

TROUBADOUR

What Does it Mean to Live a Life of Hospitality?



TROUBADOUR

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What are the servants of
God if not his troubadours,
who must move people's
hearts and lift them up
to spiritual joy?

– St. Francis of Assisi

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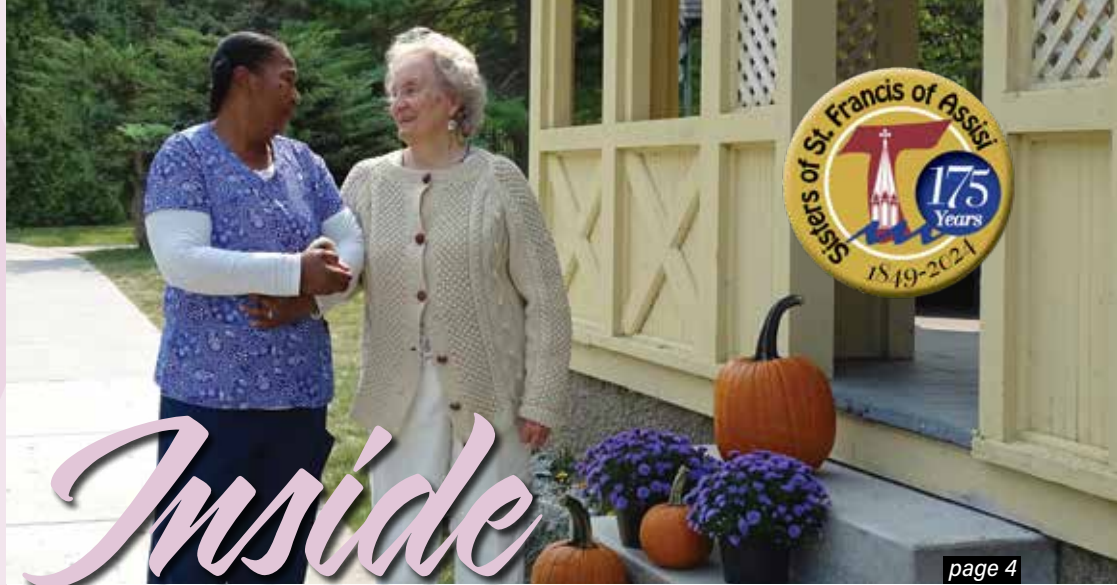
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Discovering the Ways of Hospitality

Before we invite you to explore the pages of *Troubadour*, we wish to thank all of you for the amazing feedback you provided about the inaugural issue! Your generous response to the stories and your ongoing support of the needs of our Sisters remind us of how blessed we have been over the years by your generosity. During this 175th anniversary year of our foundation, many of you joined us for various events that renewed friendships and deepened our appreciation for the many ways we have been “partners in ministry.”

In this issue of *Troubadour*, we focus not on an event, but on a way of life that has defined Franciscans throughout our history. The focus is on exploring the various expressions of hospitality, which was the theme of the congregation’s annual summer meeting, called The Gathering. At this meeting, we discovered new ways to engage every Sister of St. Francis of Assisi in an environment that encouraged participation in planning for our future. Our elder

and more frail Sisters joined in song, prayer, and sharing their thoughts about hospitality and its deeper meaning as we move into our future. Their supportive responses reminded us of the importance of ensuring that all voices are heard in this process.

We also included others in these conversations, including our Associates and lay leaders serving alongside us at St. Francis Convent. The Gathering instilled a sense of inclusion, which is a key component of hospitality, as well as hope and joy, knowing that we have so many companions, including all of you, as we journey into the future together. Our focus on the meaning of hospitality informed our discussions during our three-day gathering.

On the following pages, you’ll meet our Sisters, read their reflections and poems, celebrate with our Jubilarians, learn more about our Associates, and remember our Sisters who were welcomed into the arms of God. This issue also includes more about celebrations and accolades bestowed upon us during this 175th anniversary year.



(l to r) Sisters Charlotte Roost, Joanne Schatzlein, and Sylvia Anne Sheldon

As you read this second issue of *Troubadour*, know that you are all remembered in our prayers each day. And may our “Hospitable God” gift all of you with many blessings in the days to come!

Peace and all good,

Sister Joanne Schatzlein, OSF
Sister Charlotte Roost, OSF
Sister Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF



ON THE COVER

Hospitality may be expressed in a myriad of ways, as the images on the cover illustrate. From the gentle support of caregivers to the warmth of a hug, to sharing what we have with others, acts of hospitality come in many forms. Pictured, clockwise from right: Sister Sue Felice with caregiver Carlina Marlowe; Sister Richelle Ranallo; Janice Sullivan and Gabriel Gonzalez; Sister Kathleen Hurley with nurse Jackie Brown.

Vision Statement

As Franciscans, living the Gospel and trusting in God’s providence, we strive to practice hospitality as reflected in our care for every person and care for all creation.

– Chapter 2023

Mission

Our Mission as Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi is to further the coming of the reign of God:

- to live the Gospel;
- to be faithful to the rule of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis and the Constitutions of Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi;
- to carry forward the dependence upon the Father, prayerfulness, simplicity, and hospitality which marked the foundation of the Congregation in Milwaukee; and
- to be available in service to the Church, at home and abroad, in those areas of concern and need that call forth the corporate and personal gifts of our members.

