

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 Marcia Lunz, OSF (formerly Sister John Mark) November 13, 1939 – March 17, 2026

Sister Marcia was born in Milwaukee to Alfred and Fortunetta (Konkol) Lunz. Her family belonged to St. Margaret Mary parish and Marcia graduated from Divine Savior High School before she entered The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi on September 8, 1957. When Marcia became a novice in 1958, she received the name Sister John Mark. After Vatican Council II, she resumed her baptismal name.

Sister Marcia professed vows in 1960 and began her ministry as a music teacher at St. Agnes, Milwaukee. After three years, she was transferred to St. Gerard, Milwaukee. Two years later, she went to St. Gertrude, Franklin Park, Ill., where she taught until 1973. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music at Cardinal Stritch University and at Northwestern University, respectively.

In 1973-1974, Sister Marcia was a student in music education at the Orff Institute in Salzburg, Austria, and then returned to Franklin Park. She was employed as a music coordinator by the Archdiocese of Chicago until 1977, when she went to Oneonta, N.Y., to teach music at Hartwick College. After two years, she moved to Illinois and ministered as a liturgist and musician at St. Joseph parish, Downers Grove. Subsequently, she taught music and religion at St. Jude parish school in New Lenox, Ill.

In 1983, Sister Marcia was elected Associate Director of our congregation. She served two four-year terms on our Administrative Team. When she completed her term of office, she enrolled at UW-Milwaukee to study linguistics and to become a teacher of English as a second language. This ministry was inspired by an encounter with a Vietnamese refugee. The woman was studying English so she could move to the United States to live with her uncle. Years later, Sister Marcia wrote that this young refugee and others like her inspired her to teach English as a second language. “My desire deepened to help immigrants and refugees attain the life choices that all of our ancestors achieved one, two, five, 10 generations ago.”

She began her years at Cardinal Stritch University in 1993, teaching both music and linguistics. Sister Marcia became assistant professor and chair of the music department three years later.

In 1999 she was elected Director of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi and in 2003 was elected to a second four-year term. During this time, she also served a four-year term as a council member of the International Franciscan Conference-Third Order Regular, which includes 560 Franciscan congregations in 48 countries. Out of a meeting of that group, congregations were encouraged to companion with a Franciscan community in a developing country. As part of the 1999 celebration of the 150th anniversary of the congregation, The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, along with the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, chose to companion with the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis. The Tertiary Sisters sponsor ministries in Africa, Latin America, and Europe. Sister Marcia was part of the effort to begin this collaboration that became known as “Common Venture.” The relationship with the Tertiary Sisters continues to this day.

In 1999, during the 150th anniversary, Father Manfred Krumm led a group of pilgrims who belonged to the German parish from which the foundresses left in 1849, on a visit to Milwaukee as representatives of the parish. Sister Marcia maintained a close relationship with those German pilgrims up until the time of her death.

Following a sabbatical in 2007, she served as a writer for the congregation’s fund development publications. From 2015–2019, she was Vicar/Associate Director of the congregation. In her retirement, she continued to contribute to fund development publications and to serve on various boards. She was also a member of the committee that planned the congregation’s 175th anniversary celebration in 2025.

Sister Marcia was a talented seamstress and quilter, and her final project was the creation of two special quilts that she donated for fundraising purposes to St. Elizabeth School in Baltimore and to Capuchin Community Services in Milwaukee.

Through her many years of ministry in music education, linguistics, and teaching English as a second language, and during her years in leadership for the congregation, Sister Marcia was respected for her intellect, leadership abilities, her talent as a teacher, for her love of music, her quick wit, and, above all, as a woman of deep faith and extraordinary grace. She exuded the Franciscan spirit in everything she did. Like St. Francis, she was herself a Troubadour, both literally and figuratively, through music and in the many ways she spread the Gospel message through her ministries. She was a remarkable woman who left a mark on the world with her talents, her gentle ways, her infectious smile, and her undying commitment to her Franciscan community.

Sister Marcia bravely battled health issues after suffering a stroke in 2023. She died peacefully in her sleep at her residence in Franciscan Shore. She is survived by The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, with whom she shared life for over 68 years; a brother, Ed (Gloria) Lunz; a sister, Sharon Konkol; nieces and nephews.

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