

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



FRANCISCAN  
SISTERS  
OF LITTLE FALLS  
MINNESOTA

SPRING 2015 VOL. 33 No. 2

# Our Journey



# Kelly Olson receives Saint Francis Award

Kelly Olson is considered a real gem around St. Francis Convent and knows no bounds when it comes to helping out her co-workers or the sisters in Clare Residence. She's known for her kind and generous manner and sense of humor. Each year the employees and sisters nominate a person who manifests our Franciscan values in their work. Congratulations, Kelly!



Sister Julien Dirkes and Kelly Olson

## Franciscan Life Center expands, adds staff

The Franciscan Life Center seeks to foster the spirituality of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi among the Franciscan Community, including sisters and associates, and the broader community in an effort to extend the Franciscan values into the wider world. The ministry team working to accomplish these objectives includes Rick Dietz, director, and Sisters LaVonne Schackmann, Gloria Haider and Michelle L'Allier.

For information on all the Franciscan Life Center has to offer—retreats, workshops, spiritual direction, rituals, celebrations—visit [www.fslf.org/FranciscanLifeCenter](http://www.fslf.org/FranciscanLifeCenter).



## Our Journey

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*Our Journey* is published three times a year by the Community Relations Department of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota, for donors, associates, friends, relatives and employees. This publication shares the journeys of our sisters and associates as they work in joyful service in the spirit of Saints Francis and Clare.

### Editorial Team:

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**Cover:** Sisters Cordy Korkowski, Bernice Ebner, Marguerite Ostendorf and Sharon Fitzpatrick who work in the Development Office. Photo by Jeanie Michaels

### 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.

© March 2015  
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls,  
Minnesota



# A culture of encounter

*Sister Beatrice Eichten, Community Minister*

**T**he life of Saint Francis is all about encountering. He witnessed by word and deed to everyone—persons who were poor, those who were rich, and even to animals and all of creation. He and his friars had no monastery, though they called the little church of the Portiuncula, just outside of Assisi, “home.”

Francis and his friars were out and among the people of Assisi and the surrounding area. Francis would say, “The world is my cloister.” When he spoke or wrote, the Scriptures were the source of his wisdom. His deep love for Christ, especially Christ on the cross, helped him to see the face of Christ in everyone he met and to know the love of God in the midst of great suffering.

We Franciscans say in our Constitutions, that we live the Gospel as our first and highest rule of life. This means our first encounter needs to be with Jesus Christ—to make Jesus the center of our lives. We further say that our mission is to create community through our work and our presence in our world. This means that we are called to promote a culture of encounter. How do we Franciscans live out our call to follow the Gospel with inclusivity?

We are strengthened by being with, in and among people who have deep love and faith in God. As teachers, our sisters found themselves called out beyond the classroom to the homes of their students and humbled when the poorest expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share their food. They came to trust our humanity and that of others just as Jesus did when he entered into human life. Our sisters continue to minister well into their 80s (and sometimes 90s), staying in touch and involved with people and witnessing to God’s loving presence.

We give thanks for living close to people in their ordinary lives, walking with people in their suffering as we provide services (tutoring English language learners), companionship (as foster grandparents) and advocacy (to newly arrived immigrants). We have been challenged to live in between black and white/ right and wrong, coming to know the ambiguity in between.

We look for Christ in the other, especially in those

who are vulnerable. We’ve reached out to people living on the streets of San Francisco where homelessness is a way of life, to migrant farm workers who just want to make a living, and to women and children in crisis.

We’ve been called to the margins. Franciscans are known for responding to specific needs, starting programs, providing healthcare . . . yet it is simply our mere presence for which we are often most remembered.

In all this, we seek to ground ourselves in contemplation so our actions come from a place of inner peace and awareness of God in, with and among us so that we can see the face of God in each person and in all of creation—enlarging our hearts and souls as we hold the hopes and concerns of people across the world in our prayers.

Do we do this perfectly? No. Do we keep trying? Yes. As Franciscans, we seek to live in a relational way, not separating ourselves from others so that we too can say, “The world is my cloister.”



## **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, 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 another foreign charity or religious institute.

