Guatemala and Kenya. They continue to assist refugees who settle in North Dakota. □