



# NOJOSHING

FALL 2023 VOLUME 37 • NUMBER 4

*Notes*

## What Do You Need?

Over the summer, an anonymous donor asked, “What do your Sisters need?” Working with John George, administrator of Franciscan Shore, and other staff, Nancy Ketchman, director of advancement, quickly created a list of three items that fit the donor’s budget: an electric-assist trishaw bike, a new wood-chipper, and a golf cart.

The bike and golf cart allow Sisters the opportunity to explore the St. Francis Convent campus, the surrounding neighborhood, lakefront, and the Sisters’ cemetery deep in Seminary Woods. The wood-chipper lets the maintenance staff shred fallen branches on the convent property and reuse

them for beautiful, sustainable pathways through the Urban Forest and grounds that can be used for meditative walking or riding via the new golf cart.

The donor’s direct, yet heartfelt, question prompted the staff to generate a list of other items and services that will enhance the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual health of the Sisters, including Sisters living off campus. Some of these items are simple: more large-print books, audio books, and new headphones for the library; new exercise bikes for our fitness center; and new virtual reality goggles.

Others are more complex, such as music, creative arts, movement programming, and other innovative services that help manage and reduce pain, discomfort, stress, and anxiety among the Sisters suffering from dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, or other neurological or cognitive disorders.

The current “Wish List” can be found under the Donate tab, “Special Needs and Campaigns,” on the Sisters’ website, [www.lakeosfs.org](http://www.lakeosfs.org). It will be updated every few months to keep it current. If you are interested in funding some of these items, please contact Nancy Ketchman, Director of Advancement, at 414-294-7329 or via email: [nketchman@lakeosfs.org](mailto:nketchman@lakeosfs.org).



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*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.*

# Jubilarian Reflections

## Jubilee 2023

75 years



**Sister Mariella Boehmer**

God is good. In my 75 years as a religious, I was involved in many things. Some I was prepared to do, others not so much. But because God never asks us to do anything we can't handle, I did them with His help. In my favorite poem, the last line became my motto: when you see only one set of footprints, that is when God carries me. God is good.



**Sister Rose Marie Brausam**

I have never lost the wonder of God, of God's creation, of God's people, of God's good book/Bible that gives all learning for the journey of life unto eternal life.



**Sister Canise Kolbeck**

Seventy years is very hard to come up with a brief reflection. Thank God I had the help to make the right choice to come up with the religious life. There are many Franciscans who helped me along the way.



**Sister Rose Kordick**

After answering God's call to this OSF congregation at age 18 in 1950, and as a postulant in the choir loft observing the Silver Jubilarians exiting St. Francis Chapel, I realized HOW OLD they were and knew I would not live that long. So as a novice helping tend the graves in the Chapel of the Woods Cemetery, I selected my gravesite – it has been filled many, many years ago. Now at age 90 and celebrating my 70<sup>th</sup> year of religious profession, I cherish God's sense of humor and am immediately grateful for all the blessings I have received.



**Sister Ruth Gardner**

As a Franciscan nun, I was called to serve God and His Church. I treasure this gift. My mission has been to serve and teach God's children, who have special needs and other concerns. I treasure my life in this Franciscan community. There have been many challenges and struggles. However, I have been rewarded by these children keeping in touch with me. I cherish all these memories in my life.



**Sister Leonette Gertner**

As I look back on my days lived in community, I am grateful for God's loving care for me. God's faithfulness has been my strength and my perseverance. I am grateful, too, for the loving care and concern of my community. Each succeeding day, each succeeding year, brings its own joys, its own sorrows, its changes, and its challenges. As a pilgrim in community, I continue on my journey to the Father, knowing that I do not have here a lasting home. I look to my community, I look to my Father, for ways and means to continue to reach out in faith and love to all whom I meet on my journey. In hope, I look to the Father for the eternal joy of an everlasting home.



**Sister Rosa Suazo**

My life as a religious Sister has always been filled with happiness. I love my community. The Sisters are my family. God is my life, my joy, my all, and my goodness. I do everything for the greater honor and glory of God. I can never be thankful enough for my life with God.



**Sister Richelle Ranallo**

My life as a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi these past 70 years has been a time of blessing, as well as a life-giving transformation; in other words, a continuous creation with the challenge of a new ratification each passing day of a promise taken to refuse God nothing.

