The members of our group are long time parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish (IC) in Maplewood, Missouri. Every one of us has been intimately involved with our parish in many different ministries.

The Missionaries of La Salette assumed pastoral responsibility for IC in June of 1975 and remained until February of 2006. We did not want to lose our relationship with the La Salette community. They had been our pastors, mentors, and friends for 30 years. So, in late 2006, we approached Fr. Dennis Meyer at the South Broadway House to see if we could preserve and continue our relationship. We began meeting as a group with the La Salettes at South Broadway sharing evening prayer, teachings on Our Lady of La Salette, and talks by visiting missionaries. Fr. Dennis Meyer and Fr. Jack Nuelle have been our mentors, as well as other La Salettes. After some months we began to look at becoming Associates. Eventually we did become an official La Salette Associate Group. We made our first promises at the September Feast Day Mass in 2009.
Our members:

Al and Maureen Daniels

Al: “I have worked in construction 40+ years, mostly as a carpenter, also as a heavy equipment operator, electrician, mechanic, jack of all trades. I like the outdoors; I play softball in a men’s league, archery and bow hunting, camping, hiking, etc. I became a Christian and a Catholic in my mid-twenties. My wife, Maureen, and I have played guitar and sang in our IC choir for 25+ years. We are members of the Liturgy Commission and involved in many ways at IC.”

Maureen: “I am a nurse (40+ years) working in Parish Nursing for the last 16 years as a teacher, and coordinator of national and international programs. I started the Parish Nurse ministry at IC with 2 other ecumenical congregations in our neighborhood. I have taught Parish Nursing in South Africa (Parish Nurses from 7 countries), Swaziland, Madagascar and also in South Korea. We have a son, Zac, who is a clinical lab tech at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore. I am passionate for the La Salette charism, for healing and for mission. Being a La Salette associate has been very enriching and helped me grow spiritually and in my ministry.”

Maureen and Al have been to Madagascar 5 times (one month each trip) doing lay missionary work. Maureen started the first Parish Nurse program there and now there are 8 nurses in 4 cities working in their parishes and the community. Al helped support Maureen’s work and also helped the La Salette priests building a church, a school, repaired their houses and vehicles, and such. “The missionaries of La Salette, especially Fr. Joe Shea, were our inspiration and help. Their sharing of their work in Madagascar and around the world was key to us hearing God’s call to being lay missionaries. We are so grateful to them for the enrichment this has brought to our lives.”
John and Connie Evans

John had been a salesman of maintenance and cleaning chemicals, a construction worker, and worked at St. Michael’s School in Shrewsbury, MO. In 2010 John was diagnosed with ALS, Lou Gehrig’s disease, and due to loss of speech and mobility becoming an issue was forced into retirement. He is a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus’ council 903.

Connie has worked as office staff and management at different places. Since June 2009, she has worked for the La Salette Mission Center in St. Louis as secretary and office manager. She is in her thirteenth year teaching PSR at St. Michael’s, is a member and officer for the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus, and has served on the parish council at IC. John and Connie have been members of IC since 1978.

They say,” Our promise is to continue this connection with the La Salettes, pray that we remember Our Lady’s message at La Salette, and help share it with others. The La Salettes provide a faith life and community that we choose to stay connected with which makes our lives so much more enjoyable and meaningful. We feel we have become better people due to our connection with the La Salettes.”
Paul is a Clinical Social Worker, semi-retired, now in private practice doing individual counseling. Paul is a co-leader of our group, along with Judy McLaughlin. Shirley is a nurse and has worked part time at St. Mary’s Hospital in the “mother-baby” unit for the last 35 years.

“We have been married 40 years, have two children, four grandchildren (the latest arrived Jan.2012). We have lived next door to Immaculate Conception Church since 1976. La Salette priests and
seminarians have been part of our lives since we moved here. We have been blessed with close lasting friendships with La Salettes. We are especially thankful for the stories and memories of worshipping together and sharing the journey of our faith throughout the years. Although there has been some tragedy along the way, most often this journey has been just plain fun!”

Judy McLaughlin

“I am a retired nurse, mother of four, and grandmother of seven. I am a lifelong Catholic and met the La Salettes when they began staffing our parish. They have enriched my spiritual life by sharing the message of Our Lady of La Salette and their charism of reconciliation. I was privileged to join a pilgrimage to the Shrine at La Salette, France, led by Fr. Pete Kohler, MS. Being an associate has enabled me to join others in prayer and study so that I can more fully live the La Salette message.”

Judy is a co-leader of our group with Paul Lohkamp.

Georgette Straub
Georgette chose not to be a “promised” member of our group, but is an inspiration to us all. She has attended most all of our meetings and all of our retreats. We admire her for her spunk, wisdom and spirituality at 95! May we all be as engaged in life as she is.