



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.*

Earth Echoes: 2018 Education Series Scheduled

The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi offer this series to help attendees connect with the Franciscan value of care of the earth. The presentations will be held the third Thursday of the month, February thru April, at Clare Hall, 3470 S. Illinois Ave, St. Francis, Wis., in the 4th floor meeting room from 9:30-11:30 a.m. All sessions in the series are free and open to the public.

Febuary 15

**Increase Lapham,
Wisconsin's First Scientist
Speakers: Paul Hayes & Martha Bergland**

Increase Lapham was a naturalist who lived in the 19th century. In addition to his stature as a scientist, he is considered the "Father of the U.S. Weather Service."

After her retirement from Milwaukee Area Technical College, Martha Bergland wrote an article on Lapham for *Milwaukee Magazine*, and studied him for the next five years. During 33 years at the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, science reporter Paul G. Hayes often relied on the work of Increase Lapham. After retiring in 1995, Hayes continued to write, often referring to Lapham and his contributions.

March 15

**Beekeeping Traditions in Eastern Europe
Speaker: Charlie Koenen**

Come on a journey to the former Yugoslavia where beekeeping traditions are very different from how we know of them. Stunning images and insightful stories may give light to a deeper respect and relationship between mankind and nature.

Charlie Koenen, known as "the bee man," has been the beekeeper at the Motherhouse for many years. He currently operates Beevangelists out of Redeemer Lutheran.

April 19

**Project News and Updates
Speaker: Sr. Mary Lea Schneider, OSF**

Sr. Mary Lea Schneider will explore two inter-related areas of ecofeminism: 1) the nature, history and development of ecofeminism as a movement, and 2) the relationship of ecofeminism to animal welfare and rights.

Sr. Mary Lea Schneider has a Ph.D. in religious studies from Marquette University. She has been active in academic life throughout her long career as a professor and lecturer, and served as president of Cardinal Stritch University from 1991 through 2008.

Reflecting on Christmas and Its True Meaning

In the rush of Christmas preparations, it can be difficult to have the time to reflect on the real reason for doing all those preparations in the first place. The message in one of our Christmas cards this year was: *Savor the beauty and joy of the season, celebrate the wonder, remember the reason.*

Two events at St. Francis Convent this past December provided time for savoring the beauty and joy of Christmas. The first was the *Stations of the Nativity* prayed during the Pie and Prayer gathering on December 10. Participants gathered in the Troubadour around tables during the readings, songs and prayers, which were accompanied by drawings of each station projected on a screen. The 14 stations began with the *Annunciation* and ended with the Wise Men coming east.

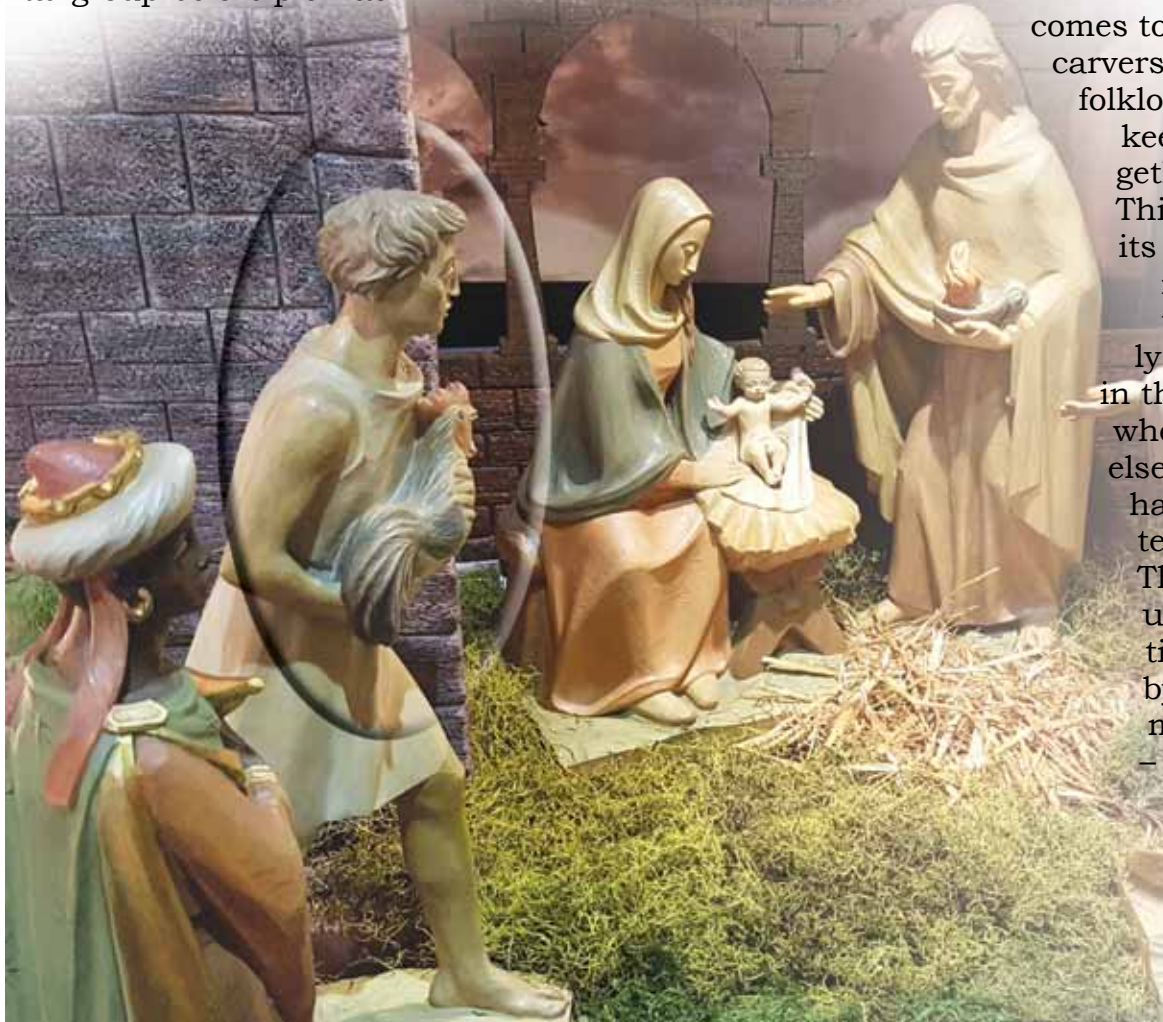
Following the stations, there was an opportunity to share insights with the total group before pie was

