



Sisters of
St. Francis
of Assisi

NOJOSHING NOTES

Fall 2020
Volume 34, Number 4

3221 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE, ST. FRANCIS, WISCONSIN 53235-3799 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.

A Time of Remembering and Blessing

There was much rejoicing toward the end of September 2020, when the last construction fence was removed from the grounds of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. The sisters can once again walk along the outdoor Stations of the Cross and visit the Grotto of St. Francis of Assisi.

During construction, and then COVID-19, many events were postponed or adapted to ensure people's health and safety. One of these events was the Tree of Life Dedication originally scheduled for May 10, 2020, to coincide with Mother's Day.

This new tradition broadens our former custom of honoring parents. The invitation now asks for a reply with the names of those persons in one's life who have and/or continue to extend care, support and love. We thank all those who responded to our Tree of Life mailing and entrusted your loved ones to our prayers.

Finally, on September 29, it was possible to hold the dedication with a small group of Fund Development staff. A special plaque was placed on a tree near St.

Francis Grotto in honor of all those who were named. A basket with the names of those to be remembered was placed in front of the tree. During the prayer service,



Fr. Scott Wallenfelsz, SDS, blessed the plaque and the basket of responses.

Future visitors to the grotto will recall that we asked our God of all goodness to bless the tree dedicated to honor all those who have helped us to blossom and grow in our lives through their love, support and care for us.

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Jubilee 2020 – *New and*

Jubilee 2020 was a memorable, unique, unforgettable experience for our celebrants. Long range anticipation began in Fall of 2019, but after New Year, little by little, the celebration plans began to change.

Sisters Charlene Chang (Class of 45) and Coletta Dunn (Class of 1950) died of natural causes before March, when the reality of COVID-19 entered into our lives and life changed dramatically. St. Francis Convent was closed to visitors as part of 'shelter at home' and remains closed at this time.

The Jubilee celebration, as with other community gatherings, was postponed and then canceled as the impact of the virus continued. This year's Jubilarians are invited to celebrate next year with the 2021 classes, if they wish.

Originality was exercised by many to supplement traditional outreach to the Jubilarians. Without a set date for celebrating, cards and good wishes continue to arrive, which has extended this special time. A first in our 170 history occurred when a yard sign for each 2020 Jubilarian was displayed on the west side of St. Francis Convent in August. They have now been moved to the east side so those who pass on Lake Drive have a view of them.

The constant, at the core of Jubilee, is that God's fidelity is always present and the desire of each sister to continue her commitment to live the Franciscan way of life as a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi only grows stronger.

We bring you the photos of the Jubilarians in frames, much like Zoom, to acknowledge one of the ways of communicating at this time.

Several Jubilarians share their reflections here.



80 Years (1940)
Sr. Francis Marie
DeLany

75 Years

Irene Kundinger – Since the day I entered the convent on Aug. 28, 1944, the convent has been most solicitous for me in the love of God, spiritual ways, food and in every way I can think of.

Generose Willkomm – My religious life has been a "journey of challenges." Jesus has always been my mentor and my guide. In my quest for truth, I found Jesus, not only in the Eucharist, but I also saw Jesus' goodness in all of nature and in every person I meet. "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." (St. Augustine) "My God and my All."



(Above, l to r) 75 Years (1945)
Sisters Humbeline Guenther,
Irene Kundinger,
Catherine Morrissey &
Generose Willkomm

I believe a Jubilee is a time to say "Thanks" to God for all that has been, and for all that will be "yes." I do not know the future, but I do know who holds the future in His providential hands. Deus Prvidebit.

70 Years

Clare Ahler – I am so grateful to God for calling me to our beloved community, and for our dear Sisters who walked with me on the journey.

Angela Perrizo – Standing on the shoulders of holy women, I learned how to serve God's people in love, compassion and care.

Felicia Schlechter – The Holy Spirit, the Third person of the Blessed Trinity, has intervened in my life from the first day of life on this earth which also was my baptismal day. Through thick and thin, through health and disability, through lack of education to the real enjoyment of the teaching task, the Spirit has always been and still is, always present. The Spirit is predominating as I am still able to continue to tutor. Now, I concentrate on the praise of God and on having an attitude of gratitude.



(At right) 70 Years (1950)
(Top, l to r) Sisters Clare Ahler,
Serena Halfmann, Cor Marie Lowrie
(Bottom, l to r) Sisters Angela Perrizo,
Felicia Schlechter & Eileen Wendt

Original Ways to Celebrate

60 Years

Marcia Lunz – To have celebrated 25, 50 and now 60

years of profession as a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi is indeed a blessing. To look back over the years is to realize how generous and loving our God is. Gratitude is the only adequate response to God, to the OSF sisters with whom I share life, and to my family and friends for their love and support.

