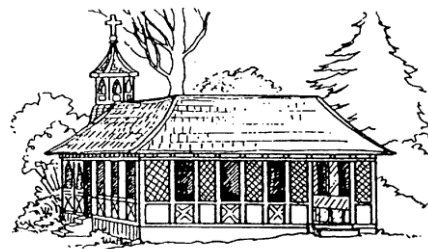


# We of Nojoshing

Nojoshing – Indian word for the area where our pioneer members settled in 1849; it means "piece of land stretching into the water."  
The name was changed later to Saint Francis, Wisconsin.



Newsletter of The New Assisi Archives

THE SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI, 3221 South Lake Drive, Saint Francis, WI 53235-3799

**We celebrate the memory of our beloved**  
**Sister Jean Mariani, OSF**  
*(formerly Sister Jeanette)*  
**May 8, 1940 – December 8, 2025**

Jean Ann Mariani was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, to John and Arena (Padovani) Mariani. Her mother was born in Italy. Jean Ann entered the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in Houston, Texas, on January 13, 1959, and professed first vows on August 15, 1961.

While a member of her first community, she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration, a master's in health care administration, and a master's in theology. She ministered in hospitals ranging in size from 50 to 850 beds, serving in various roles that included administrator, chaplain, and director of admissions. A few years after transferring to The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi on January 9, 1999, she was published in *Vision*, a national publication for Catholic chaplains, on the subject of the importance of hospital chaplains and pastoral ministers to connect with parish pastoral staff for continuity of spiritual care for patients returning to their homes.

From 1999 to 2020, Sister Jean served in Tucson, Arizona, in parish ministry, both as a staff member and later as a volunteer. She was pastoral minister at Our Mother of Sorrows Parish from 1999 to 2011. After that, she served as the director of pastoral care for the parish. Beginning in 2012, she worked as the director of human concerns at Santa Catalina Catholic Church, where she remained until she retired in 2017. She continued her volunteer work in Tucson until she moved to St. Francis, Wis., in 2020.

During her years in Tucson, she was an active volunteer at the Catholic Worker Casa Maria House and was involved in the planning for the establishment of the Sister José Women's Shelter, named for Sister José Hobday, OSF, a member of The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. The shelter continues to this day. Over the years, Sister Jean led parishioners as they volunteered to serve the poor and those in need at these two places of specialized ministry. Parishioners became very active in their volunteerism, even to the point of doing necessary building repair work and meeting other critical needs. Sister Jean was known for her contagious enthusiasm as she led others while they learned the great blessing of helping those most in need.

After her move to St. Francis in 2020, Sister Jean became a resident of Elizabeth Hall in St. Francis Convent. She died there peacefully with Sister Richelle Ranallo at her side.

*~ Marie Colette Roy, OSF, and Marian Doyle*