served to conclude the time together.

The second event consisted of pausing before the entrance to St. Francis Chapel and viewing the shepherd from our crèche with a rooster in his arms. Why would this shepherd have a rooster?

“Legend states that the only time the rooster crowed at midnight was the night that Jesus was born. The crowing of the rooster at the dawn of each morning symbolizes the daily triumph of light over darkness and the victory of good over evil.”

A legend is a traditional story sometimes popularly regarded as historical but unauthenticated. Our crèche comes to us from wood carvers in Bavaria, where folklore and legends keep people knit together in celebration. This legend did serve its purpose this year in challenging us to look more closely at all the figures in the crèche to see who else and what else we might see that has escaped our attention in the past. These events drew us into the celebration of the wonder by helping us remember the reason – Jesus’ birth.



The crèche in St. Francis Chapel at the Motherhouse featuring the shepherd carrying the rooster.

2018 Holiday Season at the Motherhouse



Christmas Boutique – December 9 began with just the right amount of fresh snow falling for all who turned out for the OSF Bakery and Craft Boutique. The Troubadour was decked out in festive Christmas decorations, and the sister vendors had set up their tables with homemade bakery and handmade crafts. The flow of traffic throughout the day was steady, and sales were brisk. The net income is going toward the building fund of the new St. Francis Convent. If you live in the area, please mark your calendars for December 8 of 2018 for the second OSF Bakery and Craft Boutique.



Christmas Stockings, Cookies and Visitors – Sisters at the Motherhouse stuffed stockings for the troops with items donated by sisters, associates, staff and friends. They also helped to make cookies. And St. Nick made an appearance, as well as Murphy, the therapy dog.



Groundbreaking: New Convent Under Construction



More than 100 gathered at the current Motherhouse for the groundbreaking for the new St. Francis Convent, which was held on Sunday, October 29. The new building will be on the site of the former St. Mary's Academy/Marian Center, which was recently deconstructed.

Sister Diana De Bruin (sprinkling holy water at left above), director of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, and Sisters Marcia Lunz and Sylvia Anne Sheldon (at right), associate directors, turned the first shovels of dirt, along with The Most Reverend Richard J. Sklba, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Milwaukee, and Sister Charlotte Roost, the administration's liaison for the construction project. They were joined by representatives from Groth Design Group (the architectural firm) and VJS Construction Services; the mayor of the City of St. Francis; and Sister Ellen Carr, capital campaign director.

The event began with a prayer service in the Troubadour Room. The group then moved to the construction site, where the ground was blessed, with each person who turned soil sprinkling the ground with holy water as attendees sang "Holy Ground" by Christopher Beatty. A reception followed in Troubadour, where images of the new convent renderings were shown. (An aerial rendering is included below.)

The bronze relief of St. Francis with the animals, currently mounted on the façade of the Motherhouse, will be placed on the new building facing Lake Drive (see bottom rendering). A number of other artifacts from the deconstructed St. Mary's Academy/Marian Center will also be incorporated.

When completed, the convent's two wings will house 80 sisters needing memory support and assisted living. There will be gathering and dining spaces in the center. The administrative offices will be relocated to the second floor of the "town square," which will connect the two wings.



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.

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

Please send comments / suggestions to:

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