

WE CONNECT



Companions of Pauline and Sisters of Christian Charity
#19 Summer 2020

Cover: Original photo of Mother Pauline in its studio frame, 1873.

Greetings! After a three-year hiatus we are pleased to publish issue #19 of WE CONNECT. We continue with The Life of Mother Pauline von Mallinckrodt.

The Life of Pauline von Mallinckrodt

CHAPTER IV

Man Proposes, God Disposes; Pauline in Quest
of an Order Which Will Take Charge of the Blind Children
(1842-1847)

During the year following the death of their father, Pauline, George, Herman, and Bertha kept up the household and remained united in a little family. But gradually the time approached when each felt that he should pursue his life's calling, hence they decided to divide the inheritance. The greatest harmony prevailed among them during this time. The residence at Paderborn was sold; and, by mutual consent, George took possession of the Boeddeken estate. The four were very much attached to one another, and it was by no means easy for them to break up their accustomed happy home life. It was therefore agreed upon that before the final parting they would make an extensive trip which they



Boeddeken as it appears today

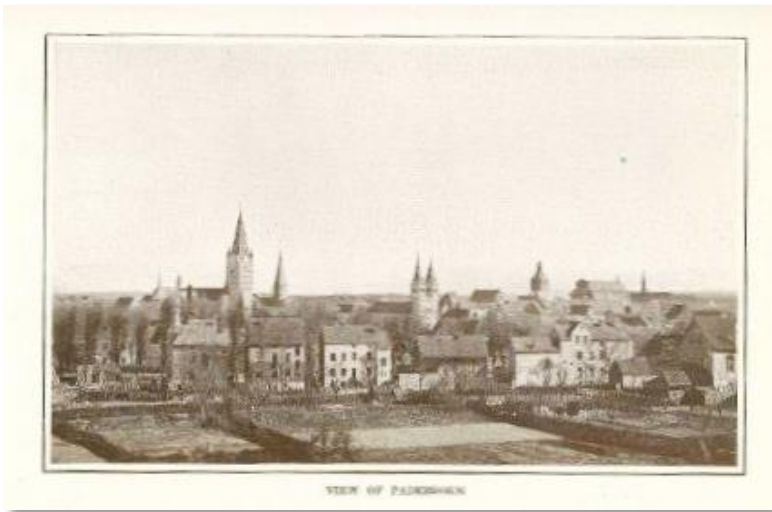
intended not only for pleasure purposes, but also to gain more practical knowledge and wider experience.

The affairs of the estate would not permit George to join the party, so Pauline, Herman, and Bertha set out on their planned tour. They visited the larger cities of Germany, such as Magdeburg, Dresden, Berlin, etc., and toured through Tyrol, Italy, and Switzerland. The charitable institutions had great attraction for Pauline. She visited a number of hospitals, schools for the blind, day nurseries, and insane asylums, unconsciously storing knowledge which was to be of great benefit to her. In Munich especially did she acquire much practical information. The Mother-House of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the House of the Good Shepherd, and the beautiful hospital in charge of the Sisters of Charity received several days' inspection, to which end Sisters and resident physician lent courteous and willing assistance. After three months of traveling the tourists returned to Paderborn, Pauline with the firm resolution of entering the convent.

Having been made acquainted with her excessive love for the poor and suffering, one can readily understand that she nurtured the thought of joining a community devoted to the welfare of suffering humanity. God, however, who guides the footsteps of His own and leads them on His unsearchable ways, had planned for her another career.

After much prayer, Pauline chose for her adviser in this important crisis of her life a venerable priest of her acquaintance in Münster — the future Bishop Kellermann — a man renowned for his piety and wisdom in the guidance of souls. After giving the matter due consideration, he advised Pauline not to carry out her resolution of entering the convent just then, but to wait until God would point out her vocation more clearly. Although this was a great sacrifice for Pauline, who had already been anticipating the happiness of religious life, she accepted the counsel as the expression of the divine will, and submitted to it with resignation.

