



FRANCISCAN
SISTERS
OF LITTLE FALLS
MINNESOTA

NOVEMBER 2013

The Well

A message from the Franciscan community at Clare's Well

Lacy's farewell

Simply turning into driveway awakens a sense of peace in many Clare's Well guests. Arrival at this familiar haven reopens their previous experiences of rest and being in touch with what really matters to them. These days, however, something stimulates a vague disturbance in the familiar environment as guests pull up to the farm house and step out of the car looking first of all for Lacy, always the first to welcome them. Where is Lacy? Something's missing. Yes, there is someone significant missing.

Guests grew to count on our collie Lacy to come running excitedly from wherever she was to say, "Welcome!" as soon as any car came in. Visitors eagerly anticipated her greeting and wagging tail. Lacy fulfilled this duty with obvious joy for the 12 years she lived with us. Then, with the assistance of a vet who came to help her make the step from this world to the next, she died July 22.

The photo below, taken during our anniversary party on June 9, accurately shows how Lacy welcomed visitors this summer—with her tired body lying down in the middle of the yard and people coming to her instead of her running to them. The lessening of her physical ability didn't change what she valued. She was forever committed to being where people were.

Lacy stopped drinking water or eating anything (even treats) the last few days but continued to respond with a look of recognition when we sat by her. In death, as in life, we are deeply moved by Lacy's innate wisdom. We marvel how she maintained her peaceful presence.



Lacy says, "Sorry, this old lady just can't get up any more. Thank you, Phil Lomneth, Franciscan Community Volunteer, for coming to me."

Her last will and testament for us seemed to be:

I am ready to die now. Death is a gift as my legs won't carry me anymore. It helps that you also see this has been coming, and I'm so grateful you aren't hauling me off to see a doctor, but are trusting nature's course.

Bury me here at Clare's Well. Here's where I lived the good life of inner quiet. Here's where I've enjoyed Earth's vibrations, lying on her lap and feeling her heart beat as I have year after year. I'm energized by my kinship with Earth. She is waiting to receive my body and remake it back into her very self.

Your kindness will go with me and all the goodness you've shown me will flow into the universe. Thank everyone for all their treats and loving rubs of my ears. The joy we've shared will live on. Don't be surprised when you feel me brushing close to you as you walk to the mailbox or garden. Pay attention. Watch for me. Your heart will skip a beat in unexpected moments. And remember nothing happens by chance. Everything in this universe is connected to everything else. I love you with all of my collie heart. Look for synchronicities and see me continue to welcome you.

Living the Gospel courageously... with energy, spirit, peace.

Twenty-five years of quenching thirst at this well

How can we thank everyone for the friendship shared with us on June 9 as we marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of Clare's Well! We've told the history and shared so many stories over the years. Now we simply want to share some pictures which remind us of friendships shared and support received again as over 180 people gathered here under the tents that day. We are grateful for families of our founders, Sisters Aggie and Carol, families whose support has never faltered over 25 years. Thank you for relatives

of Sister Carol's aunt and uncle, Elizabeth and Ben Marsh, who came to what still feels like home to some of them. The stories they share deepen our appreciation of this sacred place. Thank you to them and all of our families, Franciscan Sisters, friends, neighbors, **volunteers—we couldn't have had this day without you!**—former guests and everyone who celebrated our relationships and the ministry of Clare's Well that day.



Our pastor, Father Victor Valencia celebrated a Mass to honor Sister Aggie Soenneker to open the day of our 25th anniversary. St. Ignatius Choir provided the music at the church.



Sister Paula with her cousins, Sister Aggie's sister, Rita Primus, Janet and Frank Soenneker (Aggie's brother), and behind Sister Paula, Clare's Well friends, Bud Banks, and Pat Kasper.

Anniversary photos by Sister Carolyn Law. Photo of Lily (on page 4) by Eileen Erickson.



Kathy Herzog, Sister Rose Mae Rausch, and Alice Vogel welcomed anniversary guests. Kathy frequently volunteers at Clare's Well. Sister Rose Mae was our Community Minister who, with her Leadership Team, gave Sisters Aggie and Carol permission to begin Clare's Well 25 years ago.

Alice with her husband Jim are Franciscan Associates who provided a display promoting preservation of Earth's waters.



Harriette Marsh Scherer lived in the Clare's Well farmhouse as a child. Her parents, Elizabeth and Ben Marsh, were Sister Carol's aunt and uncle who owned the farm when Sister Carol was a child. Harriette and her daughter, Irene Peterson find special delight in having their cousin, Sister Carol, care for the Marsh home place. Also pictured are David Noto, (left), Sister Carol's nephew-in-law; Under the umbrella, frequent guest, Bonnie Hoogeveen; facing Harriette is Bob Illies, and to his left is Nancy Williams, Sister Jan's niece.



(Left) Rupesh Modi, a new friend of Clare's Well, helped set up for the big party on June 9, 2013.



(Center) The highlight of Clare's Well's anniversary celebration was a 35-minute presentation of, "Are You Thirsty", a production of the Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater. With wonderful drama, masks and props, they engaged the audience in education and motivation to preserve Earth's precious waters for future generations as well as to share more justly with others.



(Right) Eileen (Chuckie) Niehaus, Sister Carol Schmit and Jeff Odendahl enjoyed shared laughter at the anniversary party. Sister Carol has been at Clare's Well the full 25 years. Chuckie and Jeff have been friends with Carol about that long, too. They have much to share.



(Far Left) Mary Heinz, Roxanne Wagner and George Martin shared gardening stories.



(Left) Sister Jan caught in the act of sitting still for a moment during the celebration, while Sisters Rose Mae Rausch and Bea Eichten bring the support of our Franciscan Community to Clare's Well.

Summer Happenings



(Clockwise) It didn't take long for Sisters Paula Pohlmann and Karen Niedzielski to fill their boxes with 40 pounds of strawberries picked at Fairhaven Farms.

Cheri Hample was one of several volunteers who learned that the apple peeler made quick work preparing apples for sauce, apple butter and apple pie in a jar.

Sister Janice Wiechman and a lovely array of gladiolas from our garden brightened the farm in mid-August.

R.I.P. sweet Lily. Lily lived most of her 17 years as a member of our farm family. Now she is laid to rest next to her one-time nemesis, Lacy. Yes, rest in peace.



Spring Work Day – May 17, 2014 Reminder Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- Please send me a reminder of the Spring Work Day.
- Please contact me to help on special projects.
- Please take me off your mailing list.

Return this form to:

Clare's Well
13537 47th St NW
Annandale, MN 55302-3507
Phone: 320-274-3512; E-mail: clwell@lakedalelink.net

Spring Cleanup Day

One and all are invited to participate in Clare's Well annual Spring Work Day:

Saturday, May 17, 2014

We begin at 9 a.m. with a break for a great lunch at noon. Stay as long or short a time as you wish. Children are welcome. We usually finish by 3 or 4 p.m., with cleaning the Hermitages and Wellness Center; gardening as permitted; splitting, chain-sawing, hauling wood; painting or repair and a long list of other tasks. Thank you.

Wish List

- Life Jackets
- A cordless drill
- Helpers with chain saws
- Funds for special needs and general upkeep
- Ongoing help with the many chores here
- Buck thorn puller
- Wood
- Food for animals

