



Sisters of  
St. Francis  
of Assisi

# NOJOSHING NOTES

Spring 2021  
Volume 35, Number 2

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.*

## Historic Stained Glass Window Has a New Home

In the planning process for the new St. Francis Convent, there was a concerted effort to incorporate elements from our old buildings into the new building. One of those items, the Stigmata Window, was installed the week of March 29th on the wall above the entrance inside the San Damiano Center. It is backlit to illuminate the beautiful stained glass.

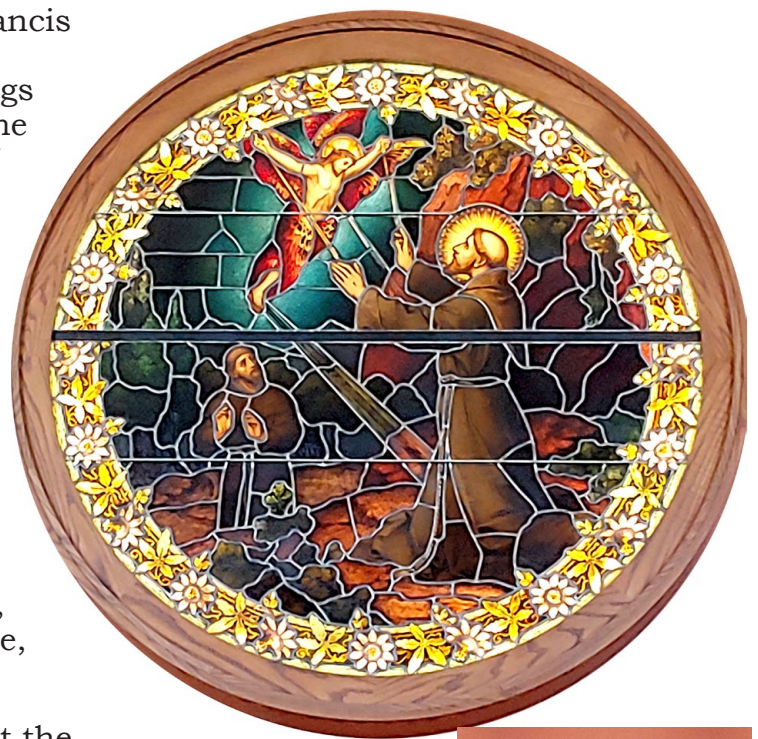
This window is part of the heritage of the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore who merged with the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in 2001. In the late 1800s, the sisters in Baltimore worked with a firm in Philadelphia to commission the work from Germany. The window was installed in 1895 in the chapel of St. Elizabeth Home, an orphanage on St. Paul Street in Baltimore, which was managed by the sisters

Twenty years later it would survive a fire at the orphanage and was installed in the chapel of the new St. Elizabeth Home on Ellerslie Avenue. Dedication of the window took place on the feast of the Stigmata on September 17, 1917. The orphanage closed in 1960 and the building became the Motherhouse of the sisters. The importance of this window in the lives of the sisters prompted research to determine the feasibility of removing the window in Baltimore and reinstalling it in the new convent. The window is now in its third home.

The window depicts St. Francis of Assisi receiving the stigmata from Jesus on the cross. Stigmata refers to the appearance of bodily wounds that correspond to the five

wounds of Jesus' crucifixion. St. Francis is the first to be recognized in the Roman Catholic Church for having received these wounds. They are a mark of holiness and a strong relationship with God.

The window is shown in its new home above the doorway inside the San Damiano Center.





# Surprises and Celebrations —

## *Remembering the Martyrs*

On December 2, 1980, three women religious and one lay woman were martyred in El Salvador for the missionary work they were doing. To commemorate the 40th anniversary of these El Salvadoran martyrs, the sisters gathered with Jill and Steven Haberman, directors of the Office of Justice and Peace, and together they planted 40 tulip bulbs in the convent gardens. Soil from El Salvador where the four women were martyred was incorporated into the garden soil. Now four months later, the tulips are bursting forth with new life.

