

## The sisters say, "Thank you!"

## From the Leadership team...

#### Dear Friends,

Did you ever have the experience of having someone compliment you on something you did and as you started saying, "Oh, it was nothing . . . I was just lucky . . . I could have done better . . ." they patted you on the arm and said, "Just say thank you!"

Meister Eckhart, theologian and mystic, said "If the only prayer we ever say in our lives is 'Thank you' that will be enough."

Thank you is a way of acknowledging God's goodness and blessing in the daily acts of giving and receiving, in the beauty of creation, in the midst of suffering and loss—always! It is a way of opening ourselves up to the other—to the Other—and allowing ourselves to let go of control and to receive.

Jean Baptiste Massieu, a pioneering deaf educator, is quoted as saying, "Gratitude is the memory of the heart." He was born deaf and had five deaf siblings. He chose gratitude and positive action rather than isolation and bitterness. His work bore fruit when one of his students, Laurent Clerc, started the first school for deaf persons in America.

What memory of gratitude do you hold in your heart?

We Franciscan Sisters hold much gratitude in our hearts. We have come to know and treasure the goodness of God touching our lives—not because we deserve it but simply because God is good and loves us dearly. We experience God's love in the many ways we receive goodness from our many donors, friends, colleagues, neighbors and, yes, from strangers. And we hold all of you in gratitude in the memory of our hearts.

Having received so much, we feel impelled to reach out to share the fullness of God's love. In this issue of *Our Journey*, you will read of the many ways we seek to extend the goodness of God through prayer, through relationships with our Franciscan Associates, through companioning young adults as they engage in service, prayer and community, and sometimes just through laughing and being together with our sisters, families, friends and the persons we serve. We are grateful for the many ways you help us extend a helping hand and a caring heart to those in need.

May you know the joy of gratitude as you receive and give in love in whatever way most fits for you in your families, your work, your neighborhood and your church community.

We pray that our "Thank you" may be a blessing for us personally and for those whose lives we touch each day.

Peace and love,

Sister Beatrice Eichten Sister Rose Morganit Schneider Sister Susan Knuten Dister Conseite Mour



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Cover: Sister Mary Lou Eltgroth, building relationships with donors Photo by Kari Ross

#### Our Mission:

We, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota, are a community of women religious whose members are called to live the Gospel joyfully and to reverence the earth and all of God's creation. In the spirit of Saints Francis and Clare, we embody a life of prayer, simple living and service to those in need. We are committed to nonviolence as we recognize the need for healing in ourselves and in our world. We seek to build communities of peace and justice wherever we are called to serve.

## Centering prayer at St. Olaf Church: 'Be still and know that I am God.' Psalm 49

Sister Joan Tuberty

Centering prayer at St. Olaf Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis started over 20 years ago with a series of Saturday morning sessions during Lent. Using video tapes by Father Thomas Keating, Mary Schulz and I led the sessions. When the six weeks ended, many of the participants wanted to continue, and so began the Centering Prayer Group, which has been meeting every Saturday morning, 52 weeks of the year, since 1993. We often number 20-30 participants. The beauty of the group is its "seamless flow of shared leadership." (I wasn't about to take on the task of leading the group without support.) Five of the original group are still active members. Some of our faithful members have moved away to other parts of the country and world, others have been called home to the fulfillment of their deep longing for unity with God and have moved beyond us!

Looking back, I see the group's beginning as planting a few seeds of an unknown flower which has multiplied and blossomed over and over again. We began by learning together, committed to the practice of centering prayer. Within a few years others came who were equally committed to the practice and to the group. Our group has helped support the founding of other centering prayer groups in Nevada, Hawaii, Montana and north Minneapolis.

To mark our 20th anniversary, we put together a book with reflections from our members. One entry points to the paradox of centering prayer in that "it is a solitary exercise, and yet it is a journey with companions. Community helps to form the practice." I often remind the group that centering prayer helps us to be less self-centered and to become more Godcentered. Mary Schulz sees centering prayer as a path to freedom and claims, "My love for centering prayer has grown over the years." Saint Augustine said, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." I learned these words as a young sister. It expresses the deep longing that has been in my own restless heart for as long as I can remember. I've been seeking ways to bring my restless mind and heart to rest in God's presence. The answer is prayer. An expanded awareness of God's presence, as with Saint Francis, enables us to see Christ in everyone. Both the practice of centering prayer and the continuous, rich relationships with members of the group are the greatest gifts of my lifetime.

