

We of Nojoshing

Nojoshing – Indian word for the area where our pioneer members settled in 1849; it means "piece of land stretching into the water."
The name was changed later to Saint Francis, Wisconsin.



Newsletter of The New Assisi Archives of the
SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI, 3221 South Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI 53235-3799

We celebrate the memory of our beloved Sister Nancy Kazik formerly Sister Mary Gregory July 6, 1935 – May 12, 2023

Sister Nancy was born in Milwaukee, Wis., the only child of Harry and Genevieve (Kunert) Kazik. Her family belonged to Blessed Sacrament Parish. Nancy graduated from St. Mary's Academy before entering our congregation on September 8, 1953. When she became a novice on August 11, 1954, Nancy received the name Sister Mary Gregory. After Vatican Council II, she resumed her baptismal name. As a second-year novice, Sister Nancy taught upper grades at St. Gertrude School in Franklin Park, Ill. She professed vows in 1956 and continued to teach at St. Gertrude's for another two years.

Sister Nancy also taught upper grades in Sheboygan Falls, Wis.; Little Canada, Minn.; and San Bruno, Calif. In 1966, she was principal of the grade school at Fleming, Colo., where she developed a non-graded school. Sister Nancy then became a member of the Denver Archdiocesan Education Office, responsible for all religious education, liturgy and parish council activities in 25 parishes in northeast Colorado. After serving in that capacity for six years, she became Director of Research and Development for the Archdiocese of Denver and then Archdiocesan Director of Religious Education. During these years, she earned a bachelor's degree from Cardinal Stritch University and a master's degree in religious education from Seattle University.

Sister Nancy was elected Associate Director of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in 1979 and served two four-year terms in that position. Following a sabbatical in 1987-1988, she became Executive Director of Pastoral Ministries and Vicar for Religious in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M. Six years later, while continuing her previous responsibilities, she was named Vice-Chancellor for the Archdiocese and editor of the Archdiocesan newspaper. During this time:

“Sister Nancy was placed in charge of the sexual abuse cases and outreach to victims. ...She also worked with the Permanent Review Board, which was the independent group composed mostly of lay persons who advised Archbishop Sheehan regarding issues of priestly misconduct with minors. She was given high marks by the United States Catholic Conference National Office for Child Protection for her work here and also for assisting in this area in the Diocese of Phoenix.... Additionally, she has served on several boards and committees in the Albuquerque area” and nationally. (*People of God*, June/July 2005, p. 2)

Although Sister Nancy retired from active ministry in the Santa Fe Archdiocese (2005), her volunteer ministry of hospitality and service continued through her outreach to the people in the neighborhood, parish community, and the church in Albuquerque and beyond.

In October 2013, Sister Nancy was presented with the St. Francis of Assisi Award along with other men and women who were considered role models from parishes throughout the Santa Fe Archdiocese. She received Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan's personal award of gratitude for her service to the Archdiocese as Director of Pastoral Ministries, Vicar for Religious, Vice Chancellor, Victims Assistance Coordinator and editor of the *People of God* newspaper.

There were visits to Milwaukee and participation in congregational events as well as an active presence on boards and committees, including more than 30 years on the Board of Directors for *Our Sunday Visitor*. Her telephone ministry kept her in contact with family and friends in the Milwaukee area, including Sisters and classmates at St. Francis Convent.

Reflecting on her 60th Jubilee, she wrote, "I am grateful for the call and the opportunity to be of service, to share life in the congregation and through my ministry share the Gospel message and Franciscan values."

Sister Nancy's health began to decline in late March into early May when she received a cancer diagnosis. Since the cancer had spread throughout her body, treatment was not advised and arrangements for home hospice were made. Sister Mary Jeanne Michels traveled to Albuquerque to be with Nancy and assist with her care. Nancy's condition worsened, and she died peacefully with Sister Mary Jeanne at her side.

One of Nancy's favorite scripture stories is the account of the disciples on their way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35), during which "they recognized Christ in the breaking of the bread." Sister Nancy recognized Christ in her ministry to the people she served. She truly reflected the Vision Statement of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi:

As Franciscans, living the Gospel and trusting in God's providence, we strive to practice hospitality as reflected in our care for every person and care for all creation. (Chapter 2023)

*~ Sisters Marie Colette Roy, OSF
Joanne Nicgorski, OSF, and Marlene Stawski, OSF*