# From the Office of Development: Thank you!

Oh, how we enjoy connecting with our donors. Just like at home, we all enjoy a knock on the door and a friendly “Hello” or an old-fashioned, hand-written greeting in the mail. We love building and nurturing relationships with all of you. Thank you for being part of the mission and ministries of the Franciscan Sisters.

Many of you designate how you wish your dollars to be used: retirement care, specific ministries, Franciscan Community Volunteers, missions or vocations/companioning. For those of you who choose to let the Franciscan Community choose where the dollars are needed most, your gifts are credited to “Current Need,” which changes on a recurring basis. For all gifts, we give thanks.

The sisters remember each donor in a multitude of ways. The Christmas Appeal ornaments, returned with your donation, are divided among the sisters who pray all year for you; some sisters keep you

among their prayers for years after your initial gift. Donors of the Day are remembered by each living group and at afternoon prayer, plus Sister Mary Lou

Eltgroth calls each one of you to remind you of our prayers and thanks. Even those who wish to remain anonymous are remembered in reverence.

With our deepest thanks and our continuous prayers,

*Deanna V. Boone*

Deanna V. Boone  
Director of Development



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*I want to support the foreign mission work of the Franciscan Sisters.  
Having been a missionary myself, I understand the need.*

— Rev. Stan Wieser, Wheaton, Minn.

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Last summer's Green Fair Folk Festival allowed me the chance to "feed the hungry" so to speak. Believe me when I say I spread peanut butter and jelly on many a slice of bread. One young customer, about 4 years old, with his quarter in hand ordered a double-decker sandwich. I obliged and later chuckled when he came back and asked for change. So young, but with great negotiating skills.

### By the numbers:

Christmas Appeal - \$81,831

Give to the Max - \$38,140

Chapel Roof Repair - \$58,912

Memorial Appeal - \$24,909

# Spreading gratitude, appreciation and . . . jelly

*Sister Cordy Korkowski, director of Donor Relations*

The past 12 months have been filled with ministry, mission and Gospel work. And you, our generous donors, have made it all possible. As we serve and assist people in need, we feel you are one with us and in our Franciscan way of life.

Our Christmas Appeal and Give to the Max funds were directed toward our work with youth, both locally and in our missions. Specifically, you helped fund St. Francis Music Center and its full-scale, topnotch curriculum. Your support allowed us to launch URock Against Violence, which promotes Franciscan values to at-risk youth through music and the arts. Our Franciscan Girls Camp brought over 20 middle-schoolers to the convent for an outdoor camping experience and an opportunity to learn about Saint Francis, nature and the environment. For most of the girls, one-on-one time spent with a Franciscan Sister was the highlight. Your generosity supports Franciscan Community Volunteers, our program in St. Cloud for young adults committed to serving the poor while living in community with the Franciscan Sisters. Your support allows the training of teen missionaries and lay leaders in San Rafael, Mexico.

When our roof in Sacred Heart Chapel needed repair, all we had to do was ask, and you responded. Generous donations covered half of the more than \$114,250 repair bill. How grateful are we!

The pages of this issue are filled with hundreds of names of our donors—our partners, friends and family members who support our work, who volunteer their time and talents, who walk with us in mission and ministry. Thank you!

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# Sisters in Monterrey minister 'right outside their door'

Sisters Isabel Berrones, Mary Hroscikoski, Ange Mayers and Janice Wiechman

**W**e are a community group in transition. Sisters Isabel Berrones and Janice Wiechman have lived in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, México, for several years. Their community group was originally formed to support our two sisters from México, Isabel and Aurora Tovar, while they were college students.

Sisters Ange Mayers and Mary Hroscikoski joined them from Minnesota last fall. Recently celebrating Sister Isa's graduation and her licenciatura (bachelor's degree) in social work and human development, the group's focus is transitioning to other public witness of Franciscan values.

After four years of full-time study, Sister Isa continues to assist with some of the leadership of our México mission in nearby San Rafael. During her studies she also served in the annual Holy Week missions. Sister Isa is now making all the physical and interior preparations needed for her move to the strange and different land of Minnesota for a year of immersion in U.S. culture and English. Sister Janice continues with ministries of education and accompaniment. At a nearby neighborhood center, she tutors students in reading, math or English and teaches confirmation classes. Each week she visits housebound elders in the steep hillside neighborhood of Canteras, bringing Communion to those unable to attend Mass and helping guide a local prayer group. More recently, during diocesan gatherings, she's had the privilege of companioning young women discerning the form of life to which they are called: marriage, single or religious life.