"The community of faith sustains me, even when I'm not here. If I'm out of town, I try to pray at the same time as the group. It's more than a practice, it's a faith community."

-member of the Centering Prayer Group



Centering Prayer Group: Bill Bailey, Cappy Moore, Sister Joan Tuberty (founder), Kitty Leighton, Carol Quest (founder), Father Carl Arico, Ann Christiansen and Victor Barela (founder)

Sisters Betty Berger and Joan Tuberty were introduced to centering prayer by attending a weekend program lead by Father Basil Pennington. They both were very moved by this experience and were inspired to begin centering prayer practice at their Franciscan residence (Sabbath House) on Portland Avenue. This early support for centering prayer by the Franciscan Sisters was like a preliminary step in the founding of centering prayer at St. Olaf Catholic Church, where Sister Joan serves as a spiritual counselor. Sister Betty is a frequent and supportive participant in the St. Olaf group; other sisters and associates are regular participants, too. All are welcome!

## Thanks, the highest form . . .

Sister Cordy Korkowski, director of Donor Relations

"I would maintain that thanks is the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder." G. K. Chesterton's remarks found among his prolific writings speak to me today as I reflect back to last fall and my beginnings as director of Donor Relations for the Franciscan Sisters. As we share this issue of Our Journey with you, our readers and donors, I feel energy and happiness for each and every person



Sister Cordy Korkowski (center) visits with donors Bob and Evelyn Zabinski Briggs at the Soup Supper fundraiser.

whose name is printed here. What a special issue this is for the Franciscan Sisters as the names of our donors form our "litany of gratitude."\*

In speaking to donors, I learned there are a variety of motives urging them to share their financial gifts. Some possess a desire to be part of the Franciscan mission of outreach and love. Some donors want to live the Gospel mandate of justice and charity. Some know Franciscan Sisters or Associates who "click" with their values. They have observed our ministries or been involved with us in action, here and abroad. Many of our donors have a deep sense of gratitude for what has been given to them and want to give back to others. As Pope Francis aptly expressed, "Gratitude is a flower that blooms in noble souls." Whatever your motivation—thank you!

Since I joined the development staff in September 2013, I've been amazed at the response to our

fundraising efforts. For the third year, we participated in Give to the Max, the one-day online giving campaign that raises millions for Minnesota nonprofits. Our donors were generous, donating more than \$20,000 on that single day of giving. The Franciscan Sisters benefitted, along with our ministries: St. Francis Music Center, St. Francis Health and Recreation Center, and Franciscan Community Volunteers.

Another big show of support for our volunteer program was the annual Taste of St. Cloud, which raised \$30,000. (This year's event is scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2014.)

Over 1025 donors responded to our annual Christmas Appeal with generous gifts totaling more than \$87,600, to date. Thank you! The funds generated from the Christmas Appeal allow us to serve people in need who seek our friendship and support, to minister to youth who desire an education and companioning. These funds will assist us in building bridges between cultures and ethnic groups in the United States, as well as Ecuador, Mexico and Nicaragua.

My awareness of our donor family has greatly expanded and my gratitude reaches from Little Falls to the ends of the earth. Our prayers are our gift to you!

\*This issue of *Our Journey* recognizes individuals, businesses and organizations that have made cash, planned and in-kind gift donations during calendar year 2013, January 1-December 31. Donors who passed away during the last year are identified by an asterisk (\*) behind their name. Every effort has been made to recognize donors according to their wishes, including those who wish to remain anonymous. If names have been listed incorrectly, omitted or appear against the donor's wishes, we apologize and encourage you to bring the matter to our attention by contacting Deanna Boone (320-632-0612) so that the error can be corrected.

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The Students in Residence program in San Rafael, Mexico, now serves 20 students per year. The program provides room and board along with other support so that girls from the poorer outlying villages can attend the public high school. Sister Pat Forster gathers together the current group of students.

Helen Klaers Bentrud

# Franciscan Sisters endorse statement on human trafficking

The Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota, has joined with other religious groups and organizations in endorsing the "Statement of Principles and Recommended Practices for Confronting Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery" released by the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR).

