Celebrating St. Francis of Assisi

This October, we had the opportunity to pay tribute to St. Francis of Assisi for two occasions.

Our sisters, associates, former members and guests celebrated the Feast Day of St. Francis on Sunday, October 7. The day began with dinner at noon in the Troubadour Room and ended with a festive Liturgy in our beautifully decorated chapel. There were many joyful encounters and much catching up on news.

It was also a time for many to walk through the Motherhouse before some elements are removed to be placed in the new convent. One example is the Assisi window, which is scheduled to be removed for cleaning and repair in the coming weeks. The display room for the Archives is closed now to be a staging area for artifacts in preparation for the spring move.

Father Al Veik, OFM Cap., presided at the Sunday Mass. Then, on October 10, when we opened our Annual Corporate Ministry Conference at St. Coletta of Wisconsin in Jefferson, Fr. Al (pictured below distributing communion), celebrated with us again.

The conference theme was Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace. It was fitting to have a Franciscan friar join us in prayer with our colleagues from the OSF sponsored corporate ministries as we began two days of breaking open the ways of peacemaking in the tradition of Francis. (At left) Sister Joanne Schatzlein’s presentations led all to a greater understanding of peacemaking.
The 2018 Jubilarians: Representing 855 Years of Service as Vowed Women Religious

Just as married couples renew their marriage vows on a milestone anniversary, sisters renew their vows at our Jubilee celebrations.

Sister Diana De Bruin, director of the congregation, introduced the renewal and then called each sister by name.

At the heart of religious life is our vowed commitment to live for God. We commit ourselves to live simply in the Franciscan tradition, to love as Jesus loved, and to follow the call of the Spirit.

I will now call forth the Jubilarians for their renewal of vows.

All sisters present then join the Jubilarians in renewing their vows.

For Jubilee, the sisters also share a reflection on their years of ministry, and what it has meant to be a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi.

Some of those reflections are included here.

Sr. Magdalena Paul
A wonderful, wonderful life. A beautiful life. A life that brought me close to God. There isn’t a better life to live!

Sr. Kathleen Denevan
I am so grateful for my sisters and for knowing that even tho’ I’ve been far away in Massachusetts for so long, I have always felt that my sisters, our community, have walked with me, have ministered with me...especially in my years with the men in Norfolk prison and our Bethany community.

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.
Sr. Barbara Faris
It’s been a great 60 years! ... Jesus Christ has been true to his promise to care for all my needs. Love endures forever!

Sr. Marianne Muscott
I am grateful for the many opportunities to live in our Franciscan communities and to serve the under-served in New York, Baltimore, Virginia, and Milwaukee.

Sr. Ruth Marie Soens
I thank God for all the wonderful years ministering in His vineyard with so many memorable co-workers. I treasure my memories and my living at Clare Hall. A rich experience – I’ve gotten to know so many in my congregation.

Sr. Charlotte Roost
I am glad that I am a Franciscan. Being a Franciscan today is a great lens to view the many aspects of the world today. To see God’s presence everywhere and to know that God is a part of my daily life is both comforting and challenging. It has been an interesting and awesome journey. I am so thankful that God has called me to this life style. These last fifty years have truly been a gift from God and I am looking forward to the continuation of the journey together.

Sr. Joanne Schatzlein
As I reflect on 50 years as a vowed Franciscan woman, my heart is filled with gratitude for the blessings of God, the support of my congregation and corporate leaders, and the love of my family and friends. May I continue to share these many gifts worthily.

Sr. Diana Tergerson
I am grateful for the ways in which being a member of the joy-filled Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi has enriched my life through community and friendships; deepened my spiritual life; enabled me to serve through the gift of secretarial skills; and expanded my world through relationships and experiences.

Sister Clara Wang
WHAT’S HAPPENING NOW?

Building 1:
- Wall framing is complete.
- Drywall operations have commenced at Level 01.
- MEPFP rough-in remains ongoing at Level 02.

Building 2:
- Roof framing at Clerestory is complete.
- Scaffolding system to access Clerestory during construction is erected.
- Clerestory glazing system to begin next week.

Building 3:
- Drywall operations including tape and finish are ongoing throughout.
- Exterior siding work is complete.

Site Work:
- Final grading is ongoing, including prep for placement of roadway.

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