As the homestead had been sold and her brothers and sister were scattered, Pauline was now without a home. Her relatives and friends were exceptionally loving and kind to her, insisting that she come and make her home with them, but Pauline did not accept any of the invitations, for she wished to be quite free in the disposal of her time for charitable work. For a while she lived with her uncle, Frederick von Hartmann, in Paderborn, and then she took abode in a dwelling in his immediate neighborhood, in order that she might be under the protection of her relatives, but, at the same time, live independently.



During this time Pauline found consolation nowhere but in Holy Communion and in serving "the dear poor and blind children." From the contemplative life of Mary in the nearness of the Tabernacle she hurried to the active life of Martha. The greater part of the day she spent with her protégés in the old Capuchin monastery; here she served the Master in the least of His brethren. After some time she received permission from the bishop of Paderborn to live in the monastery, so that, being constantly in the same house with the blind children, she could the better care for them, for the poor, and for the day nursery. This was a great joy for Pauline. She now occupied two small rooms — former cells, which she furnished

in a plain but cozy manner. She had at least found retirement in a monastic asylum, where her two favorite undertakings were sheltered.

After a while, the advantages of having the blind children cared for by a Sisterhood became evident to Pauline, and as she herself constantly yearned for the realization of her only desire, the religious life, she decided to enter that community which would take up the work of her blind children, and to learn of such a community she would spare no efforts. Providentially, about this time, a new impulse was given to the public care for blind children, and whilst Pauline was hoping and praying, God was paving the way for the grandest results.

In 1846 the province of Westphalia moved to found a Provincial School for the Blind in memory of the late President von Vincke, and, to show due regard for religion, there were to be two separate institutions, one Catholic and one Protestant. The Protestant asylum was to be erected at Soest, and the Catholic, at Paderborn. Paderborn was chosen since in that city there already existed a private asylum for the blind which, as well as the person under whose management it stood, they hoped to gain for the project. Now the time had come when, according to Pauline's conviction, the care and education of the blind children should be turned over to a religious community, and she redoubled her efforts to find a Sisterhood which would undertake the work. Accompanied by an influential lady of Paderborn, Pauline set out by way of Aix-la-Chapelle for Conflans, near Paris, to the Mother-House of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, where her friend, Anna von Lommessen, had entered, and where the renowned foundress, Madame Barat, was at the time. The trip was most advantageous for Pauline's future vocation. In Aix-la-



Anna von Lommessen

Chapelle she was heartily welcomed by her friend, Mother Clara, foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus, and was very much edified by the saintly life of the Sisters ; the three weeks' stay in Conflans she classed among the great graces which God had given her. In her "Memoir" she writes: "The mother-general, Madame Barat, is a most prudent, saintly woman, and manifold are the virtues of her spiritual daughters. Everything I saw tended to my instruction and edification. Religious order and discipline was exceptionally good; there reigned great attentiveness and politeness, the fair fruits of charity. The interviews with my friend, Anna von Lommessen, were also of importance to me. Mother-general permitted that we be present at the

instructions given to the novices, take meals with the Sisters, and join them in many of their exercises and recreations, and read their holy Rule. All this was a special favor from God; I learned things which were to be of great use to me later on, and of which, without this dispensation, I would have remained ignorant."

Pauline's endeavors to have one of these communities take charge of the asylum for the blind were of no avail, for either there were good reasons for their not entering upon the work, or other obstacles arose to prevent their doing so. She therefore decided to go once more to Aix-la-Chapelle on her return from Conflans, and again exert every effort to induce Mother Clara to assume direction of the asylum.

However, she met with no better result than during the first visit, since the young community was not yet able to enter upon such an undertaking. Mother Clara and her spiritual director advised Pauline to found a new community which



Madame Sophie Barat, foundress of the Religious of the Sacred Heart. Portrait by W. Bystram



Mother Clara Fey

would then take charge of the asylum, but she repelled such a proposition. Desirous of seeing Pauline's efforts meet with some success. Mother Clara urged her to go to Cologne and consult the auxiliary bishop, Doctor Claessen, her former confessor and the trusted friend of her deceased parents. The friendship and influence of this prelate with the Sisters of Mercy of St. Borromeo, pointed to him as the best mediator in bringing about the fulfillment of her ardent desire. Pauline gladly heeded this advice, for she saw in it a ray of hope for her cause.

