



# NOJOSHING

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*Notes*

## Remembering Victims of Human Trafficking

**D**id you know there are an estimated 27.6 million trafficking victims worldwide at any given time? Did you know that human trafficking is found in every region of the United States?

The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi have a long history of action and education about human trafficking, including partnering with Sisters Program South, Franciscan Peacemakers, and recently the St. Bakhita Catholic Worker House in Milwaukee, Wis.

On January 11, 2023, the Sisters invited the staff at St. Francis Convent to join them in participating in the Department of Homeland Security's "Blue Campaign" initiative, "Wear Blue Day" to raise awareness of human trafficking. Wearing blue served as a reminder to pray throughout the day for people whose lives are impacted by trafficking.



St. Josephine Bakhita

On February 7, 2023, Sisters honored the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking with a prayer service livestreamed from San Damiano Center to the entire congregation. The



"Wear Blue Day" at St. Francis Convent.

service included personal silent reflection, background about St. Bakhita (patron saint of human trafficking victims), awareness-raising statistics, scripture, words of trafficking survivors, prayer, petitions, and song. Resident Sisters received a St. Josephine Bakhita card and were encouraged to pray the prayer on the back often as an act of spiritual solidarity with all people affected by human trafficking.

“God of all peoples, awaken our hearts; deepen our commitment to work for a world where every person is free to live fully, joyfully. We ask conversion of hearts for traffickers and for laws that protect victims. Grow our awareness: we are all connected. Give us wisdom, inspiration, and courage to stand in solidarity for freedom. Amen.”

— from St. Josephine Bakhita prayer card



# Many Hands Involved in Our Services and Communication



Sisters in San Damiano Center

**M**any staff, Sisters, and volunteers are involved in supporting and communicating with our donors. Opening and sorting mail, processing check, cash and credit card gifts, printing and mailing acknowledgements, fulfilling donor requests, maintaining accurate donation records, and responding to personal donor requests, are just some of the tasks our caring staff and Sisters perform every day.

Once a donation reaches us, it is entered into a database to accurately keep track of all gifts and donations. From there, thank-you letters are generated and hand stuffed to go in the mail. Any requests for additional cards, enrollments, or other items are put together by hand and mailed as well.

Retired Sisters in our Elizabeth Hall wing work with Sister Mary Kemen to go through all prayer

requests coming in on donation forms, through the mail or by phone, and place them in baskets in each of the prayer rooms in Sisters' residences. From there, Sisters pick up these prayer slips and include those requests in their daily prayers. When Sisters gather for Mass in our San Damiano Center, there is a special intention for donors and all those who have asked to be remembered in prayer.



Sandy Guinta (left) and Jan Parrott of the direct mail team



(l to r) Sisters Anne Stremlau, Genevieve Van Driel, Mary Kemen, Mary Lou Herrmann, and Beth Anne Herrmann tear off prayer requests from donor slips.





# Donor



Direct mail volunteer Sister Sue Fischer

We are greatly blessed by our many donors and supporters. The gifts we receive have been used for important and essential projects for the Sisters throughout the years, including wheelchair-accessible vehicles, large print books and audiobooks, and neurosensory therapy for Sisters with dementia or Parkinson's disease. We thank you for your loving support.



Sister Jodene Wydeven prays for the intentions sent in by donors.

## Check Out the Congregation's New Website!

The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi launched a new website in April that offers news and information in a fresh, attractive format with photos throughout. The website can be found at [www.lakeosfs.org](http://www.lakeosfs.org)

Read about current community outreach projects, activities at St. Francis Convent, and discover more about how the Sisters live out their mission and charism in today's world.

### *You'll find:*

- various ways to become involved with the congregation;
- a section on Franciscan spirituality;
- new donation pages that offer a variety of options to support the Sisters for their current and future needs;
- the latest updates on Sisters in the news;
- a page with information about each of the congregation's corporate ministries;
- Justice and Peace activities, including involvement with the Laudato Si' initiative
- Profiles of individual Sisters and much, much more!

### *Check it out today!*



# There's Nothing Like a PARTY to Bring People Together

During the months of January and February, Sisters and staff at St. Francis Convent came together to celebrate and have fun on three separate occasions.

On January 26, 2023, if you entered Elizabeth Hall dining room, you would have thought you were transported to Hawaii. Staff and Sisters joined together for a "Beat the Winter Blues" party. With festive Hawaiian shirts, a colorful Hawaiian lei for each guest, tropical-themed drinks and decorations, and plentiful snacks, everyone forgot the cold, snowy weather that was outdoors.

The following day, Sisters and staff gathered with Sister Margaret Gardner to celebrate her 102nd birthday. The party included three birthday cakes and festive decorations. Sister Margaret gave a special birthday speech sprinkled with her trademark humor. She expressed her gratitude for a wonderful life of faith and friendships.

A couple of weeks later, Sisters and staff gathered once again in Elizabeth Hall, this time to celebrate Valentine's Day. Chocolates, cookies, and good fellowship were enjoyed by everyone. Associate Gale Sielicki provided special goodie bags for the Sisters. All were treated to beautifully decorated heart-shaped cookies from a local bakery. A sea of red filled the room since everyone dressed for the occasion!



Sister Margaret's t-shirt says it all!



Sister Clare Ahler (left) and Sister Eileen Wendt are joined by Becky Hille, team facilitator for Community Care



Sister Ceil Struck posed with Administrator John George



(l to r) Sister Mary Lou Herrmann, Janice Sullivan, Sister Catherine Morrissey and Sister Diana De Bruin



## DONATE TODAY!

Only a few weeks left to get your donations matched, dollar-for-dollar, to support the health and retirement needs of our retired Sisters. **All gifts valued up to \$2,500 will be DOUBLED now through May 28, 2023**, thanks to two very special friends of the Sisters.

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Send comments /suggestions to: *Nojoshing Notes* Editor

Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi  
3221 S. Lake Dr., Saint Francis, WI 53235-7193  
or e-mail: [jparrott@lakeosfs.org](mailto:jparrott@lakeosfs.org)