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.

New Team Installed June 9

Sisters Set Direction for 2019 to 2023

If there is any universal aspect of being Franciscan, it is that of being in relationship to God and all of creation. Francis, in the 13th century, awakened the world to this. The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, in their April 2019 General Chapter meeting (at left), set their direction for the next four years, and it echoes what St. Francis lived and preached in his lifetime.

We, as a congregation, articulated that “Flowing from our charism, we commit to: intentional contemplation; compassion for one another in community; and hope-filled presence in our vulnerable world.”

A second statement gives direction on how we will renew and deepen our relationships with one another: “Over the next four years, we will create various times and processes for all sisters, regardless of age, location or limitations, to experience new ways and skills to know one another and to cultivate trust and mutual respect. On a personal level, we consciously choose to relate to each other with sensitive awareness and recognition of the mystery of the other.”

The newly elected Administrative Team, pictured at left) was installed on June 9. It is part of their overall responsibility to see that the Direction Statements are implemented and acted on.

(Left - right) Sr. Diana De Bruin, Director, and Sisters Kathryn Dean (KD) Strandell and Ellen Carr, Associate Directors.
On May 5, the new St. Francis Convent was blessed with invited guests at the Mass of Dedication and Cornerstone Laying. We were graced with a bright, sunny, spring day that was a respite from the series of rainy days that preceded this occasion. Bishop James Schuerman, pictured at right) presided at the Eucharistic Liturgy and blessed the cornerstone before it was placed in the outside wall near the front entrance.

Open Houses

In the afternoon we welcomed additional invited guests to visit the new convent. The sisters had come two days earlier to see their new home for the first time. The following day, the employees, the associates of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, and the residents of Canticle and Juniper Courts on our grounds visited. Alumnae of St. Mary’s Academy came on May 11.

We are so grateful for the interest and appreciation expressed on the part of everyone that our most frail sisters now have a safe, adequate and beautiful home in which to live. We, in turn, are so grateful for all the help we have received to make our dream a reality.

Moving Days

Between the celebration of the dedication of our new convent and the 170th celebration of our Foundation Day at the end of May, the sisters moved into their new home. Clare Circle is home for 32 sisters, and Elizabeth Hall is home for 48 sisters. The sisters making the move along with their ‘moving buddies’ worked together to help things go as smoothly as possible.

Before the move-in, there was cleaning out, divesting and choosing what to bring to the new convent. From May 16 to 22, approximately 15 to 18 sisters moved each day.

continued on next page
Even though the sisters had seen the new convent earlier, it took a little time for them to be sure how to get from place to place.

**Foundation Day**

By the time we celebrated Foundation Day with morning Mass in the San Damiano Center, followed by coffee and rolls on the second floor porch of Elizabeth Hall (pictured at left) life had settled in to a great extent.

The celebration of Foundation Day extended into June when residents of Milwaukee Catholic Home joined the sisters to hear a program by Anna Passante, president of the City of St. Francis Historical Society, in which she described the history and times of Nojoshing in the years surrounding 1849 when our foundresses came from Bavaria, Germany. Ms. Passante fashioned the dress she wore (pictured below) after the attire of the women in the mid-19th century. Nojoshing became the City of St. Francis in the mid-20th century. After the talk everyone got to visit during an ice cream social.
Construction Administration Update

NEW CONVENT COMPLETION
April 2019

SQUARE FEET
130,000

GROTH DESIGN PARTNER/ARCHITECT
Steve Petitt, AIA

GROTH DESIGN PROJECT MANAGER
Nathan Pamperin

CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION
Mike McGraw, CDT

VJS PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE
Chris Sauve'

VJS PROJECT MANAGERS
Ben Baenen - Senior PM
Chad Kucik - PM

PROJECT COORDINATOR
Erika Lingle

SITE SUPERINTENDENT
Dave Lamb

What’s Happening Now?

Interior Site Work:
- All rooms and areas essentially complete
- Finish items (wall hangings, shelving, etc.) being completed
- Historic mural mounted in upper hallway of the Town Square (above)

Exterior Site Work:
- St. Francis relief moved from former convent to new convent (above)
- Sidewalk installation and parking lot paving completed.
- Landscaping delayed due to June rains
- Tree and shrub planting nearing completion
- Most grass seeding completed

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.
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