



Sisters of  
St. Francis  
of Assisi

# NOJOSHING NOTES

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3221 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE, ST. FRANCIS, WISCONSIN 53235-3799 [www.lakeosfs.org](http://www.lakeosfs.org)

*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.*

## Congregation Elects New Leadership Team

The new Administrative Team of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi was installed during a Eucharistic Liturgy on June 14. The rite began by thanking Sisters Florence Deacon, Diana DeBruin and Margaret Kruse for their past service.

Then Sisters Diana DeBruin, Marcia Lunz and Sylvia Anne Sheldon were called forward to serve for the next four years. Father Al Veik, OFM Cap., confirmed their call to leadership in the name of the Church and the sisters present, and asked the newly elected team members if they were willing to commit themselves, knowing that it is God's work. They responded individually to this request. A Bible, the Rule and Constitutions of the community, and a cross were presented as reminders to proclaim, witness and live Christ in the way they will lead.

Sisters and associates were asked if they would commit themselves to working with and supporting the new team out of

the abundance of God's goodness. Guests present at the service were asked if they would do the same. The rite concluded with an inclusive blessing by Father Al:

*Let us pray, ever-living God, source of every gift and talent, you summon us by name and gather us together to live the Gospel.*

*Bless Sister Diana, Sister Marcia and Sister Sylvia Anne. Let your Spirit enlighten their minds and guide their actions that they may be renewed in faith, energized in hope and united in love.*

*Bless Sister Florence and Sister Margaret. Pour forth your life-giving Spirit into their hearts as they serve you in new ways.*

*Bless each Sister of St. Francis of Assisi, each associate, and all family and friends gathered here. Empower them to witness your presence and your abundant goodness each day. We ask this through Christ whose reign is at hand.*

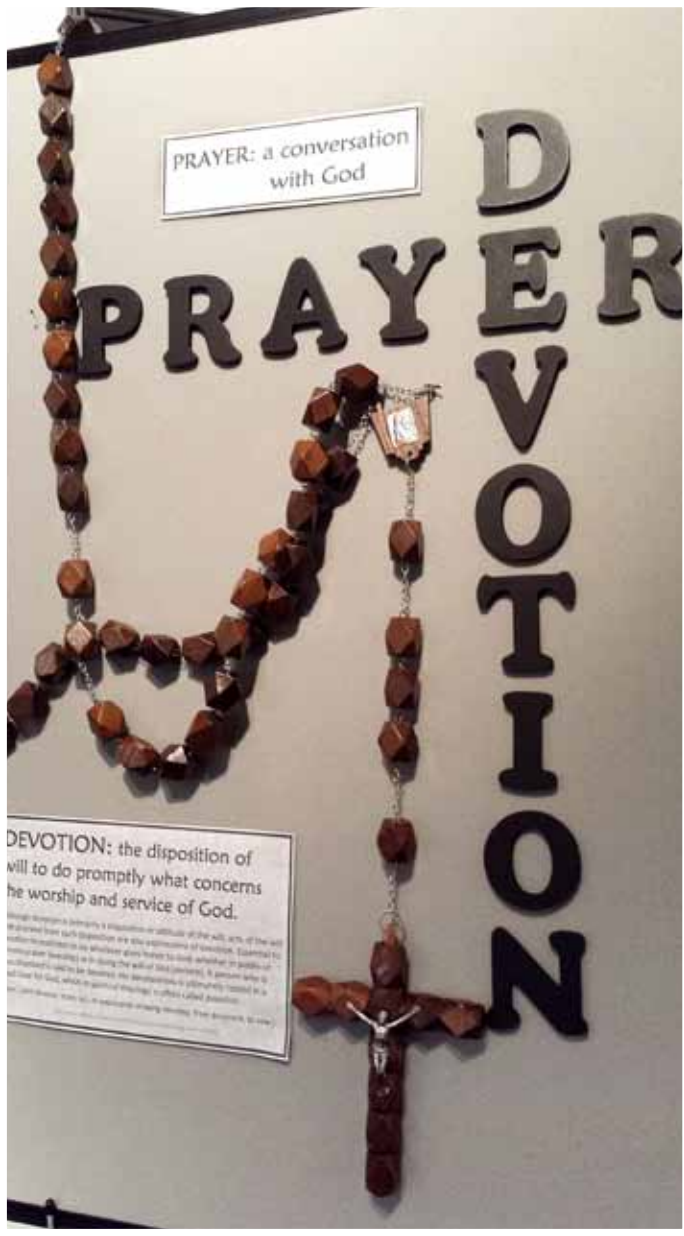


(At left - L to R)  
Sisters Florence,  
Margaret, Diana,  
Marcia and Sylvia  
Anne receiving  
the final blessing.

