



NOJOSHING NOTES

Spring 2016
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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.*

Congregation Launches New Website

The second week of March, the newly redesigned website for the congregation went "live" at the same URL as the previous site – www.lakeosfs.org – and it features more than a new look.

One of the major goals was to develop a site that "resizes" for better viewing on a wide variety of devices, particularly phones and tablets. This was imperative because, as of last year, search engines began downgrading "static" sites, making it more difficult for the congregation to be found during a general search.

The ability to update content over time was another important aspect, and the new site offers considerable flexibility in changing verbiage, image and a good deal of the structure.

There are some important features to note on the homepage. At the upper left corner, there are three different sized As. By clicking on them, visitors can change the font sizing to improve their viewing/reading experience. To the right of the main copy is a sidebar that includes direct access to recent news, Poverello Creations, the ability to make donations, and the OSF publications that are posted on the site.

The site continues to be a "work in progress." Verbiage will regularly be updated, more pictures will be added, and adjustments will be made as everyone gains experience with the new www.lakeosfs.org.



Stritch Students Learn History; Interview Sisters

Four OSF sisters and four students at Cardinal Stritch University, which is sponsored by the congregation, have been paired in an oral history class. The goal is to form a sister/student relationship, and then each student will do a video interview. It will become the property of the archives for the *National Sisters Story Project* housed at St. Catherine's University, Minnesota.

The video is to be accompanied by a word-for-word transcription. Upon completion, each student receives \$500. The project is one of several sponsored by a \$3 million grant from the Conrad Hilton Foundation.

Sr. Adele Thibaudeau initiated the project in late November, and Sister K.D. Strandell is conducting the classes with film instructor Tim Abler, who sends items digitally to Minnesota.



SisterStory

Tell Us Your Story SisterStories Sisters of Influence

Cardinal Stritch University

Spring 2016

Sister Joanne and Heidi Tamblyn

Sister Joanne Nicgorski, OSF, is a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi. She entered the community upon her completion of high school. Born in Milwaukee, Sr. Joanne has traveled several countries around the world, and been exposed to a number of different...

Heidi Tamblyn is a third year college student studying Fine Arts and Psychology at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She feels as though her career path is heading towards Clinical Art (Art Therapy) although she is not completely certain...

Sister Evelyn and Katy Schreiner

Sister Evelyn Brokish, OSF is a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi from Dodgeville, Wisconsin. She was born March 22, 1937 the fifth of sixteen children, entered religious life September 8, 1956, and became a vowed religious on August 12, 1959. As a farm girl...

Katy Schreiner is a junior attending Cardinal Stritch University majoring in graphic design and minoring in computer science. Although she had religion in her life growing up she believed herself to be more spiritual than religious, and therefore is eager to...

The sisters being interviewed are Joanne Nicgorski, Joanne Meyer, Evelyn Brokish and K.D. Strandell. They report they are enjoying the students, and the students say they are thrilled to get to know a sister. Some have been on the Franciscan pilgrimage and hope to learn more about St. Francis and his way of life from their sisters.

The students are part of a national blog, and post a new message each month on getting to know their sisters. Check out the blog at: <https://www.sisterstory.org>

Go to <https://www.sisterstory.org/communitylocation/cardinal-stritch-university>, and click on the names to read these stories



Clare Hall Retreat

Fr. Dan Crosby, OFM Cap., (shown at left) gave a retreat March 14 to 19 at Clare Hall, which is adjacent our Motherhouse. Most of the sisters who live there, plus sisters from other houses, participated. The theme was on mercy, in keeping with the Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis. These are some reflections by the sisters after the retreat:

- It is important to put on mercy which is a quality of life that is inside, not worn outside. In doing this, we move from just an understanding of Mercy as an idea, to living with Mercy as an attitude for life. Jesus is our model.
- When Mercy is in our hearts, life changes and the need to compare ourselves with others or judge others loses its grip.
- Everyone is able to bring God's Mercy to the world whether we are in a wheelchair or active.

“Rhythm for Unity”

Sisters create a circle of celebration and joy with percussion instruments.



The founder of “Rhythm for Unity,” Tom Gill, pictured at far left, visited St. Francis Convent during December. He holds drum circles (rhythm circles) for all types of groups to spark creativity and teamwork.



Tom led a circle of

sisters in creating rhythmic pieces using a variety of drums and percussion instruments, something for all to try. With Tom directing the sisters, they improvised rhythms, and the circle turned into a high energy, joyful celebration of being together.



The process of “music making” made it easy for all to “feel the beat” and discover how each person’s sound contributed to the whole group. This all happened regardless of experience or ability. Each sister’s drumming was unique and created a delightful sound. The sound carried throughout the convent and many left their offices to come and see what was happening. They were as happy to observe as the sisters were to participate!



Sisters Enjoy Dog Sled Rides

At the Annual Pet Blessing at the Motherhouse the past two years, the Door County Sled Dogs were present. Both years, the handlers offered sled rides to the sisters the coming winter, but this year was the first time that the weather cooperated for the scheduled event. So on January 20, despite the chilly temps, sisters who were willing to brave the cold had a chance to experience the dogs in action. It was a thrilling and exhilarating experience for the riders, and it shows in the faces of Sisters Marcia Lunz (l) and Diana De Bruin (r) below.

The “chariot” pulled by the dogs fits two people per ride, and the handler stands on a sled behind holding the



lines. The dogs first had to become familiar with the route – which was a circle path created on the lawn near St. Francis Seminary. The lead dog was responsible for getting the other dogs to follow along and stay in line so they weren’t all pulling in different directions. Most definitely, distraction is an issue for dogs as well as people!

The sled dogs are all rescue dogs, and most are Huskies – though there are a few other breeds that join in and do well in the group. They are always adding new dogs, and as new dogs come into the pack, they usually need to learn how to be a member of the pack and the team. That means learning to mush, if they are able.

The Door County Sled Dogs group is active in the community and gives rides at Whitnall Park each winter (weather permitting) and sometimes at other locations and to other groups as requested. They are in the process of setting up the first Education & Discovery Center for sled dogs in Ephraim, Door County. The center is expected to be open the summer of 2016.



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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

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