



Sisters of  
St. Francis  
of Assisi

# NOJOSHING NOTES

Fall 2016  
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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.*

## Rain Garden Installed on Motherhouse Grounds

In the last three years, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District (MMSD) has selected a city for a Green Summer Project. They collaborate with the community and individuals to better manage water, especially from runoff. They also help with building rain gardens, and providing free rain barrels and education on water conservancy.

MMSD chose the City of St. Francis for the 2016 project. In December 2015, the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi were asked for a letter of support for the project, which was sent with an assurance that we would benefit. Subsequently, MMSD came with its expertise and walked through our wetlands, giving advice and possibilities of future help with water management. They may also provide some soil amendments in certain areas as needed.

On August 11, MMSD installed the rain garden. The process involved removing the sod from the site, and then adding fresh soil which contained half compost and half sand for good water distribution and absorption. Drainage extensions were added to the downspouts and placed on both the east and west ends of the garden to funnel the rains into the garden space. After that the seedling plants were spaced and placed as needed to provide a full and appealing look to the garden site.

Sized approximately 12 by 20 feet, it features 175 native plants that absorb water, such as little blue stem grass, purple cone flowers, butterfly weed, asters, brown-eyed Susans and more. These varieties will provide color and contrast. MMSD provided the materials and the volunteers to complete the project.



# 18 OSF Jubilarians Celebrate a Total of 1,105

Each year, Jubilarians submit reflections on their years as vowed women religious. Reflections from a number of this year's celebrants are included here with the class photos. (Sr. Margaret is not pictured.)

## Margaret Gardner - 75 Years

DEUS MEUS ET OMNIA is my motto these 75 years as a Franciscan sister, and I have tried to live it! Especially with the Holy Spirit, I have been blessed and nurtured. The years spent with the young and old were always special to me as God's people, and I rest now feeling I have done "what You gave me to do." (John 17 verse 5)

## Yvonne Haase - 70 Years

The religious community and my family are great supports for my vocation. In union there is strength. I loved my vocation all these years. On a scale of 1-10, I'd give it a 9. Nothing is perfect, you know.

## Beth Anne Herrmann - 70 Years

Through the ups and downs, God has remained faithful and loving. If someone asked me to explain a religious vocation call, I couldn't. I just know that there's a certainty within and a peace that God led me one day to open a magazine and fill in

a questionnaire, thus giving up all former desires to become an actress, NOT a "nun."

## Janet Dielen - 60 Years

My brief reflection is in the form of this modified cinquain:

Woman religious  
Graced, journeyed  
Listens, embodies, gives  
All is gift and blessing.  
God's beloved.

## Ancille Horgan - 60 Years

My call to be a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi has been the greatest blessing of my life. I cherish the 60 years during which I have been privileged to be a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi of Penance and Charity. I'm blessed to be His "handmaid" in a variety of ways and places. "Ecce Ancilla Domini."

## Nancy Kazik - 60 Years

I am grateful for the gift, 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. This would not have been possible without the support, love and trust of many.

Times have changed. I have changed. I am grateful for what has been and open to the surprises of the future.

## Rita Kosednar - 60

A Jubilee year of gratitude and thanksgiving. Grateful for God's loving presence. Thanksgiving for community and friends who have journeyed with me through presence, prayer, support and love.



**70-Year** - (BACK, L- R) Sr. Beth Anne Herrmann & Sr. Yvonne Haase.

(FRONT, L- R) Sr. Jessine Reiss & Sr. Celestine Rupprecht





# Years as Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi



A reception followed the Mass.

## Eleanor Riordon - 60 Years

Now in retirement, I am living in senior housing, spending quality time in prayer, reading and assisting residents in need. Highlights of my 60 years: 1970s: toured schools and residential facilities in Paris, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Oslo and London. The summer of the 1980s, I visited my sisters in Taiwan, learning firsthand their culture. In 2000s, I was gifted from a special friend associate to participate in the Franciscan Study Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi.

I celebrate my 60 years with joy, peace and gratitude for all that has been and all that will be as I continue my earthly journey as a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi.



**60-Year** - (BACK, L- R) Sisters Eleanor Riordon, Ann Lawrence Kolbeck, Mary Ann Schroedl, Nancy Kazik, Joanne Nicgorski, Rita Kosednar

(FRONT, L- R) Sisters Ancille Horgan, Renee Costanzo, Leo Marie Schiltgen, Janet Dielen

## Mary Ann Schroedl - 60 Years

I loved my ministry, teaching children for 17 years. When I was asked to go into pastoral ministry, I responded, "Wherever I am needed most." I moved to new places 10 times and found each filled with new blessings and challenges! God has been very good to me.

## Joyanne Mueller - 50 Years

My vocation to become a woman religious has given me the opportunity to share my gifts with others through living the consecrated life in service of the Church. I am grateful to the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi for sharing their mission and ministry with the mentally and physically challenged with me at St. Coletta's of Illinois and St. Coletta of Wisconsin. This ministry is at the heart of my vocation to religious life.



**50-Year** - (BACK, L- R) Sr. Rebecca Burke and Sr. Florence Deacon  
(FRONT) Sr. Joyanne Mueller

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## Stamp Department Continues

For many years, there has been a 'Stamp Department at the congregation. That is where sisters gather in a designated room to trim the paper around cancelled stamps, which are then sold. The money raised helps defray the costs for our retirement needs. It is a meaningful activity for the sisters, because they know they are contributing to the congregation.

This past July, Sr. Claude Telderer, who was the organizer of the Stamp Department, died. She was a first-class cheerleader in soliciting others to save their cancelled stamps. She made the contacts for sales and saw to it that the stamps were packaged and mailed out. Every now and then, a message would go out from her with updates on which stamps should be sent in and which should be discarded.

We miss Sr. Claude, but the good news is that the Stamp Department is alive and well. Sr. Felicia Schlechter is working closely with Sr. Margaret Ruddy, and both domestic and foreign stamps are being sent off to buyers. Both sisters enthusiastically promote recycling stamps and carrying on this long tradition.

If you wish to send in cancelled stamps, leave a minimum of a quarter inch beyond the stamp.



They can be mailed to:  
St. Francis Convent/Stamp Department  
3221 South Lake Drive  
St. Francis, WI 53235.

We thank you in advance.

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.

## Carving Represents Hunt for Goodness

The Franciscan Common Venture met at St. Francis Convent in late July. The following explanation on the wood carving pictured here was reported in the minutes of that meeting.

This woodcarving depicting a hunt in Africa was a gift to the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist and Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi from the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis in Cameroon. For Africans, the hunt is full of risks. What will come from the hunt is unknown, but the results are always brought home for the good of the community.

Sister Alphonsa Kiven, former Provincial of the Tertiary Sisters, likened the Franciscan Common Venture to a hunt. From its beginning in 1998, this Common Venture has brought forth gifts for all four of the congregations. The woman receiving the hunters and their prize can be a symbol of God who rejoices in all good things.

This woodcarving has visited each of the U.S. congregations since 1998, travelling to the congregation hosting the inter-congregational meetings on a rotating basis. Its image will now be used on agendas and on the minutes of our future meetings as a continual reminder of our common hunt for goodness and for God.

For more information on the Franciscan Common Venture, visit [www.commonventure.org](http://www.commonventure.org).



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