My heart is full of gratitude toward all who have touched my life along the way.

70 years



**Sister Mary Hau**  
 Thanks to God, family, our community for their love, care and support that has made me the Franciscan woman I am. My service was to bring healing ministry wherever I served.

**Sister Edna Lonergan**  
 I am grateful for the many opportunities and people it (religious life) has afforded me to know and love.

**Sister Diane Oman**  
 Just recently I looked at the ring I received taking first vows 60 years ago. The ring commitment stating I am a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi. It is with joy, grace of God, and gratitude that I continue my journey with all of you.

**Sister Anna Marie Stadler**  
 In this OSF community and wherever I have served, there were people who made a loving, compassionate God very real for me. Their examples taught me ways to bring God's loving presence into each situation I have met in my life. God is good.

**Sister Kathryn Dean Strandell**  
 There's an anonymous saying that I always come back to in my life: "Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, only God can count the apples in a seed."

So many seeds have come to fruition in my life as a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi. The blessings of wonderful friends and mentors. The opportunities to serve on various committees that led to deeper relationships. Calling the community together by planning parties and bringing former traditions back to life. Having the privilege of being on a community leadership team for four years. Sixty years later, I am still waiting for the next seed to sprout. God has been so good to me!



**Sister Eileen Quinn**

One winter weekend, while on a ski slope, I fell in love with God. I was struck by how much God had graced my life with abundant, unearned blessings. I was overwhelmed with a profound sense of gratitude for all I had been given and wanted this God of Exquisite Love to center my heart forever. I felt invited to live a life of abundant and generous service as a vowed religious and was drawn to the Franciscan way of living the gospel in a spirit of joy and simplicity.

On my profession day in May 1979, I chose as my lifetime motto the Greek word, "Eucharistein," which means to "give thanks," and my dedication is to the "Compassionate Heart of God."

Conscious that we are all walking each other home, God has continually blessed me to see, affirm, and empower the light, goodness, and beauty hidden within the hearts of the leper and the lover, the beautiful and the bruised. Even after 50 years, I am still falling in love with God and experiencing that radiant, joyous love in others.



**Sister Kathy Cairns**

God has been the constant presence in my journey of ups and downs, twists and turns, through 25 years of vowed life. God continues to bless me with companions who support me on this pilgrimage into the future.



## Blessing for the Tree of Life



Spring...a time when Mother Nature nurtures the life hidden in the earth and calls it forth to delight us with its beauty. It is during this season when donors are invited to submit names of family, friends, and others who have made and continue to make a difference in their lives. Since the spring of 2020, the direct mail team has gathered by the lilac trees near St. Francis grotto when they are in full bloom with their beautiful white sprays of flowers. It is the perfect setting for the Tree of Life dedication.

On June 22, the 2023 plaque was hung on the lilac, in honor of those names that were submitted this year. As Jan Parrott, direct mail manager, held the basket containing the names, Sister Mary Kemen said a prayer of blessing upon the tree and all those who were honored by their loved ones:

*“O God of all life, we ask for your blessing on this tree, those we remember, and each one of us. May all of us blossom forth in goodness and give witness to your love in our midst. Blessed are you, God of abundant goodness, who continues to enrich our lives through the love and care of our friends and loved ones.”*

## Sister Lenore Steilen Celebrates 100th Birthday

It was a celebration fit for someone very special, and Sister Lenore Steilen was that someone on July 5, 2023, as Sisters, staff, and friends gathered to honor her on her 100th birthday.

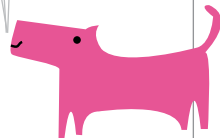
Members of the congregation Leadership Team spoke at the party, joyfully marking the milestone. Sister Joanne Schatzlein read a proclamation from the City of Saint Francis, proclaiming July 5, 2023, “Sister Lenore Steilen Day” in the city.

No birthday is complete without a special cake that was enjoyed by all!



Sister Lenore spoke and was filled with joy at the sight of the room filled with admirers. She was kept busy in the days that followed as she opened over 250 birthday cards received from Sisters, Associates, and former students and families from Iowa and Wisconsin, where she taught for over 50 years.

Sister welcomed dozens of family members and friends to the convent on July 8, 2023, for a special day of celebration.



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