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Holy Redeemer's Sr. Kathleen Mary Nealon professes final vows

(MEADOWBROOK, PA) – Sister Kathleen Mary Nealon, CSR, will profess final vows as a Sister of the Holy Redeemer on July 26 in the Provincialate chapel of the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer in Huntingdon Valley.

The Sisters of the Holy Redeemer are an international congregation. Their Mother House is located in Wurzburg, Germany. The American Province of the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer sponsors Holy Redeemer Health System, which consists of health and social service ministries in Philadelphia, Montgomery and Bucks Counties and areas throughout New Jersey. There is also a region of Sisters of the Holy Redeemer in Tanzania, East Africa where the sisters serve primarily in heath care and educational ministries.

Sr. Kathleen first met the sisters during a one-week alternative spring break program sponsored by the Catholic Campus Ministry office at Rhode Island College. Upon graduating, she joined Redeemer Ministry Corps, a year-long, full-time, lay volunteer program sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer.

"While living in a community with sisters and other volunteers, and working with those experiencing homelessness, I felt God inviting me to consider religious life," says Sr. Kathleen. "I realized that I wanted to be a healing presence to those whose needs are the greatest, and to live a life of prayer and service. I am grateful that God has led me to this religious life and to the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer."

In 1999, Sr. Kathleen joined the congregation. Her primary ministry has been at Drueding Center/Project Rainbow, a transitional housing facility for homeless women and their children in North Philadelphia, where she has served in various positions. Currently, she is working there as a therapist. Sr. Kathleen also spent seven months volunteering with an agency called Unity Welcome Home in Post Katrina New Orleans, where she worked as an outreach worker to those experiencing homelessness. Recently, Sr. Kathleen and two

other sisters had the opportunity to visit Tanzania and participate in an educational seminar with other newer members of the congregation.

Says Sr. Kathleen: "The experience broadened my perspective on the realities of poverty in our world, and increased my sense of what it means to be a member of an international congregation of religious women."



Sr. Kathleen is a native of Rhode Island and attended St. Mary's Star of the Sea Parish in Narragansett. Her parents, John and Kathleen Nealon and sisters still reside in Rhode Island – North Kingstown and Warwick, respectively. In 1996, Sr. Kathleen graduated from Rhode Island College with a degree in Elementary and Special Education. She also earned her master's degree in Social Work in 2006 from Temple University in Philadelphia.