The exploitation of persons—for labor or sexual purposes—is the third largest illegal "business" after drug and arms trafficking. In 2012, the International Labor Organization conservatively estimated that some 21 million persons globally, including the United States, remain enslaved. Over 14 million people are victims of forced labor and another 4.5 million are victims of forced sexual exploitation. ICCR members have been working with companies to ensure that they are doing everything in their power to prevent trafficking and slavery within their spheres of impact. In order to mitigate risks of these violations in their operations and supply chains, ICCR members believe it is incumbent on companies to establish comprehensive human rights due diligence policies and procedures that incorporate trafficking and slavery provisions based on international human rights standards and labor conventions.

ICCR started sending the statement to companies in January, beginning with companies in the Food and Agriculture sector and the Hospitality sector as well as using the document in corporate engagements. A link to the full statement can be found at http://www.iccr.org/ publications/2013ICCR\_HTPrinciplesFINAL112013.pdf.

Note: FSLF is a member of ICCR. We follow its guidelines in our investment policies and practices and work with other religious communities to influence and change corporate practices which adversely affect people and the environment.

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## Silent Walk for Peace April 18, 2014 – 9:30 a.m.

The walk begins with prayer at the main entrance (west parking lot) of St. Francis Convent and then proceeds through Little Falls, stopping at various places for reflection and song. Following the cross is a graphic reminder of some of the ways Jesus still suffers today and the necessity for praying for all people.

**Outdoor/Indoor Stations of the Cross** will follow at 11 a.m. Outdoors: gather on the east side of the convent; Indoors: gather in Sacred Heart Chapel.

Sponsored by the Franciscan Life Center (320)632-0668 or franciscanlife@fslf.org



Jammi Strunk, left, and Lori Rebischke, right, of U.S. Bank presented St. Francis Music Center with a \$1,500 grant in support of its orchestra program. "U.S. Bank is honored to help support the Franciscan Sisters' music program, which makes the arts more accessible to more children in our community and enriches the lives of many," said Rebischke, vice president and relationship manager for The Private Client Group of U.S. Bank. Accepting the check on behalf of the Music Center are violin student Monica Czech and instructor Celo V'ec who directs the two string orchestras. To learn more about St. Francis Music Center, call 320-632-0637 or visit www.sfmusiccenter.org.

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# Students from St. Ben's discover on the streets their common humanity

Sister Carmen Barsody

Ten women from the College of St. Benedict, in St. Joseph, Minn., recently spent a week with the Faithful Fools Street Ministry in San Francisco. It is one of my favorite weeks of the year as we have an opportunity to accompany a group of people who come with a total openness to learn and serve. We begin the week with a street retreat. Walking the streets of the Tenderloin-the area of the city where many folks are encouraged to avoid—provides the space for us to ground ourselves in our own life experiences. It's a time to look at how we have been conditioned to think about people who struggle economically, mentally, socially and who often find themselves homeless.

During the week, the students ate in soup kitchens and worked with children in the afterschool program Up On Top. They sorted food at the San Francisco Food Bank

and served breakfast at the Living Room, a place for homeless and low-income seniors to get breakfast and visit with others. They shared life with us at Faithful Fools and even attended a clowning workshop with world-renowned clown, Mr. YooWho.

In our closing reflection students spoke of what they discovered about their common humanity through the week's experience and with the people they came to know. One of the women simply said, "All anybody wants is to be with others, to feel like they're worth something." They realized that some people were shocked when they were acknowledged. "Thanks for speaking to me," they would hear. Another student



Students from St. Ben's experience the magic of red clown noses, which bring smiles all around as Faithful Fools meet, greet and walk the streets of the Tenderloin.

said, "We are conditioned to be fearful of homeless people. Being here this week I didn't have that fear." The group was energized by Thursday morning Bible study: "Everybody, every religion, homeless people and ministers studying together." Another commented, "I was aware through the week of the Benedictine value of having a listening heart. There is often a lot said and we don't really listen. Here you listen."

Rev. Kay Jorgensen, Franciscan Associate and co-founder of Faithful Fools, expressed our collective gratitude to the group for their time with us, "You've come to be the witnesses. That makes a difference!"

**Donating to the Franciscan Sisters:** Please, feel free to express any wishes you may have for your gift. However, be advised that in order to ensure that donors will be entitled to a federal income tax deduction, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota, (FSLF) is required by Internal Revenue Service rulings to retain full authority over the assets granted to it and cannot accept gifts that are required by the donor to be paid, or to be used, only to further the work of a specific individual or that are required to be used in another country by FSLF or a foreign charity or religious institute.