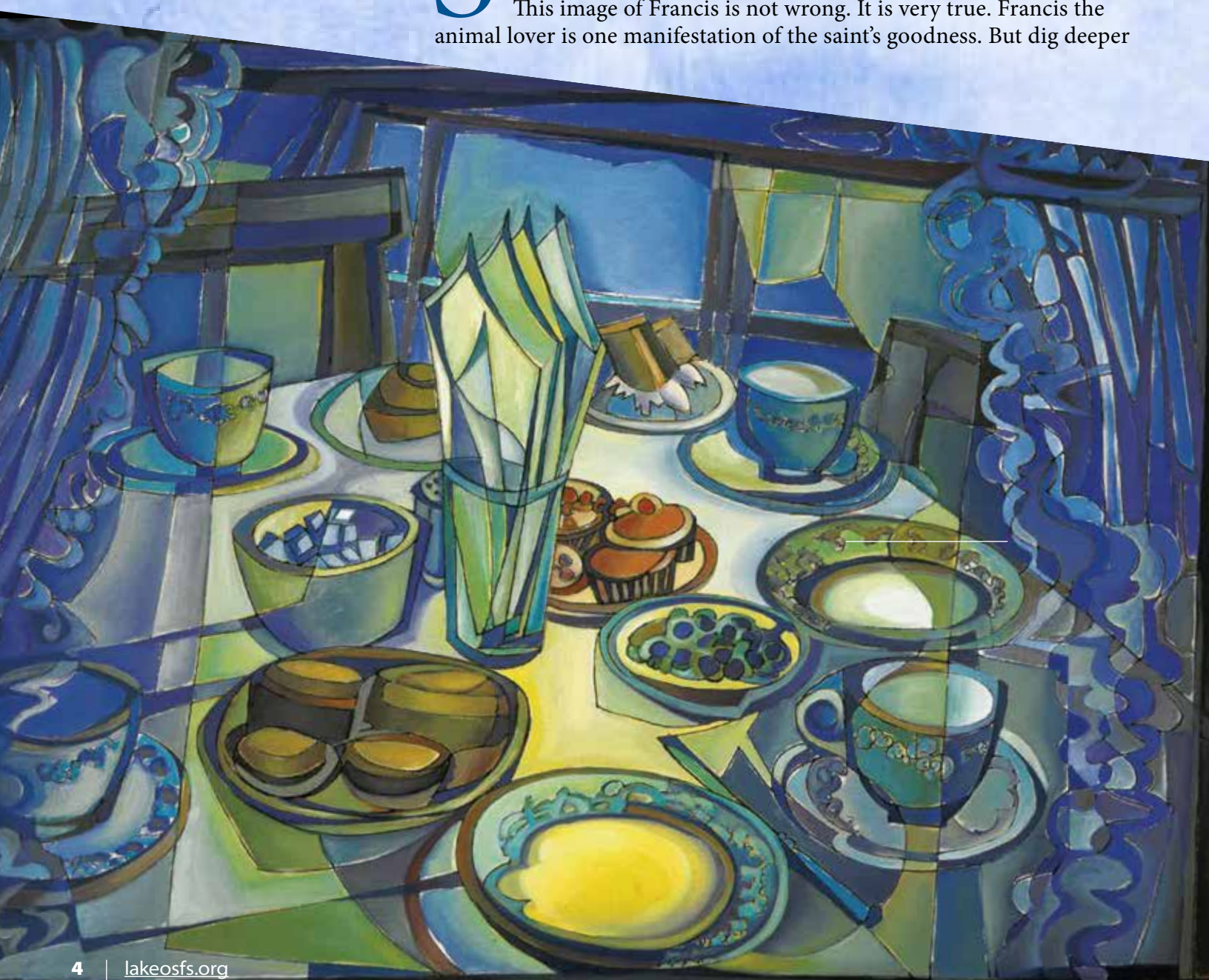
– Call and Response
para. 19, 1984

What does it mean to live a life of hospitality?

By Marian Doyle

St. Francis of Assisi is known the world over as the saint who loved animals. He cared for the smallest of creatures, preached to the birds, and tamed the feared wolf of Gubbio.

This image of Francis is not wrong. It is very true. Francis the animal lover is one manifestation of the saint's goodness. But dig deeper



into his life and you find it was only one of the ways Francis embodied hospitality and care for all creation. In fact, his life's theme was one of radical hospitality, of realizing and meeting needs, of welcoming and feeding strangers. As he preached the Gospel on his travels, he embodied an openness, a hospitality, that became part of his life and legacy. Hospitality was more than a way of life for Francis; it was knit into the fabric of his being.

A Formidable Guiding Principle

When The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi assembled for their annual meeting in July, called The Gathering, they explored the theme of hospitality as a guide for their lives in the present, and a beacon to follow as they plan for the future. They explored its implications as a true way of life. In fact, hospitality is a central part of their Vision Statement: *As Franciscans, living the Gospel and trusting in God's providence, we strive to practice hospitality as reflected in our care for every person and care for all creation.*

It is not only a statement of vision, but a statement of purpose and challenge. It guides the Sisters as they move forward in their ministries as followers of St. Francis.

To understand true hospitality and its role in their congregational life and mission, the discussion during The Gathering described it symbolically as an open door inviting both friend and stranger. The door is a two-way passage, an invitation to walk through and accept the hospitality of others, or an opening to care for those on the other side. St. Francis' outreach to the lepers involved him walking through their door without hesitation to meet his fears and extend his mercy and care to these outcasts. That model of hospitality was at the core of the open arms he extended to the leper with no judgment or scorn.

Throughout their history, the Sisters have modeled hospitality through their ministries of caring for those with special needs, those who are underserved and homeless, and through their educational ministries. Most recently, building on intentional deepening of relationships among themselves, the Sisters extended hospitality to new lay residents welcomed at Franciscan Shore, the assisted living residence that was once open only to members of the congregation. By so doing they

have invited others to live among them in a true spirit of caring and hospitality.

They considered how living a commitment to hospitality also means they must be welcoming to "strangers" that appear in other-than-human form. Aging is a stranger. Illness is a stranger. Planning for future needs will take the Sisters through unknown, strange territory that must be embraced with openness and hope, with clarity of purpose and a welcoming spirit ... all elements of hospitality that will play a vital role in their journey into the future.

The Sisters also acknowledged that they must welcome the role lay partners will play going forward, which will be more extensive as the Sisters age and their numbers diminish. Reaching out in a spirit of gratitude to these partners and benefactors and inviting them to the table acknowledges their goodwill and willingness to fortify and to preserve the congregation's legacy for many years to come.

Recognizing Life's Endless Opportunities to Practice Hospitality

How can the rest of us live hospitable lives? It is not complicated and is not limited to our homes. Hospitality is the simple acknowledgment of another with a smile or greeting. It is the selfless act of being present when someone is hurting. It is the simple dignity of sharing a table in a spirit of friendship. It is showing a hospitality of heart, listening to others' stories and sharing their joys and sorrows.

Catholic writer and social activist Dorothy Day said, "All Christians are called to be hospitable. It is more than serving a meal or filling a bed or opening our door – it is to open ourselves, our hearts, to the needs of others. Hospitality is not just shelter, but the quality of welcome behind it."

Hospitality is the sacred duty at the heart of all that is good and caring and worthwhile. It is a calling to not only "do unto others," but to also willingly accept others' expressions of caring and goodness.

A hospitable spirit is at the heart of the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi, a call to holiness at the most basic level of being. ■

“

The door is a two-way passage, an invitation to walk through and accept the hospitality of others, or an opening to care for those on the other side.

Becoming One

Merger marked turning point in the histories of the Franciscan Sisters

By Sister Celia Struck, OSF

Two communities + two leadership teams = one “new” congregation. This is not an example of new math. In fact, it is the reality for The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi and the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore.

At the 1994 General Chapter of the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore, they committed to the process of re-founding. For them that meant either merging with another Franciscan community or forming a new entity. Many meetings followed that decision. They invited a facilitator to guide them through the process. So very many meetings and decisions lay before them!

The annual Franciscan Federation Conference became the Baltimore congregation’s avenue for searching out possible communities. At the 1997 conference, the leadership teams of the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore and The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi unexpectedly ended up sitting at the same table. You may think, “What a coincidence!” But maybe not!

As the leaders began to share their histories, a couple of notable surprises surfaced. The first ministry for both communities was caring for orphans. In Baltimore, Md., it was St. Elizabeth’s Home for Orphans serving African American children, beginning in 1881. For The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, it was St. Aemilian’s Orphanage for Boys, which was rebuilt at Nojoshing (Saint Francis, Wis.) in 1854. All the orphans’ needs were met by the dedicated care of the Sisters, including preparation to receive the sacraments.

