



Sisters of
St. Francis
of Assisi

NOJOSHING NOTES

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*NOJOSHING is an Indian word. It means "Straight Tongue."
In 1849, the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi built their Motherhouse on land that was called Nojoshing by the Indians,
because it protrudes out into Lake Michigan like a straight tongue.*

From Seed to Table – Garden Treats

Harvest time is a season of gratitude for the produce of the land and for the farmers and gardeners who share the fruits of their labor with all of us. At St. Francis Convent, the sisters are grateful to Sr. Helene Mertes and her helpers who care for the gardens on the convent grounds. Thanks to them, the sisters enjoy fresh garden produce at their meals.

In January, Sr. Helene peruses seed catalogs looking for just the right seeds. She dreams of ripe red tomatoes, basket-ball-sized cabbages, pumpkin pies, and homemade pickles. But that is just the beginning! Don't forget the potatoes, beans, egg plants, carrots, lettuce, kohlrabi, onions, squash, beets, peppers, and leeks. To season all of these vegetables, one needs oregano, basil, thyme, chives, marjoram, sage, and rosemary.

Underneath the carpenter shop, one finds a plant nursery constructed by Sr. Mary Lou Schramer and Sr. Helene. It is here the

growing process begins in March.

The little vegetable seeds are hand-planted in plug trays and placed under grow lights. They are given the right amount of water and fertilizer to give them a good start. As they grow, they are transferred into pots and continue to be nurtured under Sr. Helene's watchful eye.

At the end of April, the plants are taken to the hoop house (pictured in the background) to await the day when they will go to their garden home. Volunteers help with the planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting.

Sr. Mary Lou transports the harvested produce to the convent to be prepared by her volunteers before going to the kitchen. What a treat to have healthy homegrown vegetables at your meals!

The little seeds have made quite a journey from nursery to table. Thanks to Sr. Helene and her helpers, not only have they brought nourishment to the body, but also to the soul!

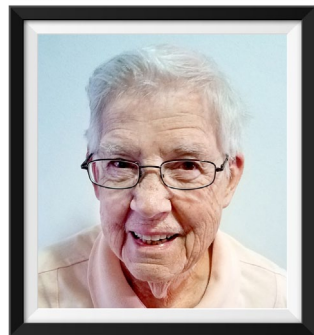


Congratulations! 14 Sisters Celebrate

The lives of these 14 women reflect so many good times and a fair number of challenging times. Celebrating during a pandemic adds to those challenges.

Nonetheless, the joy and gratitude expressed in a variety of ways to these women only enhances the celebration. All those who remember the Jubilarians in their prayers are giving a gift to them that is priceless. No one can measure the love God is bestowing on them for their fidelity to the call to religious life. Let's continue the celebration!

80 Years



Sr. Margaret Gardner

My life as a Franciscan Sister has been many things. ... I spent 35 years as an elementary teacher and loved it. There were ups and downs, successes and not too many failures, as happens to anyone striving to guide young souls along pathways to truth, love and goodness. ... World War II broke out as I entered religious life in 1941. If I had known the future, I would have become a WAAC or a WAVE in military service! As I pressed the bell at 2226 Maryland Avenue on February 1, 1941, I said: "Just do it," and I did 80 years ago, all the while trying to live the Franciscan calling of my motto: My God and My All!

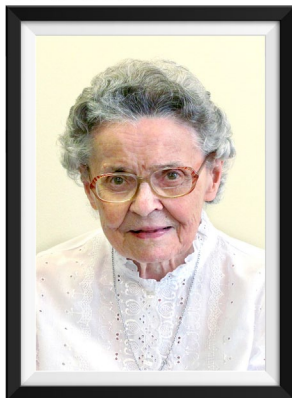
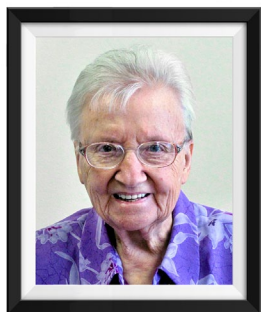
land Avenue on February 1, 1941, I said: "Just do it," and I did 80 years ago, all the while trying to live the Franciscan calling of my motto: My God and My All!

Sr. Yvonne Haase (Right - 75)

Sr. Beth Anne Herrmann (Left - 75)

Ever since God "tricked" me into the convent in 1946, it's been a great ride! As soon as I was released from one assignment, another automatically opened up, many for which I had no experience. It was as if they were thrown into my lap by God, but every one of them was memorable because God's help was there to see me through (as He said 75 years ago, "You have not chosen me, I have chosen you"). No argument on that!