In Cologne she met with a most cordial reception. The bishop insisted on her being his guest during her stay in the city, and after listening with close attention to a detailed statement of everything connected with her plans, he asked her to remain a few days, that he might duly consider the matter in prayer. Pauline also spent this time in fervent prayer, and then received from her fatherly friend the answer which was to be so decisive for her whole future, and which she accordingly wrote down verbatim. It was : "I have thought earnestly about the whole matter, and have given it due consideration before God, and arrived at the definite conclusion — it is best, and God's holy will, that you yourself just remain with the work which God has blessed in your hands, and which He has taken under His protection. Devote to the small beginning that love, perseverance, and care so necessary for its maintenance and growth. You are thoroughly acquainted with all the circumstances, and God has given you the confidence of the men who wish to care for the blind children. But go hand in hand with the Church. When you return home speak to Bishop Drepper, to the vicar-general, Father Boecamp, and to your pastor of the Busdorf (a locality in the city of Paderborn) church, Father Schmidt, These men know the local conditions and the whole state of things, and what they should not know you can easily communicate to

them. Tell them what advice the auxiliary bishop of Cologne gave you after due deliberation and prayer, and ask, if they are not of the same opinion — that it were well if you, and the associates who wish to join you, would devote your time and energy to the poor blind children, and whether to this end, the bishop is willing to give his approval and the blessing of the Church for the foundation of a religious community. I trust that God may permit the views of these men to coincide with my own, and if so, then go right ahead, with discretion and composure, but at the same time, with determination. God will give prosperity to your work. But if, contrary to my expectations, it should not succeed, then come to me; I will assign to you a sphere of activity in our diocese."



Bishop Johann Franz
Drepper

"This decision," Pauline continues in her "Memoir," "was entirely unexpected, but since it had been reached, I was willing, and as I pondered over it, I felt in the innermost part of my soul that it was good, and pleasing to God. I was determined, and felt that, with God's grace, I had the strength to carry out the plan, notwithstanding all difficulties which might arise. When I look back upon my life now I cannot but marvel at God's disposals. God wanted this resolve from me, and I did not in the least surmise that the ways which He led me would end thus. And all these ways in which, with sincerity of purpose toward God, I sought for something entirely different from the end He had in mind, served, according to the wise dispensations of Providence, to fit me for accomplishing that which He desired of me. 'Man proposes; God disposes.' "

Surprise Party

By now you have already heard of the “Top Secret” surprise party that was planned to celebrate Sister Pauline’s retirement as Director of the Companions of Pauline Program.

We began the program by celebrating Mother Pauline’s birthday (an excuse for getting Sister Pauline there). We sang “Happy Birthday” to Mother Pauline and then sang two Mother Pauline songs.



Thank you very much for your enthusiastic response in sending thank you and appreciation cards to Sister Pauline.

Next came the “Top Secret Thank You”. We began with the song “Here I Am” and a maxim of Mother Pauline. Remembering the years of service of Sister Pauline from 1992 - the present (2019), we had a “litany” of all the major accomplishments of those years. Since she had been asked to do this work for only one year, each of the yearly accomplishments ended with the refrain, “...and the year never ended.” The “litany” concluded with “Finally Sister Pauline said, “Enough!” and retired.”

After finishing with another favorite maxim of Mother Pauline and the hymn, “O, My Queen, My Mother,” Sister Pauline received a basket of cards and notes sent from the Companions of Pauline and a gift (a quilt) from Darlene and Michael Johnson. A treat followed this enjoyable gathering.



Sister Caroline helps Sister Pauline unwrap her gift.



Later that day, with the help of Sister Dolores, the quilt adorned Sister Pauline’s bed.





S. M. Joanne, S. Mary Ann, S. Pauline and S. Juliana pose for this photo, next to a table bearing samples of the many resources S. Pauline helped to develop for the Companions of Pauline Program.