Though new to México, Sister Ange lived and worked for many years in the Latin American cultures of Venezuela and Arizona. Relearning Spanish and the ways of people in Monterrey are helping her to live more intentionally. Sister Mary is learning Spanish and



Celebrating Sister Isa's graduation: Sisters Ange Mayers, Pat Forster, Isa Berrones, Janice Wiechman, Mary Dumonceaux and Mary Hroscikoski.

the culture anew amidst all the confusion such learning holds. She is coming to appreciate uncomfortable differences which show forms of goodness she could not imagine on her own and to be patient with the frustrations and embarrassments of not knowing how to understand and speak more than casually or what proper behavior might be in many situations.

For all of us, bilingual morning and evening prayer deepens our connections with what is right outside our door. We remember the security guard down the street and his work of standing in the extremes of cold and heat, a nearby woman who lost her life to domestic violence, the street vendors eking out a living on pennies a day, the woman asking for prayers that her daughter find work, another woman jailed with little apparent due process for a murder she says she did not commit, and those in need of a meal, clothing or support who ring our doorbell.

In his Apostolic Letter about consecrated (religious) life, Pope Francis exhorts us to live a spirituality of communion, finding "ways to create 'alternate spaces,' where the Gospel approach of self-giving, fraternity, embracing differences, and love of one another can thrive."

Our life here in Monterrey, México, begins with learning how to do this with each other. As the millions of migrants and refugees in our world know so well, transition is a difficult time. Our transition flows not from the need to flee violence and injustice, but from our call to live the Gospel. We are in transition, hearing the call to lives of self-giving, community, embracing differences and loving one another ever more fully.



# Thank you

Kathryn & James Green  
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# Taste

## OF ST. CLOUD

### May 4, 2015

4:30–7:30PM

Territory Golf Course  
**Coyote Moon Grille**  
480 55th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304

**Tickets: \$25**  
(\$30 at the door)

**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.)

**Tickets online:** [www.fcvonline.org](http://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**

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# Thank you

Rimon & Charlene Issa  
Noel Iwen

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Mary Jane Lange  
Alfred & Barbara Langer  
Bernard & Zerrin Langer

*We love the sisters, the Franciscans are like family. When we return to Minnesota, we always include a visit to Little Falls. We know many of them. Sister Jeremia Trutwin was my godmother.*

— Gerald and LaVerne Schaefer, Albuquerque, N.Mex.

Lawrence & Elaine Johnson  
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Clifford & Theresa Knier

## The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:3-10

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice, for they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

## Financial Report

Fiscal Year Oct. 2013 – Sept. 2014

### Source of Funds

Donations .....	\$441,935.73
Grants .....	178,070.57
Memorials .....	59,348.68
Gift Planning.....	134,119.33
Sales/Special Events.....	67,469.46
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$880,943.77</b>

### Use of Funds

Franciscan Ministries ..	\$715,339.59
Franciscan Missions .....	91,519.18
Franciscan Outreach .....	27,676.00
Retirement Needs.....	46,409.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$880,943.77</b>

# In good conscience, we must help

Deanna V. Boone

"In my heart, I want peace," said Sister Audrey Jean Loher who ministers in Arizona with migrants and border issues. When she listens to the news, she hears about war and destruction to the planet. That's when she goes to her prayer table and opens the world atlas.

"I place my hands on the map of Ukraine, Iraq, Syria, Liberia and places of great sadness and turmoil," she said. "And I pray hard." Whether she's praying about Putin's decisions or the Ebola virus, "The whole earth is telling us to make peace, to be gentle, to be at peace with the whole human race."

One day each week she works with the new influx of children, most often accompanied by an adult, when they come from the bus depot after having been processed and given permission to travel by the authorities. The people are checked physically, given electrolytes like Gatorade, invited to rest and given a hot meal. We translate and help them contact their friends and family with whom they will stay. Court dates are set for their legalization.