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#### **\_** J •

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## Be assured of our grateful prayers

#### Deanna V. Boone, director of Community Relations

The Franciscan Sisters take seriously the trust that is implicit in each gift given to them. Donors receive a written thank you letter, of course, but their thanks go several steps farther.

For each day of the year, two donors are randomly selected as Donors of the Day and listed in the sisters' internal newsletter and on the bulletin board. Donors are remembered by name as the sisters pray together in their small living groups and are included at Evening Prayer, which takes place daily at 4:15 p.m.

Additionally, Sister Mary Lou Eltgroth, volunteer in the Community Relations Department, calls each of the Donors of the Day to tell them that the sisters are praying for them and to engage in conversation. If someone mentions a special intention and asks for specific prayers, Sister Mary Lou alerts the sisters.

People work hard for their dollars, and the Franciscan Sisters know that those dollars can be spent in other ways. As a result, they lovingly hold the responsibility of praying for each donor and each intention with the full force of their capabilities. Time and again, we hear donors say that Sister Mary Lou



Sister Mary Lou, the "voice" of the Development Office, and Deanna Boone

called just when they needed a listening ear and that, on the day they were Donor of the Day, God's grace shown on them in tangible, powerful ways.

Connie Lanphear Lorraine Lapos Paulette Lappi Mrs. Calvin Larkin Carol Larson David & Cheryl Larson Deborah Larson Gene L. Larson Jack Pavlock & Jim Larson John & Mary Larson Thomas & Virginia Larson Ron & Mary Kay Laska Phyllis Latour Carol & Jerome Latterell Charles Latterell Gerry Latterell Harvey & Adeline Laudenbach Alice Lauer Glen Lauer John Lauer **Rich & Mary Lauer** Wayne & Regina Lauermann James & Evie Lausen Nina Lavern Thomas & Sandi Law **Richard & Louise Le Savage** Margaret LeBlanc

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## FCVs: committed to serve

Kaitlin Depuydt



On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Franciscan Community Volunteers worked with the organization Kids Fighting Hunger to package 130,000 meals bound for Jamaica.

Franciscan Community Volunteers (FCVs) make a one-year commitment to serve non-profit organizations in the St. Cloud area. Assignments and placement sites vary—some volunteers work with at-risk youth, some connect immigrants and refugees with resources, others simply provide a listening ear to someone who needs one. This year's sites include Catholic Charities' Immigrant & Refugee Resource Program and St. Cloud Children's Home, St. Benedict's Senior Community, CentraCare's Project HEAL, Mid-MN Legal Aid's Project Care, Opportunity Matters, Casa Guadalupe Multicultural Communities, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota.

At mid-year, our 2013-2014 FCVs have served close to 550 individuals in their various ministries. This is, indeed, not the typical kind of service that you'd expect from a volunteer. Our volunteers are committed to full-time service and share the Franciscan value of caring for those who are marginalized. Now in its fifth program year, the FCV program has walked with 26 young adults in their year of service. Collectively, those young adults have given over 34,000 hours of service to the St. Cloud area.

Many long-term volunteers continue on in the field they serve in, either because they choose a volunteer position that will help them gain field experience or because the year changes their worldview. A recent study of alumni of volunteer programs shows that over 65% of career choices were influenced by the service year; 58% of alumni participate in faith-based activities today; and 96% of alumni said that social justice is either very or somewhat important to them today. This transformation happens when volunteers witness the importance of mentors in the lives of youth who have experienced trauma, what can happen when community organizations collaborate around an issue affecting the underserved, or how a hospitable presence for refugees can help facilitate their transition to the United States.

## 2013-14 Service Sites



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### **Financial Report** Fiscal Year Oct. 2012 – Sept. 2013

#### **Source of Funds**

Donations	.\$364,249.02
Grants	176,142.51
Memorials	55,315.69
Gift Planning	43,253.75
Sales/Special Events	60,658.96
Total	\$600 610 02

#### **Use of Funds**

Franciscan Ministries	
Franciscan Missions	75,342.81
Franciscan Outreach	30,956.50
Retirement Needs	108,392.06
Total	\$699,619.93



Tim Thomas, pictured with Sisters Mary Pat Burger and Julien Dirkes, is the 2013 recipient of the Saint Francis Award. "Over the years," he said," I've developed relationships with the sisters and their gratitude for what we do is overwhelming. I know there are many employees deserving of this award and I am honored to have been chosen." Congratulations, Tim.