Sister Karen (far right) led the planning and decorating committees for the surprise party.



After the party Sister Pauline is still all smiles.

In the dining room, there was a hanging display of the six posters of USA States where our Companions gather with the names of the individual Companions; a poster of pictures of six other USA States and two countries where there are Companions of Pauline, Vietnam and Canada; two posters of places where S Pauline traveled, Rome and Germany; and a list of the 68 diseased Companions of Pauline. Various pictures of Sister Pauline and the Companions hung on the pillars.

Sister Pauline was really surprised! It was a well-guarded secret.



SCC Companions Coordinators: S. M. Joanne Ladwig (New Orleans, LA), S. Dolores Bozif (Fulton, MO), S. Pauline Schafer (Michigan) and S. Mary Ann Warwick (Minnesota)

Regional Chapter 2018 & General Chapter 2019

Both Chapters expressed strong support for the Companions of Pauline Program/Pauline Groups around the Congregation.

Regional Chapter 2018: (November 18-24, 2018)

“A task force will be formed to research, review and formulate the next best steps to foster the growth and vitality of the Companions of Pauline program”.

General Chapter 2019: (July 1-22, 2019)

“We continue to foster and support Pauline Groups, both where we are currently ministering and in places where we no longer minister. Although the groups take different forms in various units, they share the common desire to spread the kingdom of God through SCC Spirituality. It is hoped that all Sisters, not only those responsible for the Pauline Groups in their units – will assist in this ministry. There is also a need to recruit younger members for leadership in Pauline groups. Our call to deeper International Communion can be nurtured by the sharing of resources and ideas among the coordinators of the Pauline Groups.



Other News

On September 8, 2019, S. Juliana Miska was installed as **Regional Superior**. S. Janice Boyer, the previous Regional Superior, is now the Local Leader at Sacred Heart Convent.

Because there were no Sisters celebrating the “traditional” **Jubilee** years (25, 40, 50, 60, etc.) this year, we celebrated every Sister’s anniversary of Investing on June 21, 2020.

Our **Regional Assembly** was held over three days with a different topic on each day. June 22 – SCC Intentional International Community; June 23 – Philippine Mission and Vietnamese Presence; June 24 – Companions of Pauline. Two additional assembly days are scheduled later this year.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...

The following Companions of Pauline died since the last issue of WE CONNECT:

Rita (Fachman) Burwell
Vivian Chiapetta
Audrey Coughlin
Caroline Creswell
Jerry Hill
Mary Lou Landers
Dolores Obremski

Lucille Pierson
Kathleen LaSorella
Elizabeth Trende
Evelyn Treuting
Fr. Peter Maria Vu Doc Hoc
Eloise Gailes Wyble

*“... and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.”*



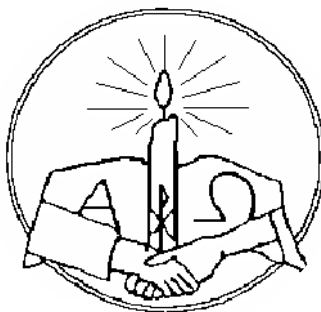
Becoming a Companion of Pauline

If you know someone who wants information about becoming a Companion of Pauline, please contact us:

call: 1-847-920-9341

email us: callSCC@sccwilmette.org

write: Sisters of Christian Charity
2041 Elmwood Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091-9341



Support the Canonization Process of Blessed Pauline

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we beseech you in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and through the intercession of his Immaculate Mother Mary, glorify yourself in Blessed Pauline and grant that she may soon be proclaimed a saint. **Amen.**

Father in heaven, lead us in the way of love as you led Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt. Open our hearts to others that, loving them as your Son commanded, we may be one with them in your heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**



Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt Canonization Fund

We are grateful to everyone who has given a personal donation to support the Blessed Pauline canonization fund. We are not the only ones working on this project, but we are glad to do our part to support it. Checks should be made to:

Sisters of Christian Charity – Canonization Fund

Please mail the checks in care of:

Sister Juliana Miska, SCC
2041 Elmwood Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091-1431