The second common ministry was special educa-

January 20, 2001, when The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi voted in favor of the merger.



The Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore

tion – providing education that is designed to meet the unique needs of persons with disabilities. St. Coletta of Wisconsin opened its doors in 1904 in Jefferson, Wis. In Baltimore, St. Elizabeth’s School opened in 1961. To this day, both ministries continue to provide much-needed services.

Discussion of the mutual ministries led to further stories and more in-depth conversations. It was becoming more of a possibility that The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi was the community for the Baltimore Sisters to merge with, despite the distance between the East Coast and the Midwest. More meetings ensued.

Midwest Express became the airline of choice.

Weather issues would often interfere with getting from point A to point B, which made for interesting stories. Other travel challenges came in the wake of 9/11. In spite of such obstacles, perseverance prevailed!

In March 1999, the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore came to a consensus to merge with the community in Saint Francis. Now both communities were in the merger process! Special committees were formed so all members could get to know each other. More meetings followed; apprehensions surfaced; decisions needed time for presentations, conversations, reflection, and prayer. The leadership teams, the Sisters, and the two facilitators kept the Plan of Action rolling.

The year 2001 was historic! On January 6, the Sisters in Baltimore voted to merge. The Milwaukee Sisters voted to accept their request on January 20. Planning for the two communities becoming one commenced. On October 4, 2001, the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore became one with The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. That day was filled with nervous excitement. Their identity as the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore was transformed. Their Franciscan spirit lives on. Their legacy in Baltimore and beyond lives on, too.

To discover the historical timelines of both communities, go to lakeosfs.org. Click on “Who We Are” and go to “History,” then click “History Overview.” ■





Openness to Others and Knowing Their Needs is Hospitality at Work

By Marian Doyle

Sister Mary Kemen's 52 years in ministry have encompassed more than she dreamed possible and have been more rewarding than she imagined. She sought to follow her ministry path with openness and gratitude and learned how to be a welcoming presence in the lives of others along the way.

Born in Racine, Wis., she grew up on a farm, the eldest of four girls. Sister Mary attended St. Francis Xavier school in Brighton, Wis., and Central High School in Salem, Wis. She entered the congregation in 1970 and made her first profession in 1974.

Her wish was to become a teacher. She began her education ministry while pursuing a bachelor's degree at Cardinal Stritch College. Her first assignment was at St. John the Evangelist parish in Spring Green, Wis., where she taught first grade for five years. After that, she taught for 10 years at other parishes in Wisconsin – in Milwaukee, Mauston, and Monroe. Sister Mary loved teaching reading to young students and celebrated with them as they progressed

and gained confidence as readers.

When she was asked to undertake a new ministry as a formation director in 1988, she entered a training program at Saint Louis University. That nine-month program was attended by 43 women and men religious from all over the world. For the first time in her life, she found herself in the minority as an American. Her classmates came from such diverse countries as Sri Lanka, Kenya, Nigeria, Indonesia, Japan, England, Chile, Canada, and the Philippines. The students lived together in campus residence halls and became a close-knit faith community over the course of the program.

"It was an enriching experience. We were in class together, prayed together, had fun together. We shared our music, food, culture. We'd talk about world and church issues. It was my first experience of the universal church and I learned to be open to the experiences of other cultures," she said.

That openness – a key part of hospitality – served her well as a formation director and in later years



Sister
Mary Kemen

when she returned to the classroom. She recalls teaching grade school just a few years ago at Holy Wisdom school in Milwaukee where many first generation Hispanic students are enrolled. It brought her back to a place where she could apply her talents as an educator, in a new environment, and with students who taught her as much as she taught them.

"The students gifted me and enriched my life so much," she explained. "During my teaching years, I welcomed them into a classroom that would be their home for nine months. Each day, I tried to welcome them in a way that would start their day off well. Each one of them was different, and I learned to adapt to them in a spirit of hospitality."

These days, Sister Mary serves on the congregation's Advancement team as a writer in donor relations.

"I always had an open heart to where God was calling me," Sister Mary said. "I trusted that I would have what was needed to be open to those I would meet in various ministries, whether in formation and vocation work, or as a teacher. I prayed to be a peaceful, loving presence to others. I'm so grateful for what I learned, and that I was able to respond to God's call."

Hospitality became a way of life for Sister Mary, a blessing and a gift she willingly offered to those she encountered along the way. ■

Sister Mary with students in 1975.





Do Not Neglect to Show Hospitality...

...some have entertained angels unawares. *Hebrews 13:2*

By Sister Wanda Sheber, OSF

Some may see the practice of hospitality to be a directive or even a chore. Our churches, our workplaces, even our circle of friends will often urge us to welcome new people. We Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi have most recently opened our convent to welcome and live alongside people needing care and a residence. It was much anticipated, and a long time coming as we awaited approvals by licensing and inspection enti-

tities. Then the day came to welcome new folks in; it was much as we expected and less change than we perhaps worried over! Life went on and new people now

share life with us among our Sister residents at Franciscan Shore. Time will show the forging of friendships, but only for those of us who will risk showing hospitality.

We all know there is a lot involved in welcoming someone. Whether it be into our home, into a social circle, or even into a conversation. Extra effort and sacrifice of our own agenda are often part of the bargain. Some of us are more inclined than others to be welcoming, depending on our personality. To be honest, I'm somewhere in the midpoint between outgoing and reserved. In my comfort zone, I can be easily welcoming. Outside that zone? Well ... work in progress!

I have reflected on the scripture I

used for the title of this short piece. As a follower of Christ and of St. Francis and St. Clare, I have my own invitation to listen for those who *need* to be welcomed and I have role models of hospitality. I have found that this makes a directive or a chore to be more of an *invitation*. I acknowledge I have been shown incredible hospitality throughout my life by God and in community. It has made all the difference! Perhaps you can recall with pleasure the times you have been welcomed and shown hospitality. Those to whom we show a warm welcome can soon become blessings (angels) in our lives and unexpected treasured friends.

St. Francis of Assisi was itinerant, meaning he covered a lot of ground in his life! And he, like Jesus, wasn't always warmly welcomed on the road. But he, like Christ, is known for having always been welcoming.

Jesus, The Model, often showed hospitality at the least convenient times when someone approached unexpectedly and uninvited. (My reflection on these so-called interruptions revealed that what I thought was an interruption was really in God's plan all along!) And Jesus was sure to provide healing that went beyond the physical body, restoring the outcast to full standing in their group. We have that same superpower—not the healing gift, perhaps—but the opportunity to bring those who feel “outside,” “inside” the fold of family, of church, of friends' groups.

During this holiday season, perhaps take time to reflect on when you have been the recipient of another's welcome and if you might

have the opportunity to see if angels may be waiting to be entertained by you! ■

Sister Wanda Sheber currently serves in member services for the National Funeral Directors Association in Brookfield, Wis. She entered religious life in 1986 and holds bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Sister was a social worker in parishes and hospitals for over 30 years.