## Sisters with sisters in community

Elizabeth Rydeen

The congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota, was founded in 1891. In the 100 plus years that followed, women from near and far became members. Each one left her family home to enter into new relationships within the religious community, to live the Gospel faithfully, and to serve people in need. Many of these families of origin, rich in faith, nurtured more than one religious vocation and sometimes several. The Franciscan Sisters were especially blessed in this regard. From one family alone, six sisters joined the

The Ebner Sisters

Sisters Donna and Bernice Ebner grew up in Elk River in a family of six children. Their upbringing was deeply Catholic where everything revolved around faith. They came to know the Little Falls Franciscans—not from attending parochial schools, [there were none\*]—but from the sisters who came to Elk River as part of catechetical missions to the rural areas. They received their religious education from the sisters and also took piano lessons. Sister Donna said, "The sisters were wonderful people . . . full of fun." Sister Bernice remembers spending hours studying with the Franciscan Sisters for a catechetical contest in the 8th grade.



community. Two families each were the source of four sisters, 17 families three sisters, and 70 families two sisters! Indeed, the notion of sisterhood took on special meaning for these generous women and their families.

Today there are six sets of sisters who are members of the Franciscan community. Stories of the Weier and Ebner families follow. The other families—Furnstahl, Kroll, Mauer and Rausch—will be profiled in future issues of *Our Journey*.

A Catholic education was a high priority. Their aunt Bernice Stenglein, who lived with the Ebner family and who would later become Sister Paschaline, was the first to head north to Little Falls and St. Francis High School. She entered the convent in 1937. Bernice was born that same year and named after her aunt. Donna followed as a freshman in 1945; Bernice in 1951, saying, "I started high school with a leaning toward religious life." As boarders they worked twice a day, side by side with the sisters, to subsidize their tuition. They "felt one with the sisters," Sister Donna remembered, which fostered their vocations to religious life.

> Both sisters entered the convent during their junior years. Sister Bernice says she didn't follow Sister Donna to the convent; her call was all her own. They chose different ministries: Bernice, healthcare; Donna, education. While being blood sisters ties them together, their life in community is their true bond.

\* Parochial schools, staffed by Catholic sisters, were not widespread until the 1950s and 1960s. A Catholic education was important in the Ebner family: the girls attended St. Francis High School in Little Falls, the boys St. John's Prep in Collegeville.

Sisters Donna and Bernice Ebner (formerly Sisters Hugh and Eric, respectively)

Who knew that when the Franciscan Sisters were called to Wisconsin to start a hospital that the road between Little Falls and Dodgeville would become so well-traveled . . . with vocations. Of the 12 Weiers, four joined the Franciscan community in Little Falls, one became a Poor Clare and another a Franciscan priest.

Sisters Vianney and Elizabeth Weier in 2008

#### The Weier Sisters

Influenced by Franciscan Sisters who ran their local hospital, six out of 12 children from the Weier family chose religious life as a vocation. Four would become Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls.

In 1914 the Franciscan Sisters expanded their health care ministry, opening a hospital in Dodgeville, Wis. Sisters Benedict and Scholastica Bock were sent to get the mission established. They soon met the Weier family, with whom they would become fast friends. (Lizzie, the Bocks' maiden sister, worked at the hospital laundry and saved her money to support religious vocations. She helped pay the Weier family's tuition.)

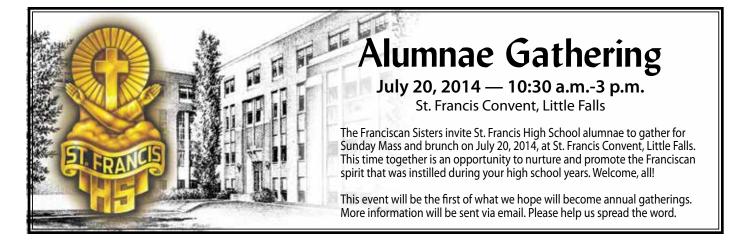
At the urging of Sister Benedict, Mary Clare, the eldest girl, went to Little Falls to attend St. Francis High School for her senior year. Reluctant to go, she never returned home, instead she joined the convent in 1937, becoming Sister Lenore. Her sister Rose (later Sister Camillus) went to St. Francis High School as a junior and entered the convent the same year. Helene (Sister Vianney) followed in 1942. Initially, she fought the call to religious life, but after a "conversation" with Father Henry Soenneker who convinced her that God was seeking her, she made her commitment.