Audrey Mozejewski – I appreciate the care and compassion given to me all these years by the community. It was also through the

supportive relationships that blossomed into much joy and love. God blest me with many friends who were knowledgeable in theology and scripture. They enhanced my own spirituality so that my prayer life was enriched. It gave me much inner peace.

Veronica Marie Rueth – In reflecting on my 60 years of religious life, the main thought that overshadows all others is gratitude. Thanksgiving for my parents, four sisters, relatives, friends, co-workers, community, all my experiences and all the blessings and graces that came with it. I am truly grateful for all that was and look forward to all that is to come.

Marlene Stawski – Reflections of thanksgiving and gratitude . . .
 ~ For God's fidelity to me, the Jubilarians and the entire congregation;
 ~ For the call to service within the Church, which has taken many forms as educator, administrator and volunteer;
 ~ In gratitude to God, my congregation, family and friends who have walked beside me on this journey of faith;
 ~ In appreciation for the wisdom and experience of our sisters at St. Francis Convent for whom the ministry of prayer and presence is a concrete reality.

60 Years (1960)

(Top, l to r) Sisters Marcia Lunz, Audrey Mozejewski, Patricia Nightingale, Veronica Marie Rueth



(Bottom, l to r) Sisters Marlene Stawski, Delores Theine, Rose Martin Weldgen

25 Years

Ann Kelley – One of the greatest blessings in being a sister has been to

be in community with others who take seriously the call to follow Saints Francis and Clare in today's world. Together, along with our associates, we are graced to be carriers of our charism. I have experienced deep joy especially ministering to others on their faith journeys. This has been true during my time as a pastoral minister relating to elders, while walking with others as a retreat director and spiritual director, facilitating RCIA and a returning-Catholics process, serving with Cameroonian sisters, visiting prisoners and in journeying with men and women in our OSF associate program. The gifts nurtured, received and shared while being a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi have been, for me, abundant, deep, joy-filled, and fulfilling beyond measure. Gratitude fills my heart!



25 Years (1995) (l to r) Sisters Ann Kelley, Theresa Wang



Examples of yard signs done for each Jubilarian



Stamp Activity Benefits Congregation



At left: The plastic storage bag contains one pound of trimmed canceled stamps.

Below: Page from a stamp book and the search is on for the missing stamp. These stamps are most often found through trading clubs.



Processing canceled stamps during the 'shelter-at-home' time last spring gave Sister Margaret Ruddy real purpose during an extraordinary time. She had time to keep up with the stamps coming in and pursue other organizing tasks that sometimes get way-laid because of lack of time.

Our known history of working with canceled stamps is first recorded in *A New Assisi* and states that Mother Celestine Stark (†1944) conceived the idea of collecting stamps in 1895. This became her hobby and she kept up her collection of commemorative stamps until her death. She also encouraged collecting canceled stamps to be sold for supporting our missionaries in China. In the mid 1900s, Sister Mira Stephani (†1987) began collecting Vatican stamps. Her collection begins with stamp #1, and through the years, Sister Veronica Scheuerell (†1994) and then Sister Margaret have kept this collection up to date.

Stamp collectors have traded and purchased stamps to fill out their collections since the hobby began in the 1700s. The sisters have built collections for the purpose of resale and also sell loose stamps by the pound. Today the proceeds benefit the needs of the congregation.

Many sisters help in this activity. Before the era of self-adhesive stamps, the stamps were washed to remove all the paper. Now they, and some associates, help trim, leaving approximately a quarter inch margin of paper around the stamp. All the envelopes received by the Fund Development Office are sent to Sister Margaret before recycling so that the stamps can be cut off.

Sorting the stamps by like-kind and value is a next step. U. S. commemorative stamps are very valuable because only a limited number is printed. An added benefit to using commemorative stamps is that the sender adds a touch of beauty and interest for the postman and the recipient to enjoy! For resale value, stamps from foreign countries are very valuable.

We can't thank our donors enough who have sent in canceled stamps and, at times, whole collections when no one wanted to continue the hobby. If you want to send us canceled stamps, mail them to: Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, Stamp Department, 3221 S. Lake Dr., St. Francis, WI 53235-3702. Your contribution will bring lots of smiles.

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 the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi.

Send comments / suggestions to:

**Nojoshing Notes Editor
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
3221 S. Lake Dr.
St. Francis, WI 53235-7193**

or e-mail: jparrott@lakeosfs.org