75 Years



Sr. Mary Lou Herrmann (Top Right - 70)

I am grateful to God that I was able to serve as a Franciscan Sister of Baltimore for 50 years and for 20 years as a Sister of Saint Francis of Assisi after our two communities merged. After Vatican II when many women religious left their congregations, I realized that I had never prayed for perseverance. At my profession I had chosen "The Mercy of God" as my dedication. How grateful I am that God in "His Mercy" brought me through the ups and downs of life. I am now blessed to live my retirement years in this beautiful home and community.

Sr. Kenan Rebbholz (Bottom Right - 70)

My enduring gratitude for my religious vocation and to my religious community. It has been a blessing.

Sr. Cecilia Reilly (Bottom Left - 70)

Overall, my religious life has been peaceful, happy and fulfilling. I have always been grateful to God for allowing me to stay in religious life after becoming seriously ill with rheumatic fever as a novice. Being a Franciscan Sister has helped me to grow in my relationship with God through prayer, retreats and opportunity for participating in Mass. It has also helped my relationship with others through the respect that I received and gave, especially in my ministries among the Black community and the poor. Most importantly, this life has enabled me to find the Love of God for all of us. I experienced this Love first through the older sisters in the congregation, and then through the students I taught and their parents, and many other people whom I encountered in my ministries. It has also been a blessing to be able to help others in times of distress, including our own sisters. As a religious woman, my heart is with God, the God of great Love.

70 Years



Celebrate Anniversaries of Profession

Sr. Margaret Klotz

(Top Left - 60)

Challenging, exciting and blessed with the presence of my sisters and associates.



60
Years



Sr. Helen Anne Kenney

(Bottom Left - 60)

I am grateful for all the blessings of community. I reflect with gratitude and joy on my teaching missions and on my many varied summer ministries, serving children with different needs.



Sr. Ruth Mary Costello

(Top Center - 60)

“Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will it be given to you.” (Luke 6:38)
My life with the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi has been like that.

Sr. Jean Mariani

(Bottom Center - 60)

I gave my life as a vowed religious woman in ministry to the health care systems in Texas, Louisiana and Utah [from]1965 to the present. [When] Medicare ... was enacted ... there was NO system; only crisis and pandemonium. Consequently, the need to educate the general public was high. And, so it was, and continues to this day! Education ... is a mandate for ministry in health care [which] is deeply relational; i.e., human relationships are absolutely essential. Trust is a hallmark [and] is earned, not bought!

Sr. Kathleen Jansen (Top Right - 60)

Community life has been one of God’s special blessings. I appreciated an education that enabled me to have a variety of ministries. Helping developmentally challenged persons enjoy a richer and more stable life was most rewarding.

Sr. Angelyn Dries (Bottom Right - 60)

When I entered the community, I wasn’t thinking so much about entering “religious life” as I was attracted by the Franciscan dimensions of the life. While at St. Veronica Parish in Milwaukee, ... I became aware of social justice issues, something that continues throughout my years In our OSF congregation, we each seek to live the gospel in ways that reflect our talents, insights, and abilities. It has been a blessing to be a Franciscan woman of the church.

Sr. Diana De Bruin (Left - 50)

Fifty years ago, I heard a call to religious life [and] humbly answered My relationship with this caring, loving God deepens as the years move on. I have been able to be present and minister in so many ways God has always been with me. I stand in gratitude for the graces and gifts I have received on this journey. ... I continue to place myself in God’s hands and ... share my life and gifts with those I touch and be open to the gift they are for me. In service to each other, we deepen in love for this faithful God

Sr. Eleanor Smith (Right - 50)

Change has been a constant in religious life. What remains the same is our Franciscan call to Mission and Ministry. Drastic decisions have occurred during this time, but God continues to be the Source of our strength and peace.



50
Years



Sr. Charitine Jones Marks Milestone Birthday



On August 14 this summer, Clare Circle was brimming with good cheer as sisters and staff celebrated Sister Charitine's 100th birthday. No one knows what the formula is for aging, especially for someone as interesting and unique as Sister Charitine.

She spent a lot of her active ministry serving the clients with developmental disabilities at St. Coletta of Wisconsin, which is based in Jefferson. Working with the residents gave her the opportunity to develop some strong relationships and her work was appreciated. These relationships are no doubt part of the formula for her long life.

In 2013, Sister Marcia Lunz interviewed Sister Charitine and asked her about her straight forward way of dealing with people.

Her response was that she grew up that way because, with her mother, she could be herself. "My mother explained things, accepted what people did, but more importantly, who they were." As a teacher, and later as a midwife, her mother had dealt with a lot of people before she died just four months short of her 100th birthday. Her mother's philosophy was, "You got to go forward; you can't go backward and you can't stay in one place."

Sister Charitine has certainly moved forward in her life, all the way to age 100, and on her way to 101. Congratulations on reaching this milestone.

(Above) Sr. Charitine enjoying her birthday celebration and (at right) displaying her oversized, pop-up card.



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