Elizabeth Weier soon joined her sisters in Little



Falls. Their mother died during her senior year. After graduation, she returned to Dodgeville to be with her father and worked for the telephone company. When her father made plans to remarry, Elizabeth returned to Little Falls. Never losing her call, she joined in 1948. "We knew you'd be back," she was told. She ministered in education, teaching many years at St. Francis High School and then in New York. Her former students remember her as Sister Urban. She changed back to her baptismal name after Vatican II. Sister Liz's three sisters were nurses, which Sister Vianney said allowed them more time together. Sisters Lenore, Camillus and Liz served in leadership positions for the Franciscan Sisters.

Like other boarding students, they worked to subsidize their education. Because of the distance to Dodgeville, the Weiers spent their vacations in Little Falls only returning home during the summer. Spending holidays with the sisters, they think, helped them establish close ties. The four Weiers started out as sisters and ended up Franciscans, celebrating different stages receiving the habit, first vows, final vows—ALL as a family.



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Associates Vilma and Javier Gavilanes, from Durán, Ecuador, hold their young son, Francisco. There are 67 Franciscan Associates and 14 applicants in Latin America.

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Sister Karen Niedzielski reunites with Father Abraham Ayieko, her former seminary student. He and Bishop Philip Anyolo, pictured with Sister Bea Eichten, traveled from Homa Bay, Kenya, to St. Cloud for the installation of Bishop Donald Kettler.

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#### **DECEASED MEMBERS**

Lena Albrecht Angeline Ammann Regina Athman Joe Barsody Elizabeth Belanger Reverend Francis M. Bialka Anthony Bieganek Marie Bieganek Frank Bischoff Harvey Bisek Earl Blaylock Marianne Bolster **Thomas Bresnehen Reverend Francis A. Britz Dorothy Brobst Othmar & Louise Bromen** Eugene M. Broschofsky Walter Bryce Edward Burdock John Burelback Addie Butler Agnes Capizzo **Rosemary Clear** Alyce Collins Vincent C. Conlon Vincent Daigle Dr. Joanne Decker Joseph & Dorothy DeBevee Dorothy Ellstrom Ann Eltgroth Louis & Emma Eltgroth **Bernice Euteneuer** Anna Feltl **Ray Flesher** 

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Please let us know if you would like more information on remembering the Franciscan Sisters in your will and estate planning.

Contact: Sister Bernice Ebner 116 8th Avenue SE Little Falls, Minnesota 56345

(320)632-0699 • bebner@fslf.org

## Volunteers

Ellen Akotchik Deb Anderson Georgia Anderson Sherry Andres Kathy Angus Shirley Arvidson Cathy Aswegan **Mikey Austin** Dorothy & Ray Banick **Emily Bartkowicz** Isabell Barnes Claudia Barnier Vi Bauer Jennifer Baum Irene Becker Perry Belcher Kelly Berger Don Berkhahn Lois Bieganek Jeff Bigalke Debi Bobick Leona Borg **Rita Boros** Faye Boser Pat Boser Natalie Boser Renae Brausen Bea Britz Larry Britz Mary Lou Britz Donna Brooks Virginia Brown Marilyn Brown Lorraine Burns Charlie & Mary Bye Carol Chisholm Carol Christiansen Dodee & Jim Colombe Patty Commerford Millie Cook Mary Ann Dahmen Lucy Dale Laura Diakite Phyllis Dobis Elenor Doroff Audrey Doucette Lolly Doucette Kathy Etzel Julie & Mel Euteneuer Jan & Jeff Everson Joan Faust Annette & Jerry Fedor Connie Fenske Patricia & Roger Fernelius Abra Fisk Golden Fisk Patricia Flansburg Mary Ann & Phil Force Conrad & Mary Rae Freeberg Janie Frie Arlene Furnstahl

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## In loving memory



January 9, 1919— September 14, 2013



March 11, 1920— September 28, 2013



November 18, 1925-October 25, 2013

### Sister Kathleen (Catherine) Kelly, 94

Sister Kathleen, originally from Leaf Valley, was accepted as a Franciscan Sister of Little Falls, Minnesota, on August 12, 1942. She made her first profession of vows on August 12, 1944, and final vows on August 12, 1947.