Sister Wanda Sheber



POETS' CORNER

Grounded in Love

in 1849, thirteen courageous men and women came from Bavaria to build a New Assisi to form a religious community to teach and care for people seeking new life in a new land

from this brave beginning trusting in God's Providence for 175 years this land became a nurturing ground for women preparing for these challenges

teaching students of all ages and abilities responding to the needs of the aging and vulnerable reaching countless persons the world over

led by the Spirit with the inspiration of the founders with the example of St. Francis this grounding has endured and expanded

leaving a legacy in the hearts of those touched by them

— Sister Helene Mertes, OSF



Enlarging Our Tent to Welcome Associates

Program fosters community and spiritual growth for those who heed the call By Sister Ann Kelley, OSF

During the 1970s and 1980s, the Associate movement began to grow in many religious communities in the United States. Today, it is estimated that there are more than 50,000 lay Associates of religious communities in North America. For The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, the decision to “enlarge their tent” to welcome Associates as partners in the Franciscan way of life came in 1982.

That year, five individuals were in formation and made their first commitment in 1983. In 1984, 10 others from three states joined. Today, 41 years since its inception, our Associate Relationship community includes 67 members from 10 states and two foreign countries. Many of these individuals knew our Sisters through ministry contacts.

What Does it Mean to be an Associate?

The Associate Relationship program is rooted in the Second Vatican Council’s call to holiness for all, not reserved only for vowed members or the ordained. Around the time of the Council, some lay persons associated with us felt a strong desire to align more closely with our Franciscan-based spirituality. After study and approval by the congregation, the Associate program began.

The Associate way of life is part of a call from God, a call of the Holy Spirit to live out one’s baptismal promises within the context of family life, friendships, work and volunteer situations. It is a way for individuals to grow in closeness to the Holy One and to share their gifts with a Franciscan approach. Many seek a deeper expression of their faith and a more authentic spirituality than what they find in their parishes. They desire something more vibrant and relevant and are heartened to have companions who are fellow seekers.

Becoming an Associate

How does one become an Associate of The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi? The first step is to contact one of the co-directors of the Office of Associate Relationship to learn more. If a person is called to proceed, getting-acquainted sessions are arranged. Then they may apply to become a candidate for Associate Relationship.

Candidates have one or more sponsors as they prepare. During this phase (about nine months), potential Associates learn about the history of the congregation,



Associates gathered during the congregation’s annual summer meeting. They are (back row, l to r): Kathy Nitka, Irene Senn, Mary Carian, Sharon Thyne, Wendy Cetera, Mary Jane Kelley, Gale Sielicki, Kristin Pederson-Carver, Jo Therese Fahres. (front row, l to r): Teresa Mrnik, Eileen Carrillo, Maureen Conrad, and Sister Ann Kelley, director of the Office of Associate Relationship.

its charism and mission, the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare, Franciscan spirituality, various forms of prayer and discernment regarding their call. Candidates are invited to community celebrations and events.

At the conclusion of this orientation/integration time, candidates prayerfully discern if they are called to make their first commitment. Those who commit do so in a prayer service with Sisters and Associates, their family members, and friends. It is in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare that one makes the commitment. And it usually involves the ministries in which they are already engaged.

Associates continue deepening their relationships with other Associates and Sisters by sharing in small group gatherings (in person or if possible, by Zoom), through liturgical celebrations, educational opportunities, spiritual input, and social events.

Those are the *particulars* of becoming an Associate. The *intention* of Associate relationship is to feel a true oneness with the Sisters and Associates as Charism Carriers, growing relationships and bringing Franciscan values to everyday life. ■

Sister Ann Kelley is the director of the Office of Associate Relationship for The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. She can be reached at associaterel@lakeosfs.org.

Jubilarians Celebrate Their Years of Commitment to '...further the coming of the reign of God'

Jubilee is an annual celebration to honor Sisters who have reached milestone anniversary years as members of the congregation of The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. It celebrates their commitment with joy and gratitude through liturgies and special gatherings for Sisters, family members, Associates, and friends. Ten Sisters were honored during this year's Jubilee events, held the weekend of July 26.

During her remarks before the celebrations began, Sister Joanne Schatzlein, congregation director, called attention to the way the Jubilarians have truly lived out the Mission of the Sisters.

"Our Mission Statement says that we are 'to further the coming of the reign of God.' To a person, in your reflections, you expressed deep gratitude for your call to this Franciscan way of life and found your fulfillment of

that call in this congregation.

"Amazement overwhelms some of you; the word, 'ministry,' expresses how you have brought the Gospel to life among the people of God ... You have also expressed our Mission to bring the 'healing, teaching, reconciling, and liberating power of Jesus into the human situation.'"

Sister Joanne listed the various ways this group of Sisters served as teachers, preachers, writers, poets, formation directors, chaplains, pastoral ministers, parish administrators and spiritual directors. Also among the group is a musician and a dietitian. All are gifted, dedicated followers of St. Francis whose ministries have reached thousands over the years.

On these pages, the Jubilarians offer their reflections about their lives as women religious. Congratulations to all!

80th Jubilee



Sister Lenore Steilen

I have always been and will forever be grateful to our God for calling me to religious life. Never once did I regret answering the call. My Catholic faith means everything to me, and my desire and privilege to instruct children in the faith fulfilled my fondest dreams.

75th Jubilee

Sister Bernadette Grabrian

Going through the Catholic grade school in Longmont, Colo., I felt called to be a Franciscan Sister when I grew up! There was something about the Sisters that attracted me. My teachers were Sisters Humiliana, Agnesine, Corine O'Leary, Mary Clare, and Samuel. When it was time for high school, Longmont didn't have a Catholic high school, and I really wanted to go to a Catholic school. I attended Longmont High School my freshman year. Even though I met Sisters from other communities, I felt called to be a Franciscan. Mother Bartholomew came to our school and suggested to me that I "might lose my vocation" if I didn't go to a Catholic high school. So, after ninth grade



I started at St. Mary's Academy.

In sixth grade I started piano lessons and loved music. I was able over the years to continue with piano and to learn organ through courses at Cardinal Stritch University. I am living the Gospel through my ministry of music. I lived in several convents, beginning with Sacred Heart School near the Motherhouse, and I experienced a Franciscan "environment" wherever I lived. I now live at our new Motherhouse. One of the things I appreciate is our daily prayer group.

Sister Maria Regina Rodriguez

I am grateful for the years I served the Hispanic community and for other rewarding roles as a pastoral minister, teacher, and volunteer.



70th Jubilee

Sister Jane Denning

My life as a religious woman has been filled with so many blessings. I appreciate and am very grateful for the opportunities that I have experienced. These have enabled me to spend the past 70 years ministering with God's people.



Sister Laverne Sommer

I felt privileged to serve in the ministries to which I was sent. God has blessed me to work in a variety of positions and challenges to serve and grow in my vocation as a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi. Each day was a new beginning, the Lord's unfailing love ever present.



