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August 2010 blew in (Poor choice of word! Nothing was *blowing* during that blistering heat-wave!) with a history-making event! For the first time since the now-traditional summer IHM Community-wide Convocation was introduced, the sisters here at Camilla, as well as those in South America, distant missions, and home care were offered the opportunity of attending the proceedings via the miracle of television. We can speak only for our nursing home, but we were sure the reaction of all who were so privileged was similar to ours. Despite my personal disapproval of the overuse of *thrilling* as a descriptive adjective, I am at a loss to find another word that encapsulates that mixture of surprise, excitement, pride, joy, and unalloyed delight that was ours on August 1st. It was truly a *thrilling* experience. And, of course, it was Sister Lorraine's address that highlighted the entire presentation delivered, as always, with sincerity and optimism. This lady-boss of ours speaks as though she is talking to each of us in the privacy of her office. The words come straight from her heart, and her message seems to be just what we need at this particular point in our history. She is idealistic yet practical and determined but unruffled and cautious but still risk-taking. At the close of that amazing program, we reluctantly left our places in front of the televisions empowered with greater appreciation for all our congregation accomplished in the past and with greater confidence that, with God's Divine Providence, we can face what the future may bring.

The second day of August brought its own special ceremony. We dubbed it, informally, the "Passing of the Torch." (Some, probably of British descent, preferred the "Changing of the Guard.") At any rate, Sister Margaret Gradl, our outgoing administrator, had suggested on July 24th to her successor, Sister Anne Veronica, that administrative duties be transferred, as of that date, to Anne. This would leave Margaret free to make retreat at the Spirituality Center and to visit her family. On August 2nd, a special Mass was offered for both sisters. Before the Eucharistic Liturgy began, Sister Pat McGuigan called attention to the fact that this Mass was being offered on what had formerly been "Change Day" in the Community. As Margaret handed to Anne a list of all Camilla's Sisters, lay employees, and benefactors, Pat noted: "It seems appropriate that today we mark the missioning of S. Margaret Gradl to her new assignment of Sabbath Renewal, a time of prayer, education, and renewal, and the missioning of S. Anne Veronica to leadership on behalf of Camilla Hall as Administrator." The following prayers were included with other intercessions: "For S. Margaret, that she will receive blessings in abundance as she embraces her new ministry of renewal" and "For S. Anne Veronica, as she assumes her leadership responsibilities here at Camilla Hall that she will be strengthened by the Spirit's Gifts." On August 10, Margaret took leave of Camilla, followed by our farewells and prayers for God's blessings. May both sisters receive abundant grace as they assume their new ministries.

We are almost half-way through our list of celebrations for Camilla's 50th Anniversary Year! Check your bookmarks, and you will see that the next big (at least to us, it's big!) event is the *Coins for Camilla* project. Today we sent a second letter to the principals of elementary and high schools (also Immaculata), reminding them that this mini fund-raiser begins on September 8th and ends on December 8th. We do hope your school is participating! We asked the principals to have each teacher or staff member to put an empty carton or bottle or vase or whatever in their classrooms/offices and to encourage the students to drop pocket change into the container. Some time before December 8th, the principal will send us a check for the amount collected, and we will use the money to help fund some of the projects listed on the back of the bookmark. We really need your help, so we hope you will encourage the children to contribute their pennies, nickels, dimes, or whatever they

can afford. Every little bit will count, and the sisters here will be delighted to know that the children are willing to help us. We know we can count on your cooperation. ----- The next event listed on the bookmark is the Open House on September 12th. Please try to get here yourselves, bring your students, family, friends, anyone! The program begins at 1:00 pm and ends at 4:00. There will be tours of the building, the Mummers, refreshments (roasted pig!), videos, and, as they say so much more. And it's free! Maybe you owe someone a "thank you." What better way to say it than to bring them to the Open House? You sisters on the missions are so very good to us. We know you won't let us down.

To resort to an over-used expression, we would be remiss if we didn't mention the fact that on August 19, Sister Regina Clare celebrated her 101st birthday. That, in itself, is amazing, but more unbelievable is the fact that Regina probably has more mental acumen, is intellectually sharper, and is much more "with it" than the writer of this newsletter. (I guess the impact of that statement depends upon your opinion of this writer.) If a stranger visited Camilla in search of the one sister who is more than a hundred years old, he/she would never think of selecting Regina Clare - especially if he/she had the opportunity to engage Sister in conversation. What a vibrant and intelligent woman she is!

This year 30 of our sisters enjoyed the traditional end-of-the-summer vacation at Stone Harbor. Loaded down with novels, games, several TV Guides, sun-tan lotion, puzzles, spending money, a few decks of playing cards, and a variety of casual clothes, they were transported to the shore after early Mass on Thursday, the 26th. They arrived home on Monday, the 30th, many shades darker than when they left, looking rested, relaxed, and refreshed. As usual, the general consensus was that the visit to Villa Maria-by-the-Sea was absolutely perfect! Nothing more could have been done to enhance those days "down the shore." First of all, the Divine Weatherman did His part by providing ideal weather - not too hot, not too cold, and no rain. I was unable to track down anyone who had packed a bathing suit, but one or two brave souls did venture to walk on the beach. During the day, groups of sisters could be driven in a golf cart to the berm where they would watch the ocean, read, do puzzles, pray, or just nap. Some preferred to do these same things from one of the porches. Others were transported to "down-town Stone Harbor" to do that all-important shopping, which, of course, included an almost obligatory visit to Foy's Five-and-Ten. And, needless to mention, for more than a few, afternoons were nap-times. Groups were formed for playing cards and games - and, of course, Bingo (run by the novices.) During the brief time that the Regionals were there for a meeting, they joined in the games - much to the delight of the vacationers. Afternoon (3 hours) and evening (2 hours) boat trips were spent in dolphin-hunting for the enjoyment of many IHM sea-lovers. Joan Connell entertained the group one night with an honest-to-goodness Penny-Party auction. At the close of each day, Sister Pat made sure there was a "Friday night treat" waiting for each sister in her room - a guarantee that all would sleep well! Morning Mass was offered every day by Father Charles Noone, who had worked with Sister Angeline at Carroll High School. On the morning of Sister's funeral, he offered the Eucharistic Liturgy for her, delivering a homily revealing his admiration for Sister, her great sense of humor, and her impact on her students.--- Every sister raved about the red carpet treatment they received from the sisters who were there to help them - those who worked in the kitchen, the dining room, the laundry, the chapel, the grounds, etc. We heard special comments about our own Sister Rita Maureen, who was lauded for being "so caring," "just marvelous," "always on hand to help us." --- - The food was, as one person commented, "just out of this world." The final breakfast of "eggs as you like them," bacon fried just right, and those delicious cinnamon buns topped off a series of luscious meals. From all of us here at Camilla (even those who for one reason or another did not share in those wonderful days) we offer our heartfelt thanks to all who helped make that visit a beautiful reality for so many.

On August 25th, thanks to the generosity of the Sisters at SS. Philip and James Parish in Exton, several of our sisters were able to witness a Phillies game. This was the third time this summer that such a treat was made available to groups of Phillies fans here at Camilla. Once again, we extend thanks for all those forays into South Philly for what was a fantastic experience for many of us.

Advance announcement: Last of this summer's "Movies with Marge" - *The Secret of Roan Inish*: a Celtic fairy tale, to be shown at 2:00 p.m., on Wednesday, September 8th. **All, especially the Irish, are welcome!**