Sister Kathleen had the humor and quick wit typical of the Irish. Her knowledge and experience led her to a variety of assignments that she accepted with enthusiasm. As the director of the Morrison County Food Shelf, she helped people who fell between the cracks of other programs for the poor. Her days were long, her concern sincere and her generosity was unlimited.

Sister Kathleen ministered as a teacher, professor, social worker, religious consultant, justice coordinator, pastoral minister, marriage counselor, lecturer and campus minister. She served in Little Falls, Morris, Fergus Falls, Sauk Centre, St. Cloud, Crookston, Winona and Sauk Rapids; LaCrosse, Wis.; Washington, D.C.; and Cincinnati.

### Sister Jeanne (Genevieve E.) Winter, 93

Sister Jeanne, originally from Greenwald, was accepted as a Franciscan Sister of Little Falls, Minnesota, on August 12, 1941. She made her first profession of vows on August 12, 1943, and final vows on August 12, 1946.

Sister Jeanne was a wholesome and energetic person, interested in planting, picking and canning the summer's produce, a true farmer's daughter. She showed concern for each person. As long as she was able, Sister Jeanne volunteered to drive to wakes and funerals. Sisters knew that she would never turn down a sister who needed a ride to shop or visit family. She loved to crochet and knit and was one of the last few sisters to practice the art of tatting.

Sister Jeanne ministered as a staff nurse, supervisor, consultant and director of nurses at various times from 1944-1984. She served throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin. During her retirement years she was a massage therapist at St. Francis Center.

### Sister Judine (Rosemary) Cassidy, 87

Sister Judine, originally from Helena, Mont., was accepted as a Franciscan Sister of Little Falls, Minnesota, on August 12, 1943. She made her first profession of vows on August 12, 1945, and final vows on August 12, 1948.

Sister Judine was warm-hearted with a quick wit and a searching mind. She had a great sense of responsibility coupled with the idiosyncrasy of procrastination that caused her to burn a lot of midnight oil in meeting deadlines. She found working with youth rewarding and was proud of the part she played in the growth of many young women.

She ministered as a secondary teacher, principal of St. Francis High School, assistant minister for the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, counselor and director of guidance. She served in Little Falls, and Brooklyn and Staten Island, N.Y.



December 26, 1920-October 25, 2013



February 27, 1923— December 10, 2013

### Sister Mary Sylvia (Emily) Schik, 92

Sister M. Sylvia, originally from Butler, was accepted as a Franciscan Sister of Little Falls, Minnesota, on August 12, 1937. She made first profession on August 12, 1939, and final vows on August 12, 1942.

Sister M. Sylvia was a precise, careful worker who had a mind for detail and beauty. At the time of her 60th jubilee she said, "Life for me has been a priceless and precious gift. Religious life is the pearl of great price with payments due every day. . . . I have been up to the mountaintop where it seemed so easy to see, feel and touch God. However, my best learned lessons were taught in the dark, quiet and peaceful depths of a 'hidden cave' where His whisperings can only be heard in silence."

She ministered as a laboratory and X-ray technician, medical records assistant, library assistant, artist, art and craft teacher and religion teacher. She served in Alexandria, Breckenridge, Onamia, Brainerd and Perham; Darlington and Dodgeville, Wis.

### Sister Mary Goretti (Stella) Lampert, 90

Sister Mary Goretti, originally from Bowlus, was accepted as a Franciscan Sister of Little Falls, Minnesota, on July 31, 1954. She made first profession on August 12, 1956, and final vows on August 12, 1959.

She had a great desire and love for learning, which she passed on to her many students over the years. She was the 1975 Little Falls Teacher of the Year. She was a perfectionist in all she accomplished, and the results were without reproach. Her motto: "Be tender to the presence of God in each other."

Sister Mary Goretti was a teacher and principal in the public schools in Hillman and Bowlus before becoming a Franciscan Sister. She ministered as an elementary school teacher, organist, choir director and assistant principal. In her retirement, she was a clerk and proof-reader in the Community Relations Department. She served in Morris, Flensburg, Elk River, St. Cloud and Little Falls.



December 14, 1926— December 10, 2013

### Sister Mary Emily (Elizabeth) Donnay, 86

Sister Emily, originally from Kimball, was accepted as a Franciscan Sister of Little Falls, Minnesota, on August 12, 1945. She made her first profession of vows on August 12, 1947, and final vows on August 12, 1950.