(At right)  
Sister Diana  
holds her grand  
nephew as she  
visits with guests  
at the reception  
following the  
Liturgy.



# OSF Display: Prayer and Devotion ~



The sign above is the beginning of the exhibit and gives definitions of Prayer and Devotion.

On the next page, the photos show the interior and exterior of Brother Anton's white Tabernacle (upper left), the monstrance made by Sr. Arlene Bauer (lower left), Infant of Prague statue (center), a Cope sewn by our sisters in the vestment department, along with an inset of the detail of the center back strip (upper right).

At the lower right is Sister Celia Struck, congregation archivist, with what is believed to be a board for scheduling sisters for adoration times in half-hour increments. This item was discovered in a food service storage box in late 2014.

**P**rayer is always an interesting topic. As children, we were taught to 'say' our prayers. It was understood that this meant saying to God the words we had learned.

**T**he current exhibit in our New Assisi Heritage Room is a look at prayers that were a part of our life as Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi before the Second Vatican Council, 1959 - 1965. Each sister had a Manual of Prayers, an office book with the prayers said at various times during the day, and a Missal she used during Mass. The rosary was prayed daily and, frequently if not daily, the Stations of the Cross.

**E**ach sister kept a half hour of Meditation based on reflection of a Scripture passage for its meaning and message in her personal life. It was a personal and individual prayer not governed by set words.

**T**he goal of prayer is to connect us with God, to recognize God's presence in our life and to help us grow in our relationship with God. All that we have comes from a generous God who gives freely. So gratitude, the prayer of thanksgiving, is essential in the life of prayer.

**A**fter the Second Vatican Council, a life of prayer included not only the saying of prayers as before, but also included more personal reflective prayer and spontaneous vocal prayer, words spoken to God from one's heart as we would in conversation with someone close to us.

**W**e understand the present by knowing the past. This is the hope of Sister Celia Struck, the congregation archivist, who entered the community post-Vatican II. In doing research for the display, she learned a great deal, and hopes that all who come to see "Prayer and Devotion" will go away with new learnings and a new appreciation for prayer and devotion.

*Goal of prayer is connecting with God*



# Striving to Live Pope's Call

In its coverage of the Pope's encyclical on climate change, Milwaukee Public Radio included the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, highlighting the environmental projects taking place on the Motherhouse grounds in St. Francis, Wis.

The link included here connects to the NPR website article (image inserted below) which also provides a "listen" link to the radio segment based on an interview with the sisters:

<http://wuum.com/post/milwaukee-area-nuns-strive-live-pope-s-call-environmental-action>



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Please send comments / suggestions to:  
Nojoshing Notes Editor,  
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi  
3221 S. Lake Dr.,  
St. Francis, WI 53235-7193  
or e-mail: [jparrott@lakeosfs.org](mailto:jparrott@lakeosfs.org)

# Relationship with Nature

On April 16, 2015, Sr. Mary Lea Schneider, OSF, gave a presentation at Clare Hall on "The Greening of Religion." A little twist to the topic had attendees consider several aspects of religion and the environment through an historical overview of how religion has viewed the environment.

Sister Julianne Koch wrote the following reflection on the presentation:

*What is the relationship between God, humans and nature? That is a timely question being given much attention as we become more and more aware of the dangers nature is facing due to human intervention. In "Genesis" we read: "Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and all living things that move on the earth." (Gn1:28). Interpreted too literally for too long, this has resulted in humans dominating, extracting, using and abusing nature. Now we are seeing that this understanding is ruining the balance and harmony God has put in creation. This is costing nature, and therefore humans, since we are dependent on nature for the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat.*

*What is the right relationship between humans, nature and God? In many circles of concern and discussion, the name Francis of Assisi is referenced in response to the question. But why? From Francis we learn a key to his understanding of that relationship and it is this: Francis related to everything in creation as brother and sister, because Francis recognized God's hand in everything. So Francis could sing in his "Canticle of the Creatures," "Praised be you my Lord in Brother Sun and Sister Moon . . . Praised be you my Lord through our Sister Mother Earth who sustains and governs us."*

St. Francis of Assisi got it right!

**Please remember the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in your will.**

**A bequest is a wonderful way to support our retired sisters and is a testimony of your care and concern for them.**