Sister Rosalynn Dzikonski

As I contemplated entrance into religious life, my thought was that for me it would be the most direct way of being in relationship with God. My experience has been that this atmosphere was most conducive to my desire. The ministries in religious life have provided opportunities for sharing my relationship with God in service to others. I live in gratitude for my vocation.



Sister Joanne Meyer

As I look back over my years as a religious, a profound sense



of gratitude and amazement overwhelms me. I have been blessed both in the many experiences that have been a part of my life and in the rich interior journey of faith. I could never have imagined what has unfolded for me.

Through many varied ministry experiences, I learned to develop new skills to meet the new opportunity. I was called into a variety of leadership positions, which enabled me to invite others to use their gifts and to work as a team. Spending time in different cultures opened new vistas. All of these experiences challenged and enriched my life and enabled me to interact with a wide variety of people.

When I came to St. Francis Convent, my faith was basic and not yet challenged by life's experiences. Vatican II enabled me to open to new possibilities. Many opportunities for lectures, retreats, and other workshops facilitated a deepening of my commitment and knowledge. Being a spiritual director for a half century facilitated sharing deeply the richness of God's goodness. Peace and joy permeate my life now even as I grieve the wars and hostilities present in much of our world.

60th Jubilee

Sister Joan Bukrey

I am amazed at how quickly my 60 years in the congregation have passed. I think of my life in the community as a very mutual relationship. I have personally experienced a deep love and reverence which has allowed me to grow and mature in my relationships and in my ministry to others. Sisters and Associates have loved me through all the stages of my life, affirming me to



be the best that I can be for others. In turn, for 60 years I have tried to joyfully offer my gifts as together we continue to journey through the changes required of us to keep our charism and mission alive, for the sake of the Gospel. It has been a mutual journey of blessings.

Sister Kathleen Hurley

My years of active ministry began at St. Coletta School in Jefferson, Wis. The children taught me well to look for and revel in the good that resides in every person we will meet on our life's journey. No one is without gifts! It is our privilege to discover those gifts and to point them out.

In my later years of ministry, I spent my time in various parishes in the southwestern United States. I grew up in the Midwest but was blessed to live and learn from people of various cultures and languages. I was blessed to share hopes and dreams of native peoples and of people that newly arrived in the United States. We all have much to teach each other.

Life is a delightful journey. Enjoy yours!

50th Jubilee

Sister Mary Kemen

My heart is filled with so much gratitude as I reflect on the past 50 years. I have been blessed with the goodness of those I served with in ministry. I have been gifted with the love and support of our Franciscan community, my family, and friends. God has been a faithful, loving presence in my life. I am so blessed. ■





Liturgies and Festive Receptions Mark 175th Anniversary

Friends, family, donors, and Associates were among the attendees when The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi held special celebrations in May and June to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the congregation's founding in 1849. The theme of the celebrations was "175 Years of Caring for Others."

The first was a celebration for Sisters on May 28, Foundation Day. Sisters gathered in the morning for liturgy, followed by a luncheon and activities at St. Francis Convent. As part of the festivities, commemorative art created by Sisters Jeanne Carrigan and Stella DeVenuta was revealed, and a Papal Blessing for the occasion was read by congregation Director Sister Joanne Schatzlein.

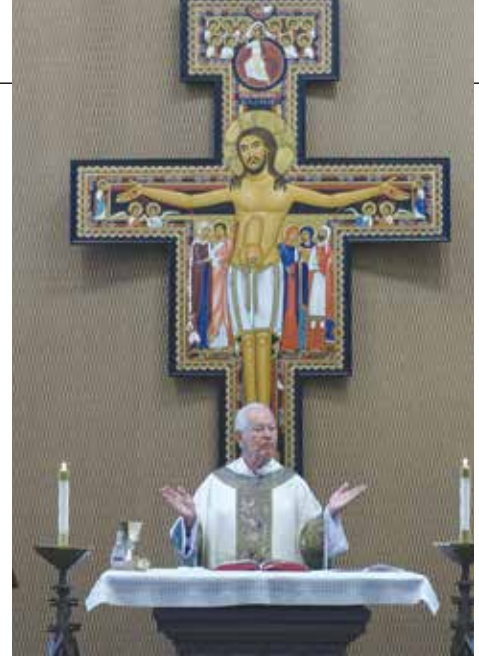
A highlight of the day was the opening of a time capsule from the cornerstone of the 1894 St. Francis Chapel. The capsule, opened by congregation Archivist Sister Celia Struck, contained four newspapers, two written in German. They were displayed for the Sisters to enjoy. It was a fun day for all, full of surprises and thanksgiving for the many blessings bestowed over 175 years.

The second celebration, held on June 23, was for friends of the



Sister Celia Struck gently removed the first of four newspapers from the time capsule as Archivist Assistant Sara Woelfel and Sister Sylvia Anne Sheldon looked on.

congregation, corporate ministry leaders and board members, donors, Associates, and members of other religious communities. Over 140 guests gathered for a special Mass at the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee, followed by a reception on the grounds of St. Francis Convent. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop James Schuerman of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Representatives of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, the two congregations of women that share common roots with The Sisters of St. Francis



Father Jim Schroeder, SCJ, presided at the Mass at St. Francis Convent on Foundation Day.



Leaders of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist and Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration joined the Leadership Team for a photo with Bishop Schuerman. They are Mother Miriam Seiferman, FSE, (left) and Sister Sue Ernster, FSPA (far right).

of Assisi, were also in attendance.

The reception was held under a festive tent on convent grounds. It was a beautiful setting on the very land settled by the founders and foundresses of the congregation in 1849. ■



Over 140 guests gathered for Mass at the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee.



Sisters, Associates, and friends celebrated after Mass on a beautiful June day.



MINISTRY IN ACTION

Congregation Team Raises Over \$11,000 for Capuchin Community Services

The sun shone brightly over St. Francis Convent on June 14 when Sisters, Associates, and staff took part in the 2024 Capuchin Walk for the Hungry. The 35 walkers logged steps on a path around the convent and along Lake Drive. They represented all who participated as walkers or donors to the OSF Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi team for the event.

Money raised during the annual



Walkers assembled for a photo on St. Francis Convent grounds. Joining them was Father Mike Bertram, OFM, Cap., ministry director at Capuchin Community Services.

walk supports Capuchin Community Services in Milwaukee as they work to provide food and other social services to those in need.

Led by the fundraising talent of Sister Stella DeVenuta, the congregation's team raised more than the 56 other teams that participated in this year's

walk. The team's total came to \$11,150!

The Sisters' part in the event was followed later in the day by the larger Capuchin Walk for the Hungry held on Milwaukee's Summerfest grounds, where 1,000 participants took part. Sister Stella was honored as the top individual fundraiser for this year.

Congregation is Honored with Proclamations and Accolades

The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi received special recognition from local municipalities and organizations in commemoration of their 175th anniversary. They were presented with proclamations from the City of Milwaukee and the City of Saint Francis, Wis., honoring their many parish, educational, and social service ministries that reached countless numbers of citizens and parishioners over the past 175 years.