Sister Emily, with her ready smile, loved interacting with others. Her memory of people she met and their family connections was truly remarkable. She was a wonderful cook and baker known for her large, tasty sweet rolls. She's remembered for the famous peanut brittle she always made around Christmas. She loved to crochet and write letters and valued her time for prayer and reflecting on scripture.

Sister Emily ministered in food service, housekeeping, pastoral care, as a caregiver to mentally challenged children, and as nurse aide. She served in St. Cloud, Elk River, Osakis, Breckenridge and Little Falls.



March 14, 1914— December 13, 2013



July 8, 1930— January 11, 2014



March 9, 1933— January 12, 2014

#### Sister Mary Corrine (Laura) Millner, 99

Sister Corrine, originally from Pierz, was accepted as a Franciscan Sister of Little Falls, Minnesota, on August 10, 1934. She made first profession of vows on August 12, 1936, and final vows on August 12, 1939.

She enjoyed ministering and caring for the sick and her hobbies including knitting, crocheting and fishing. She was hospitable and responsive to the needs of others, generous with her time and talent in volunteering for various projects. One of her special scripture quotes from Isaiah was "Fear not for I am with you."

Sister Corrine was a registered nurse for 46 years, serving at St. Cloud, Perham, Parkers Prairie, Moorhead, Onamia, and Little Falls; Wahpeton, N. Dak.; and Dodgeville, Milwaukee and Cudahy, Wis. Over the years, she was a frequent visitor and caregiver to her sister Marceline.

#### Sister Lydia Langer, 83

Sister Lydia, originally from Bluffton, was accepted as a Franciscan Sister of Little Falls, Minnesota, on July 31, 1950. She made her first profession of vows on August 12, 1952, and final vows on August 12, 1955.

A gentle and caring woman, Sister Lydia graciously served the needs of others and was known for her quiet sense of humor and the twinkle in her eyes. She found strength, peace and joy in daily prayer and celebrating the Eucharist.

Sister Lydia served 37 years as an elementary school teacher, including six years as principal of St. Andrew's School, Elk River. She also served as director of Hospitality at St. Francis Convent. Her final active ministry was at St. Francis Music Center until the effects of Parkinson's disease led her into retirement.

#### Sister Elizabeth Ohmann, 80

Sister Elizabeth, originally from Greenwald, was accepted as a Franciscan Sister of Little Falls, Minnesota, on July 31, 1951. She made her first profession of vows on August 12, 1953, and final vows on August 12, 1956.

Sister Elizabeth had a creative mind, innovative spirit and a compassionate heart, all of which she utilized in her varied ministries. As an elementary teacher, she served students with special needs, helping them discover their unique gifts and talents. Inspired by her brother Dan, a Maryknoll priest, she volunteered to serve in Peru where she focused on improving the lives of the poor in the Altiplano. She learned the Aymara language in order to reach the women, most of whom did not speak Spanish.

Working with Border-Links and Humane Borders in Arizona, she helped ease the suffering of the migrants and raise awareness of immigration policies that made it necessary for people to put themselves at risk. In dealing with Border Patrol, judges, immigration officials or critics, she spoke with confidence and quiet strength. Humane Borders recognized her as Volunteer of the Decade in 2010.

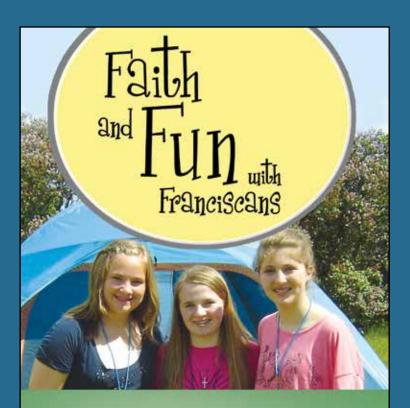
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### FRANCISCAN GIRLS CAMP JUNE 10-JUNE 12, 2014

Activities include: prayer with the sisters, singing, crafts, campfires, nature and outdoor activities.

For more information, contact **Sister Ange Mayers** amayers@fslf.org, (320)240-6184.



Purchase tickets by mail: Send check payable to Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls 1600 11th Avenue South, St. Cloud, MN 56301 (Please write "Taste of St. Cloud Tickets" on the memo line.)

Purchase tickets online: www.fcvonline.org Select "Taste of St. Cloud" from dropdown menu. Purchase tickets online by May 1.

For questions contact Pat Schlauderaff, (320)229-0307.

Supporting Franciscan Community Volunteers Learn more at: ww.fcvonline.org