



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.*

## *St. Josaphat Basilica:* A Visit to a City Landmark

**O**n March 23, a group of sisters from Clare Hall visited the Basilica of St. Josaphat, located on the south side of Milwaukee. A docent (pictured below right) conducted an excellent tour and shared information about the history and design of the Basilica and its significance to the Milwaukee area.

**S**t. Josaphat is one of two minor basilicas in Wisconsin, and was built by Polish immigrants in the late 1800s. It was constructed using salvaged building materials, as evidenced by the brass doorknobs bearing the seal of the U.S. Treasury, and it features one of the largest copper domes in the world.



**T**he Basilica is a designated Milwaukee landmark, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Modeled after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, it is considered to be an excellent example of Polish cathedral architecture found in the upper Midwest.



# 2018 St. Joseph Table Celebration

On March 18, 2018, sisters and associates gathered in Troubadour for a St. Joseph Table celebration.

This is a customary celebration in many countries, but this year, with the building of our new convent in progress, it was fitting to look back in our history to note the significance of honoring Joseph. Here are a few examples of devotion and intercession from our past shared with us by Sister Rose Sevenich.

Mother Aemiliana, our first leader, had a great devotion to St. Joseph.

In the *Study of the History of Our Community* written in 1939, we learn the following:

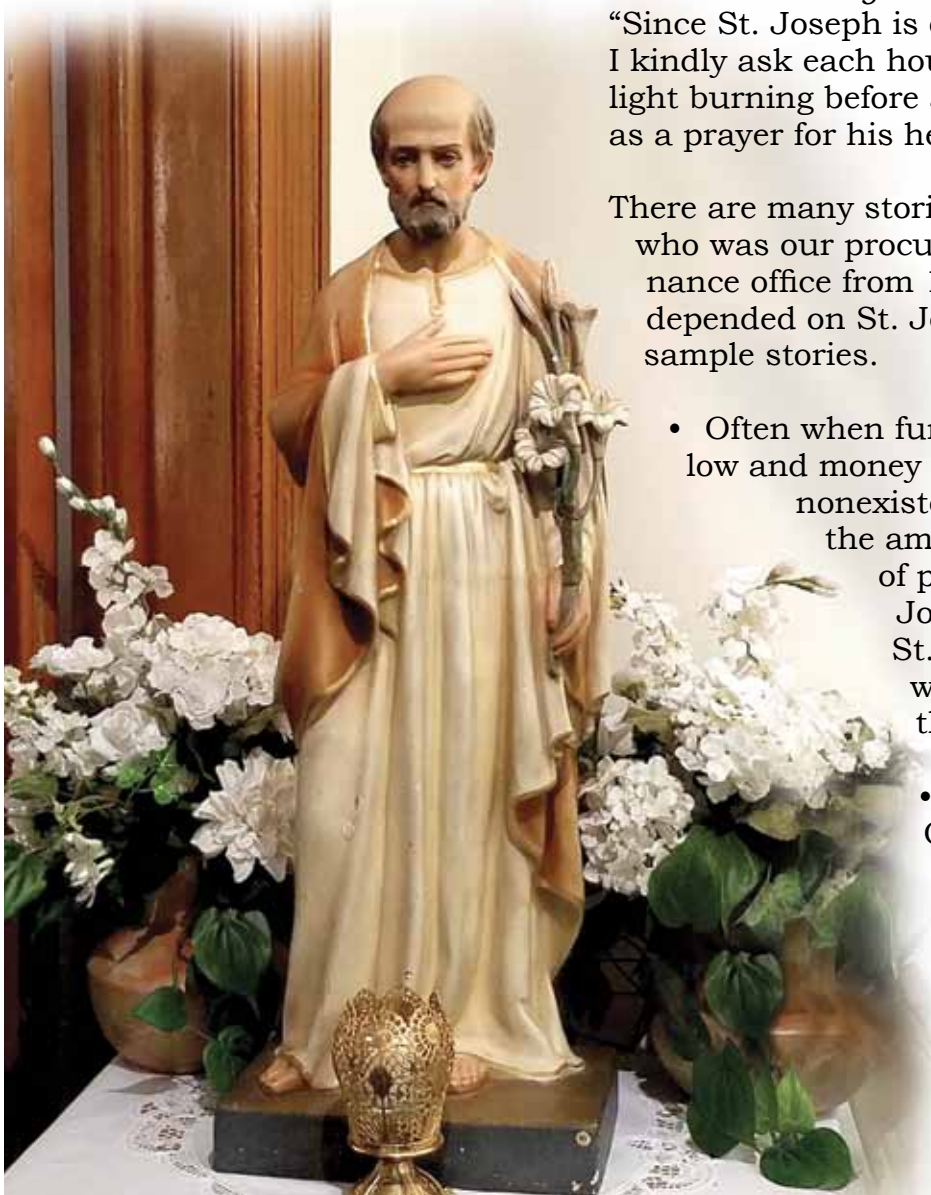
“As soon as possible a chapel was added to the first home of our foundresses. This chapel was moved and connected to our 1861 building on the west side.” Listed among liturgical artifacts which came with the move is “the little St. Joseph statue.”