The congregation was honored by The Milwaukee County Historical Society during a gala dinner at The Pfister hotel in Milwaukee on May 9. A special 175th Anniversary Accolade was presented to the Sisters "for their role in strengthening Milwaukee County through their commitment to service and community." ■



Ben Barbera, executive director of the Milwaukee County Historical Society, presented a special Anniversary Accolade to congregation Director Sister Joanne Schatzlein.

Tree of Life Dedication

Due to the many celebrations honoring the 175th anniversary of the founding of The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, the Tree of Life Dedication was postponed to September 11, 2024. Our donors were asked to send us the names of persons in their lives who have made a real difference, such as parents, children, friends, or caregivers. We gathered near the St. Francis Grotto on convent grounds where a special plaque was placed on the Persian lilac tree to honor all those whose names we received. We thank everyone who responded to our Tree of Life mailing and who entrusted loved ones to our prayers. ■



Advancement Team members Sister Mary Kemen and Nancy Ketchman.



Board of Directors Named for Franciscan Shore

The board of directors has been named for Franciscan Shore, the newest ministry of The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. Members were installed by the Leadership Team during a ceremony in San Damiano Center on June 18.

The new members are: Dan Scholz, chair, former president of Cardinal Stritch University; Becky Pinter, president and CEO of the MACC Fund; Sister Rose-marie Klotz, OSF; Kristin Jensen, RN, clinical administrator; Annette Skafgaard, retired, former executive director of St. Coletta's of Illinois; Nicole Styles, vice president of support services, St. Coletta of Wisconsin.

All have ties to congregation ministries through leadership roles, working relationships, or as students at Cardinal Stritch University. Among their responsibilities, they will monitor quality of care at Franciscan Shore, the financial health of the organization, staffing levels, and the organizational culture's commitment to Franciscan values. ■



Board members with the congregation's Leadership Team (seated l to r), Sisters Charlotte Roost, Sylvia Anne Sheldon, and Joanne Schatzlein. Members include: (back row, l to r) Dan Scholz, Becky Pinter, Annette Skafgaard, Nicole Styles, and Sister Rose-marie Klotz. Kristin Jensen was unable to attend the meeting in person. At far right is Franciscan Shore President and CEO John George.



Robin Baker Named President of St. Coletta of Wisconsin

Robin Baker, former executive vice president of St. Coletta of Wisconsin, has been named president of the organization, effective July 1, 2024.

“DONOR VOICES

The Sisters at St. Mary's Academy had a profound impact on my life. When I was a junior, a Sister noticed my math and science skills and encouraged me to apply to Marquette's medical technology program. That advice changed my life, leading to a rewarding career. I'm forever grateful, as are my daughters who also graduated from St. Mary's.

Irene (Snieg) Lipo
SMA 1951, Donor since 2018



The Corporate Ministries Sponsored by The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

St. Coletta of Wisconsin, Jefferson, Wis., provides residential, day, pastoral care, and vocational programs for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other challenges. Founded 1904.

St. Coletta's of Illinois, Tinley Park, Ill., provides residential, educational, vocational, medical, and pastoral care programs to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Founded 1949.

St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care, Milwaukee, Wis., offers intergenerational day care for children and adults at two sites. Founded 1983.

Canticle Court and Juniper Court, Saint Francis, Wis., are two separate ministries that provide affordable housing and independent living for older adults. Founded 1987 and 1994.

St. Elizabeth School, Baltimore, Md., is a special needs elementary, middle, and high school serving students with intellectual, emotional, and physical disabilities. Founded 1961.

Cardinal Cushing Centers, Braintree and Hanover, Mass., provide residential, vocational, educational, day programs, and supportive care for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Founded 1947.

Franciscan Shore, Saint Francis, Wis., offers assisted living residence for seniors on the grounds of St. Francis Convent along the Lake Michigan shore. Established 2024.



The Heart of a Champion

By Melanie A. Paul

I had already been doing animal-assisted therapy for 10 years with my three registered therapy dog shelties when I decided to acquire a deaf Shetland sheepdog puppy to work with deaf children in the public schools and library programs.

I contacted a reputable breeder of show dog shelties and asked her if she ever heard of a deaf puppy, to let me know.

Within a few weeks a positive reply came back regarding a 3-month-old deaf sheltie that was white. When shelties are born white they are always deaf.

I had been training dogs for 20 years but training a deaf dog would be a challenge. However, because I worked for many years in deaf education, I decided to train Lothair (I named him for a long-ago French king) in the same manner you teach language to a deaf child. You show the dog an object or activity and give the American Sign Language (ASL) sign.

Many individuals, including trainers at dog obedience schools and Lothair's own breeder, doubted I could train him to pass the required 14 stringent tests to become a registered therapy dog. But I wanted to prove them wrong. Lothair was trained with patience, love, and positive reinforcement.

By the time he was nine months old he understood and responded to 21 different ASL signs. When he was a year old, he successfully passed his Therapy Dogs International (TDI) test and became a registered therapy dog and the first deaf dog with TDI. They previously did not accept deaf dogs for pet therapy. Lothair accompanied my other two shelties (who eventually also picked up the same ASL signs) to schools, hospitals, library reading programs, senior assisted-care facilities, and Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Va., where I began a therapy program several years ago with my shelties.

When he reached 500 visits, TDI awarded him their Gold Pin, their highest award. Lothair currently has 750 documented, signed visits.

In 2017, Lothair received the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association Animal Hero Award for his outstanding work in animal-assisted therapy. This award is



Lothair

Melanie with her dogs Lothair, Molly (laying down) and Locksley. Like Lothair, Molly also received an Animal Hero Award from the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association.



given to only one dog each year in Virginia. He also received the Air Force "Real Pro" Award from Langley Air Force Base for his work at the First Fighter Wing hospital, an award given to active-duty Air Force personnel.

Lothair has dignity, intelligence, and a willingness to learn. He is a dog that was given a chance to show what he could do, despite being born deaf and having the odds stacked against him since birth.

My belief is that all dogs can learn, but not on the same day or in the same way. I love my dogs and all animals, and I love sharing them to make people happy. They have shaped me into who I have become working in animal-assisted therapy. As St. Clare of Assisi said, "We become what we love, and who we love shapes what we become." ■

Melanie A. Paul, M.Ed, Ed.S, is a retired educator and donor who lives in Virginia.

Do you have a pet story to share?

If you have a story to share about your pet or animal companion, we'd like to hear from you! Submit your story to Editor, *Troubadour* magazine, 3221 S. Lake Drive, Saint Francis, WI 53235, or send an email to mdoyle@lakeosfs.org.



We pray in remembrance of and thanksgiving for our Sisters who have entered eternal life.