## *Operation Valentine*

Sr. Ruth Mary Costello and Sr. Jane Denning were kept busy the week before Valentine's Day delivering hundreds of Valentine wishes for the sisters at St. Francis Convent. Desiring to stay engaged with the sisters, St. Mary's Academy alumnae organized Operation Valentine. In addition to these Valentine cards, sisters received messages from sisters, friends, and family. What a wonderful Valentine gift to be lovingly remembered!  
*(bottom center)*

## *Mardi Gras COVID Style*

Just as Mardi Gras was celebrated with much creativity in New Orleans, creativity was also on display at St. Francis Convent. The employees were invited to participate in a "Dress Your Pet" photo contest. On the day of Mardi Gras, the sisters got the opportunity to vote for their favorite pet. Atticus Finch won the vote and Kristin, his owner, received a gift certificate for Pick 'n' Save. Wonder if Atticus Finch got some special cat treats!





# Bringing Smiles to the Sisters

## *Gift of Snow People*

Who can resist wet packing snow? In early January 2021, someone from the neighborhood was taking a child for a sled ride through the convent grounds. When they neared the front parking lot of St. Francis Convent, they stopped and built two snow people for the sisters to enjoy from their windows. Their random act of kindness brought smiles to the sisters' faces.



## *Celebrating Holy Week*

The sisters at St. Francis Convent were so happy to celebrate Holy Week together in San Damiano Center. In 2020, Holy Week services had been canceled because of the pandemic.

This year, the sisters could gather and experience the beauty of the environment and the meaningful services which are at the heart of the celebration of the holiest week of the year.



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# Sr. Margaret Gardner Celebrates 100th Birthday!



**There was no headline when Margaret Gardner was born in Lubec, Maine.**

Now though, 100 years later, it is time to make up for that. When January 27 dawned this year, it was time to celebrate 100 years of life. However, the virus was still active, and no one was fully vaccinated yet. A very small gathering of four sisters took place at a special dinner to mark the day. A bigger celebration was put on hold for a bit.

In late March, after vaccinations had been administered fully, a proper party was held in Elizabeth Hall dining room with the resident sisters in attendance. The exchange of greetings, cards, birthday cake with symbolic candles, flowers and balloons provided an atmosphere for celebrating such a momentous occasion.

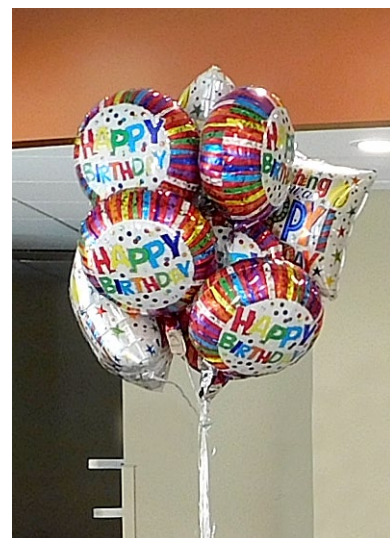
Sr. Margaret watched the construction of the new convent from her 4th floor room in the original St. Francis Convent. In recognition of the progress notes she kept and her interest in everything going on, she was given a hard hat.

Sr. Margaret shared some of her memories of this party. First of all, the helium balloons were brought back to her room and fastened down. When the air from the heating vent goes on, they 'dance' and resurrect memories of the party. She said it was so wonderful to talk with the sisters and receive their good wishes. On another note, Sister is not sure how to act at 100 years of age because it doesn't feel any different than being 99. The conclusion is that she will practice being 100!

Right before her actual birthday, Sister Margaret received her first vaccine shot. How was that? Her answer was that it went very well. She had no physical reactions, and if there were any, they just ended up blending in with her other chronic aches and pains.

Sr. Margaret has a sister living in Maine who is 95 years old. They talk on the phone about once a week and her sister writes weekly, even if the news is sparse or non-existent. It is a blessing for both of them to be able to stay in touch.

God willing, the next big event for Sister Margaret will be her 80th Jubilee celebration later this year.



## Bequests With Gratitude to

Rose Galdenzi	Frances Kobe
Kathryn Fallon	Charlotte Stemke
Agnes Enoch	Bernice Sabo
Marie Smoky	Arlene Cooper
Robert Wurm	John Hand

**\$290,628**

*December 2019 to December 2020*

**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 published by  
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