



# NOJOSHING NOTES

Spring 2022  
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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.*

## Sisters Gather at Lakeshore for Water Witness Project



(l to r) Sisters Barbara Faris, Mary Jerome Lacy, Mary Kemen, Richelle Ranallo, Mr. Larry Willkomm, Sisters Joanne Nicgorski, Bea Wagner, Rosalynn Dzikonski, Mary Lea Schneider, Rosa Suazo, JPIC animator Jill Haberman, and Sister Linda Greenwood posed with the Water Witness sign on the lakeshore in Bayview.

**Y**ou are probably familiar with the post office motto, "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night, stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." The same can be said of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi when it comes to giving witness to caring for Sister Water. Ten Sisters, as part of their commitment to protecting the environment and promoting the dignity of all of creation, gathered March 10, 2022 on a frigid Lake Michigan shore to pray for our waters and mark the March 14 International Day of Action for Rivers. In 2021, 32 countries participated in this witness of the global need for clean water.

The site of the Sisters' witness represents the confluence of three rivers – the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic. Their action

is in support of the \$1 billion approved by the Biden administration to clean up toxic pollution in the Great Lakes. The commitment of funds will support the protection of drinking water, public health and thousands of jobs in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, New York, and Wisconsin. The Milwaukee estuary – the convergence of the three rivers at Lake Michigan – has been on the Department of Natural Resources "Areas of Concern" list since 1987. The funding will accelerate projects already underway to restore these waters.

The Sisters' Water Witness is part of their work in support of *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*, the encyclical issued by Pope Francis in 2015.

## Sister Margaret Gardner Celebrates 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday

If you were turning 101 years old, what would you wish for as a birthday present? How about a set of legos!

That was Sister Margaret Gardner's request as she celebrated with the community on January 27, 2022, during a festive lunch in Elizabeth Hall.

Sister Margaret enjoyed tinkering with the set that was provided for the occasion by Nancy Ketchman, Director of Advancement. She was pleasantly surprised by the number of pieces and the many different shapes and sizes. We hope she enjoys building and creating as she continues to be an inspiration for all who encounter her!



## A Special Valentine Treat

Do you enjoy eating a delicious ice cream sundae? No matter what time of the year, the Sisters at St. Francis Convent like coming together in the afternoon for a special ice cream treat. Although February 14, 2022, was a cold winter day, that didn't prevent the Sisters from gathering for a special Valentine's Day Ice Cream Social! The festive social was the idea of Howard Muscott, brother of Sister Marianne Muscott, a resident of Clare Circle. Many thanks to Howard for his generosity and for coming up with such a delightful idea. The Sisters enjoyed the gathering and a fun time was had by all!



Sisters enjoyed their Valentine's Day social.

## Celebrating Chinese New Year

If you happened to be at St. Francis Convent on February 1, 2022, you would have noticed the Sisters gathered in the Elizabeth Hall dining room to celebrate Chinese New Year (Year of the Tiger). This is a holiday that is special to the Chinese Sisters of the community. Sisters Theresa Wang and Clara Wang described the celebration in China as a jubilant time of year. Families gather in gratitude to spend time with each other. Elders are much respected and revered in the Chinese culture and are celebrated during Chinese New Year.

Sister Clara described that one tradition of the festivities involves a red envelope filled with money that is gifted to children by the head of the family. It is also given to employees by heads of companies. Workers are given three days off to celebrate. Another highlight of the Chinese New Year celebration is a 13-course meal served to mark the occasion. The holiday is celebrated over a couple of weeks in China and Chinese communities around the world. The Sisters in Elizabeth Hall were treated to a special Chinese menu prepared by the St. Francis Convent dietary staff to mark this year's celebration.



Sister Marianne Vogel poses for a portrait in Clare Circle.



l to r: Sisters Theresa Wang, Clara Wang, JoAnn Schmitz and Irene Kunderer enjoyed the celebration.

# International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking

# STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking takes place annually on February 8. Throughout the world people come together to pray and to learn about the experiences of trafficking victims. They become aware of ways they can reach out in loving care and help empower survivors. February 8 was chosen because it is the feast of St. Josephine Bakita. She was kidnapped as a child and enslaved in Sudan and Italy. Once freed, she joined the Canossian Sisters and dedicated her life to serving those who were poor and suffering.

In anticipation of the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, the Sisters at St. Francis Convent gathered on February 7, 2022, to pray for those persons whose lives have been affected by human trafficking. Jill and Steven Haberman, animators of our Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Office, hosted a livestream prayer service that made it possible for all Sisters to participate. Sisters at the convent led everyone in readings, song, reflection, and prayer.

As a follow-up, the Sisters are urging Wisconsin congressional representatives and senators to support the Safe Harbor Bill protecting child victims of sex trafficking in our state. Sisters at St. Francis Convent are making casserole lunches and desserts each month for women healing from abuse and trafficking at Sisters Program South located in Milwaukee, Wis.

*Thank you*

We want to express our deep gratitude for your financial support to the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. Your care and concern are greatly appreciated. May you be blessed each day with God's love and goodness.

## Casseroles and Cookies: Resident Sisters Reach Out

In a two-day, well-orchestrated project, Sisters in Elizabeth Hall shared the love in the form of nutritious food for women served at Sisters Program South and North. This outreach of the Benedict Center helps women healing from human trafficking. Their two locations provide counseling, along with a hot meal, showers, clothing, and hygiene items to about 30 women each day.

On day 1, Sister Richelle Ranallo cooked a triple batch of her special recipe Italian sausage spaghetti sauce—the first step in her Tetrizzini recipe. Sister Lenore Steilen whipped up a batch of her classic oatmeal-raisin cookies in jumbo-sized deliciousness.

On day 2, Sisters Kathleen Deneven, Rosalynn Dzikonski, Mary Hau and Jodene Wydeven worked like a whirlwind chopping green onions, mixing cheeses and boiling pasta to make the Tetrizzini base (we won't tell you who tossed pasta high on the kitchen wall to test for "al dente"!).

As the casseroles were assembled, the aroma of blending sauce and cheeses was fabulous.

Guests at Sisters Program South and North were delighted by this outpouring of care and support.



Sisters Richelle Ranallo and Rosalynn Dzikonski at work on the casseroles.

# Preparations Are Underway for Purple Martin Houses

One of the outcomes of celebrating the Season of Creation at St. Francis Convent is to provide homes for Purple Martins using gourds grown in the convent gardens as well as a more traditional Martin house. Several gourd houses have already been placed on the grounds to attract the Martins and provide shelter for their young.

Eastern Purple Martins are totally dependent on humans to provide their housing. Long ago, Native Americans would hang gourds for them to nest. The birds helped crops grow by eating the insects that could harm the plants. The plan for the martin houses on the convent grounds must be bringing smiles to the native peoples who once lived on the property where the convent is now located!



A beautiful home to welcome a Purple Martin family.

The “apartment complex” planned for the birds is being constructed now by Sister Helene Mertes, Larry Willcomm and several volunteers. The gourds have been scrubbed and the corrugated signs used for last year’s Jubilee celebration are being sized and painted for use in the construction of the houses. The gourds will also be painted and a small opening will be carved out of each of them.

Since Purple Martins like to nest in semi-open areas near

water, the convent’s location next to Lake Michigan is ideal.

Spring of 2022 will hopefully see many Purple Martins coming to take up residence in the houses specially built for them. The Sisters are looking forward to hearing their song fill the air and watch their graceful aerial acrobatics.

For more information on these special birds, check out the websites of The Purple Martin Conservation Association and The Purple Martin Society of North America.

## Poverello Creations

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