Sister Bernice Mertens
(September 9, 1930 – April 10, 2024)

Formerly Sister Mary Carmel, Sister Bernice was born in Houghton, Iowa, to Henry and Eleanor Mertens. She professed her vows in 1957. Sister Bernice earned a bachelor's degree in business education in 1964 from Alverno College in Milwaukee and embarked on a 27-year career as a business education teacher at St. Mary's Academy (SMA) in Saint Francis, Wis. As a part-time student, she obtained a master's degree in business education in 1972 from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

After SMA's closure in 1991, Sister Bernice took a two-year sabbatical and participated in a program that focused on holistic growth and resources. After that, she served as the provincial team administrative secretary for the Salvatorian Priests and Brothers in Milwaukee. She retired in 2009.

SMA alumnae have memories of her as a wonderful teacher who set high standards in the classroom. Employers who hired her students asked Sister Bernice to recommend more of them, as they were so well trained and disciplined.

Friends remember her as a jokester and storyteller. She loved to play cards and games on the computer. At the time of her death, Sister Bernice was a resident of Elizabeth Hall at St. Francis Convent in Saint Francis, Wis.



Sister Humbeline Guenther
(May 16, 1925 – April 25, 2024)

Sister Humbeline was born in Milwaukee, Wis., the youngest of eight children. Her parents, Paul and Ottilia Guenther, died when she was two and three years old, and she was raised by her Grandmother Guenther. Her grandmother was a Third Order Franciscan who encouraged her vocation. Sister Humbeline attended St. Mary's Academy, where she was attracted to the congregation by the teachers whom she described as "patient, helpful, compassionate."

She professed vows in 1945 and began her teaching ministry that year at St. John's School for the Deaf in Milwaukee. She fell ill in 1951 and took time off from teaching. After she recovered the following year, she taught hearing children in Franklin Park, Ill., for a year, and then was missioned to Longmont, Colo., where she taught first and second grade for five years. At that point, Sister Humbeline returned to St. John's School for the Deaf where she ministered until it closed in 1983. While teaching, she completed her bachelor's degree in English from Cardinal Stritch College in 1958.

Sister Humbeline was a highly respected teacher whose compassionate work with deaf children was well known.

After St. John's closed, Sister was co-director and director of retirement for the congregation, and later served as coordinator for Sisters who resided at a nursing home in Milwaukee. She retired in 2005 but was an active volunteer. When asked by friends about the ways she gave her time for others, she listed 31 different ways!

Sister Humbeline enjoyed opera and musicals and was a fan of "Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune." She was energized by the stories of older Sisters and the sights of nature.

On the occasion of her 70th Jubilee, she wrote: "... I look to the past with gratitude for God's call, for this community for accepting me as I am, and for family and friends who walked with me. I look forward with confidence and joy to whatever God has in store for me."



Sister Catherine Morrissey
(March 19, 1926 – June 14, 2024)

Sister Catherine (who was known as Sister Katie) was born in Hibbing, Minn., to James and Eva Mary Morrissey. She had an older brother and two younger sisters. As the eldest girl, she assumed many household responsibilities at age 12, when her mother died.

After high school, she found an ad for the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore, who were known for their work with African American orphans. After receiving permission from her father to apply, she entered the convent in Baltimore in 1945. From 1948 to 1970 (with the exception of 1950 to 1960, when she was a house mother at St. Elizabeth School in Baltimore, Md.), she taught at schools in Virginia, New York, and Alabama. She went to college part time and earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Fordham University and a master's in education with a minor in special education from Loyola College in Baltimore.

Sister Katie found her niche in teaching at St. Elizabeth School for special education in Baltimore. She served there until her retirement in 2018. In her role at St. Elizabeth School, Sister Katie prepared students for living as independently as possible after they left school at age 21. When she wasn't in the classroom, she coached basketball and volleyball.

Over her long life, Sister Katie assumed the roles of teacher, principal, local superior and formation director. The Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore merged with The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in 2001. Sister Katie moved to Wisconsin in 2018.

She is remembered as a steady and important presence who had a remarkable way with students. She lived her dedication, "Of the Holy Cross," and was given the grace she desired as expressed in her motto, "Take up thy cross and follow Me."



Sister Kenan Rebholz
(March 25, 1931 –
August 20, 2024)

Sister Kenan was born in Milwaukee, Wis., the only child of Louis and Estelle Rebholz. She attended

St. Mary's Academy and entered the congregation in 1948.

Sister Kenan spent the first 27 years of her ministry as an elementary school teacher and principal. She served parish schools in the Wisconsin towns of Milwaukee, Spring Green, Sheboygan, Franklin, New Coeln, and Brighton. She also taught in Sunfish, Ky.

In 1977, Sister Kenan moved to Jefferson, Wis., where she served as a counselor at St. Coletta School for eight years. In 1985, she headed east to Norwell, Mass., and worked as a skill development specialist at Norwell Community Residence for two years, and then became a special needs counselor at Memorial School in Hudson, N.H., for one year.

Beginning in 1988, she spent 22 years with LifeLinks, Inc. in Lowell, Mass., serving in roles that included residential coordinator for a group home, program coordinator, program staff supervisor, and development specialist instructor.

During much of that time, Sister Kenan also ministered at the San Damiano House of Prayer in Lowell. She and Sister Linda Greenwood, OSF, opened the House of Prayer in 2000. They offered spiritual direction, retreats for parish councils, and began a spiritual direction training program with the Saint Clare Center at Cardinal Stritch University. The program was acquired by Merrimack College and continues to this day.

Sister Kenan retired in 2019 and moved back to Saint Francis. She was living at St. Francis Convent at the time of her death.

Those who knew her remember her wit and her mechanical skills. She fixed a lot of things in her lifetime! She also loved to read. On her 70th Jubilee in 2021, reflecting a life of gratitude, she wrote: "I have enduring gratitude for my religious vocation and to my religious community. It has been a blessing." ■

PRESERVE YOUR LEGACY:
Support the Sisters
with Planned Giving
and Recurring Gifts

Have you thought about how you want to be remembered? Estate planning is more than a legal necessity—it's a way to preserve your legacy and ensure that your assets benefit the people and causes you care about most. Unfortunately, 68 percent of American adults either don't have a valid will or have outdated ones that don't reflect major life changes like births, deaths, or divorces. Without proper planning, your assets might not go where you intend.

Whether you're married, widowed, or single, having a will or trust allows you—not the state—to decide what happens to your estate, including guardianship of your beloved pet.

Include the Sisters in Your Will

As you discern how to allocate your estate, we hope you'll consider including The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in your will or trust. Our retired Sisters have dedicated their lives to caring for others, and now they need our support for a secure retirement. **By naming the Sisters as a beneficiary, you'll make a lasting impact.** Donors who include the Sisters in their will, regardless of amount or percentage, are recognized as members of the St. Francis Society with special benefits.

Easy Way to Donate: Recurring Gifts

Becoming a recurring donor is another powerful way to support our Sisters. **Automatic monthly or annual gifts provide sustained support year-round.** All recurring donors are welcomed into the St. Clare Society and receive special benefits. It's easy to set up a monthly or annual donation. Simply visit lakesosfs.org/donate.