In *A New Assisi*, our history written in 1949 by Sister Eunice Hanousek, it states that, in 1904, Mother Thecla Thren, who trusted in the intercession of St. Joseph, made him the custodian of the community purse.

Mother Bartholomew Frederick, in a *Circular Letter to the Community* dated February 9, 1945, wrote: “Since St. Joseph is our patron for the year 1945, I kindly ask each house and Mission to have a vigil light burning before a statue or picture of St. Joseph as a prayer for his help, protection and guidance.”

There are many stories of Sister Isabel Thalmaier who was our procurator and in charge of our finance office from 1920 to 1952. Sister Isabel depended on St. Joseph a lot as shown in these sample stories.

- Often when funds for the community were very low and money to pay a bill coming due was nonexistent, Sister Isabel would place the amount needed on a small piece of paper and slip it under the St. Joseph statue in the finance office. St. Joseph would come through with the amount needed, even to the last penny.
- The front door bell would ring. Our sister portress would discover someone who just happened to be on South Lake Drive at the time and thought of giving money to the sisters. Again, often the money given helped us over a hump.



***The St. Joseph statue in its place of honor outside the Administrative Team offices***

# Recommitting to the Tradition

- Then there is the story that, when St. Joseph's response was slower than hoped, Sister Isabel would turn the St. Joseph statue to face the wall. This apparently got St. Joseph's attention! The request was answered soon thereafter.

Each year, the statue of St. Joseph, which has long stood on a wooden shelf in the stairwell once known as St. Joseph's stairs, is brought to the St. Joseph Table celebration.

This year, rather than returning the statue to its customary place, it was taken in a procession to a place of honor near the Administrative Team offices on the second floor of the Motherhouse.

We recommit ourselves to the tradition of asking for St. Joseph's intercession, as we move into our future with our new convent - a practice and prayer that has roots from our very beginning in 1849.



**ABOVE:**  
*Blessing of the statue by the gathering in Troubadour.*



**CENTER:**  
*Sr. KD Strandell, who organized the event, led the procession with the statue to its place of honor.*

**BELOW:**  
*A special meal was prepared for the event by a group of sisters.*



# New Convent Construction: *March 22, 2018 Update*



We would like to share a summary of the most recent construction update received from Groth Design Group (the architectural firm) and VJS Construction Services.

- Underground work nearly complete
- Structural steel substantially complete
- Concrete topping work taking place
- Wall panel erection underway
- Floor joists delivered

Signing of the final beam to be flown into place was held on April 11. (Photo below)

Also, please visit our Capital Campaign website - [www.spiritofstfrancis.org](http://www.spiritofstfrancis.org) - which provides details about the convent construction and the sisters who will benefit from this new facility.



A group of sisters, OSF employees and staff members from the Groth Design Group and VJS Construction gathered for the beam signing on April 11.

The event began with a prayer acknowledging the significance of this milestone in the new convent process, and then Associate Director Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF, blessed the beam with holy water.

Additional photos can be found on the OSF Facebook page.

**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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