



Sisters of
St. Francis
of Assisi

NOJOSHING NOTES

Spring 2017
Volume 31, Number 2

3221 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE, ST. FRANCIS, WISCONSIN 53235-3799 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.

2017 Earth Echoes Programs Underway

In February and March, the Earth Echoes program sponsored two educational presentations at Clare Hall that focused on our grounds and gardens. Sisters, associates and interested community members attended to learn about the plants and pollinators that share space with us on Motherhouse grounds.

For the February program, Charlie Koenen, known as the BeeVangelist and our expert beekeeper, informed us about the bee pollinators and all they do for our grounds and plants. Much of the honey produced by the hives on the sisters' property is processed and sold in our convent gift shop.

Charlie (pictured here at one of the motherhouse hives known as pods) discussed the loss of bees over the winter and efforts being made to prevent this in the future.

In March, Dorothy Boyer (pictured on the back page), who has worked with native plants in the area for 25 years, gave a talk entitled, "What's going on out there?" Dorothy shared her wealth of knowledge on such plants and the many pollinators needed to keep these plants thriving.

Pollinators, she noted, include many varieties of bees, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies and moths. Such insects work together with plants to act as pollinators or use the plant for carbohydrate-rich nectar. Of special interest are these insects' amazing adaptations that enable them to access the plants efficiently, such as long tongues and leaf cutting abilities.

continued on back page



Gathering at the St. Joseph Table - Celebrating National Catholic Sisters Week

A unique gathering took place on March 19. The congregation celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker and its recognition of National Catholic Sisters Week (NCSW), which was officially held March 8 – 14.

Sisters and associates gathered in the Troubadour Room for dinner, which was preceded by a Prayer Service. In keeping with the tradition of bringing food for needy persons, nonperishable food items were collected to donate to St. Ben's Parish.

The statue of St. Joseph that was displayed is the same statue that was cherished by Mother Aemiliana Duerr, our first Mother General. When the 1861 convent was built, the statue was placed in the sisters' choir of the chapel. In 1949, the 100th anniversary of our congregation, it was placed close to what was then the "workmen's entrance." Today, the statue is in the New Assisi Archives Heritage Room.

Sister Kathryn Dean Strandell organized the St. Joseph Table celebration, and was assisted in the preparation of the meal by Sisters Mary Lou Schramer, Helene Mertes and Grace Schauf. The menu included a traditional bean soup followed by spaghetti, meat sauce, salad, rolls, and cookies in the shape of a church. Twelve volunteer sisters were the "twelve holy women" who graciously served the tables and made sure that all needs were met.

National Catholic Sisters Week began in 2014 as part of Women's History Month. It is supported by a Conrad N. Hilton Foundation grant. The goal is to make the lives and ministries of sisters more visible, as sisters aren't well known in today's society. You, as one of our donors, know a great deal about sisters, and you support us so generously. If you come across friends or family who aren't as familiar with us, perhaps the information on the next page, from the NCSW website, will be helpful.

(RIGHT) Close-up of the center pieces showing the tools of a "workman."

(BELOW) The statue of St. Joseph.

(CENTER) The gathering in the Troubadour Room.

(TO RIGHT OF CENTER) Church-shaped cookies.



(L-R) Sisters Margaret Klotz and Ruth Marie Soens.



National Catholic Sisters Week



(L-R) Sisters Nancy Kazik and Rita Kosednar holding the staff of St. Joseph.



, Ceil Struck,



Cameroon Sisters Visit

Sr. Gloria Wirba is a Tertiary Sister of St. Francis (TSSF) from Cameroon who currently teaches in Rome, Italy. She spent three months at the beginning of the year on sabbatical with the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in La Crosse, Wis. As she came to the end of her time in the U.S., she visited our congregation and the Milwaukee area, and then went to Meriden, Conn., for a few days with the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist. This was Sr. Gloria's first opportunity to visit the three congregations involved in the Franciscan Common Venture (FCV), and she appreciated meeting with many sisters, observing our ministries, and hearing about our interest and involvements in the FCV.



(L-R) Sisters Xaveria Ntenmusi, TSSF; Julianne Koch, OSF; and Roberta Feh, TSSF, posed during a break at the Milwaukee Art Museum on a visit to the *Art in Bloom* exhibit. Our visitors were fascinated with the special display of floral arrangements, each depicting an art piece in the museum.



Sisters serve God through a diversity of ministries. Some live cloistered lives in contemplative prayer, while others work on the front lines of global change, striving to improve various aspects of society, from environmental change to health care reform to human rights issues. All find ways to make the world a better place. They may have had a positive impact in your life through their work in your community, even if you didn't know they were women religious."

www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org/about.php

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.

Cancelled Stamps Support Retired Sisters

Last summer, *Nojoshing Notes* carried an article about the work our sisters do with cancelled postage stamps. The response to that article has been tremendous, and we want to thank you most sincerely for sending us your cancelled stamps.

In case you missed the article, it explained that our sisters sort cancelled stamps, both domestic and foreign, to sell to stamp buyers. The proceeds are used to help support our retired sisters.

Sisters Felicia Schlechter and Margaret Ruddy oversee the sorting, and engage other volunteers to help them.

If you wish to contribute any cancelled postage stamps, please send them to:

**St. Francis Convent
Stamp Department
3221 S. Lake Dr.
St. Francis, WI 53235.**

We thank you in advance.

**Nojoshing Notes is a publication of the
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi.**

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

Color Me Franciscan

The winter issue of *Nojoshing Notes* was printed in full color. This was the first time we did this because so many of the photos, like the fireplace at Clare Hall to name one, would not have been clear in black and white.

The other fact we learned is that, due to printing technology changes, the cost for full color printing has dropped considerably. As a result, each copy of the newsletter increases in cost by only a penny.

As Franciscan women, the last thing we want to do is to be extravagant with our printing costs, but we also want our news to come to you in the best format possible. As long as printing costs continue to be affordable, we will continue to provide you with color photos and graphics.

And knowing that a picture is worth a thousand words, we will be able to tell more of our story in color pictures.

Earth Echoes Program

*continued from
front page page*

According to Dorothy, all kinds of “critters” need native plants for their sustenance, and the plants and these critters have evolved methods of mutual attraction. She describes the relationships as a win-win.