For more information on how to include the Sisters in your will, establish a monthly or annual gift, donate stocks, or give from your donor advised fund or IRA, please contact Nancy Ketchman at nketchman@lakesosfs.org or 414-294-7329. Your generosity will ensure that your legacy of care and compassion continues. ■

Why Give Monthly?

- 1 Consistent giving helps our Sisters plan and fund healthcare and retirement needs.
- 2 Donate monthly and make a bigger annual impact in the lives of our Sisters.
- 3 Your gift is automatically charged or deducted each month, ensuring immediate support.





DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Faith, Integrity, and Patriotism: The Inspiring Journey of Carmen Nizzi Santiago

Carmen Nizzi Santiago’s journey from a small housing development in rural Iowa to a distinguished military career is a testament to the power of faith, hard work, and dedication. As a first generation Italian-American, Carmen’s story is deeply rooted in the values instilled by her working-class parents and the spiritual guidance she received from The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi.

Carmen grew up in the Granger Homesteads. It was a 1930s New Deal Subsistence Homestead project, created to provide part-time workers low-cost homes and three to five acres of land to raise food and enable them—initially almost entirely coal miners—to improve their standard of living. After WWII, her father left coal mining to build tires at the Des Moines Firestone plant, while her mother remained a devoted homemaker. The close-knit community and strong work ethic of her parents left a lasting impression on Carmen, shaping her into the person she would become.

Franciscan Spirit in Rural Iowa

The spiritual foundation of Carmen’s early life was closely tied to Assumption Catholic Church in Granger, Iowa. Although she never met Monsignor Luigi Gino Ligutti, long-time executive director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, his influence permeated the community as he was the one who drove development of the Granger Homesteads and was a long-time pastor of Assumption Catholic Church. Carmen attended the parish school, where she first encountered our Sisters. Their dedication to education and spirituality profoundly impacted her, guiding her values and aspirations.

After graduating from Assumption High School in 1966, Carmen joined The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi as a postulant and novice. However, after three years, she realized she was not ready to take her vows and decided to leave. She continued her education at Cardinal Stritch University,



earning a bachelor's degree in history with minors in secondary education and Spanish in 1971.

Expanding the Role and Impact of Women

Carmen’s desire to make a meaningful impact led her to a remarkable career in the U.S. Army. When she first joined, women were only allowed to serve in the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) or medical-related jobs. Two years later, the Army began a five-year process that allowed women to enter college ROTC programs and the military academies, integrated women into many other Army jobs, and abolished the WAC. Carmen was among the first lieutenants to transfer from the WAC to the Quartermaster Corps, and played a pivotal role in expanding the logistics capacity of the WAC Training Center to support the Army’s planned increase of women from 12,000 to 55,000 within 10 years.



Carmen re-enlists her husband Juan Santiago in 1979, in Korea.

Carmen retired as a lieutenant colonel after a distinguished 21-year career, marked by numerous leadership and service opportunities and honors, including a Legion of Merit, numerous Meritorious Service, Army Commendation, and National Defense Service medals, and West Germany’s Cross of Honor (Silver). Carmen met her husband, Juan Santiago, while both were stationed in Japan. Born in Puerto Rico, Juan served 22 years in the Army, including five in Vietnam primarily as an infantryman and Huey door gunner. He retired as a sergeant first class, having earned many honors, including two Purple Hearts.

Carmen Nizzi, 1973, Japan.

By Nancy Ketchman



Carmen and Juan at an Army Ball in 2021.

Honoring the Women Who Inspired Her Path

In 1999, after retiring and battling breast cancer, Carmen reconnected with the values instilled in her by the Sisters. This period of reflection led her to become a generous supporter of the Sisters. “I am grateful for what they have done for me, and I am showing my appreciation in a way that I hope will benefit them now,” Carmen explained.

Today, Carmen and Juan (who will celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary in December 2024) volunteer to support future military leaders and stay active in their community in Florida.

Carmen’s life is a testament to the enduring power of faith, service, and gratitude. Her generous support of the Sisters reflects the profound impact they had on her life—a life dedicated to service and unwavering commitment to the values she holds dear. ■

Campaign Update: Sharing Our Blessings

To date, we’ve raised \$8 million, 32 percent of our *Sharing Our Blessings* campaign goal of \$25 million. Learn about this 10-year campaign for the health and retirement needs of our Sisters at lakeosfs.org/blessings.



175th Anniversary Sponsors

Thank you to the following individuals, companies, and organizations that have generously underwritten printing, catering, entertainment, and transportation costs for public and private events celebrating the 175th anniversary of the founding of our congregation in 1849.

Eleanor A. Ryan
Andrew Fitzpatrick
Town Bank
VJS Construction Services

Moore Group
Dillett Mechanical
Ramirez Family Foundation

If you are interested in underwriting events, services, or programs supporting our Sisters’ physical, social, spiritual, or retirement needs, please email Nancy Ketchman at nketchman@lakeosfs.org.

BEQUESTS With Gratitude

Between April 1, 2024, and September 1, 2024, The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi received bequests from the following generous donors:

Kent B. Hickman

The Lucas Family Trust
(Ruth Carol and Howard “Bud” Lucas)

A bequest is a wonderful way to show your care and concern for our retired Sisters. Donors who include the Sisters in their wills or as a beneficiary of other assets, regardless of amount, become members of the St. Francis Society. To learn more, please visit lakeosfsgiving.org or contact Nancy Ketchman at 414-294-7329 or nketchman@lakeosfs.org.

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GIVING IN ACTION Group Fundraising for Our Sisters

Earlier this year, two Milwaukee parishes came together to raise funds for specialized geriatric therapies that help ease the pain, stiffness, and anxiety experienced by our retired Sisters due to conditions like arthritis, Parkinson's, dementia, and Alzheimer's.



Parish Human Concerns committee members Del Januchowski (far left) and Linda Garland (far right) are joined by Leadership Team members (l to r) Sister Sylvia Anne Sheldon, Sister Charlotte Roost, and Sister Joanne Schatzlein, and Father Edward Sanchez .

These essential therapies aren't covered by Medicare or Medicaid, and our budget was nearly depleted. But thanks to the generous efforts of the Church of the Immaculate Conception and St. Augustine of Hippo, enough funds were raised to extend our budget for another six months. We are deeply grateful.

If your parish or organization would like to hold a fundraiser for our Sisters, please contact Nancy Ketchman at nketchman@lakeosfs.org or 414-294-7329.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

We want to keep in touch. Please visit lakeosfs.org/donate or scan the QR code to update your name, address, email address, phone number, how you or your family know our Sisters, and how often you would like us to contact you.



DONATE TODAY AT
[lakeosfs.org/
GivingTuesday](https://lakeosfs.org/GivingTuesday)

This Giving Tuesday, help us raise \$24,000 for mobile patient lifts to safely assist our Sisters with mobility challenges.

GIVING TUESDAY
December 3, 2024

The image shows a blue and white mobile patient lift on the right. On the left, there's a photo of an elderly woman in a light blue sweater sitting in a wheelchair. A QR code is also present in the bottom right corner of the graphic.