These newcomers are from Honduras, El Salvador and predominately Guatemala where they are escaping abusive family situations, violent gangs, rape and more. "We are responding to a crisis and treating them humanely. Some of these people are elderly, some lie on the ground, others are stooped over. We cannot help but reach out to them in compassion," Sister Audrey, age 85, said. "They come to us for help.

"Some would say that our work is to be condemned or unpatriotic. To them, I say, 'Come and see these fellow human beings.' In good conscience, we must help. I know we are doing the right thing. We are doing as Jesus taught in the beatitudes. That is what we Franciscans are about; this is how we will be judged."



Sister Audrey (right) ministered for over 20 years in Peru, Venezuela and Guatemala. Since 2004, she has worked with Humane Borders which was co-founded by Sister Elizabeth Ohmann to serve immigrants along the U.S./ Mexico border and bring awareness to immigration issues.



# Thank you

Leo & Helen Langer  
Richard & Mary Langer  
Richard & Doris Langevin  
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Delores McManama



St. Francis Community Chorale raises a joyful noise at last year's spring concert.

## St. Francis Music Center presents spring concerts

St. Francis Preparatory and  
Concert Orchestras  
April 19, 2015 – 2 p.m.

St. Francis Community Chorale  
Presentation of Earth Citizen Award  
May 3, 2015 – 2 p.m.

Concerts take place in Sacred Heart  
Chapel on the campus of the Franciscan  
Sisters in Little Falls. All performances are  
free and open to the public. Please join us!

# Sister becomes U.S. citizen

Sister Irenemaree Rodak arrived in Little Falls from Brisbane, a city in Queensland, Australia, in 1993 to attend the Franciscan Sisters' Wholistic Growth Program. Upon completing the program, she stayed in Minnesota and, following a discernment process, transferred her membership from the international order Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth to the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls in 2003. She took final vows in 2006.

Her background is highly international. During WWII, her parents were taken from Poland to Germany and placed in labor camps. When the war ended, they met in a refugee camp and later settled in Australia after the country began accepting refugees.

Sister Irenemaree now holds dual citizenship in Australia and the United States, having passed her exam last fall. Since she had been in this country for 25 years, she thought it was "about time that I become a citizen and do my civic duty. In Australia, it is compulsory to vote; I'm eager to vote here as a U.S. citizen."

She now ministers as a certified massage therapist through St. Francis Health & Recreation Center.



Tom & Roberta McNellis  
Dana McCarthy  
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Marlene Mead  
Walter & Elaine Meaden  
Gene J. Meader  
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**A donor reflects . . .** “The Franciscan charism, a gift to lighten the path of our lives, is difficult to put into words. The light of the Spirit has been present to me in more ways than I can count. And so, I give thanks for my education and ongoing friendships from my St. Francis High School days, for memories of my teachers and dear aunts (Sisters Venard, Helen and Inez Niehaus) and for time spent with the Franciscan Sisters. I’m also grateful for the values of compassion, justice and peace instilled through my many contacts with the Franciscan Community. As a donor, my giving is a prayerful hope that I continue to live my life’s journey to reflect these gifts generously given to me.” —Eileen Niehaus, Maple Grove, Minn.



# Like mother, like daughter

*Sister Carmen Barsody*

Children are magnificent mirrors of our words and actions. I am reminded of that as two-year-old William Darr moves amongst us at the Fool's Court. Words we say come back to us like an echo. What we are doing and how we are doing it is watched closely. Sometimes we see the reflection of ourselves in the moment and other times we get taken by surprise when we see our words and actions mirrored back to us years later.

I am reminded of the power of our actions reflected in children, as Karina Duran, daughter of Associate Mercedes Gonzales in Nicaragua, recently became a Franciscan Community Volunteer. When we Franciscan Sisters were living in Managua, Nicaragua, we worked with the people of the barrio to establish a soy kitchen. Pregnant and nursing mothers and young children came to receive a soybean-based meal to help support good nutrition at a critical stage in the development of their brains and bodies. Later on the program included a pre-school for the children and a source of workshops for parents. Karina was around four when her mom brought her to be a part of the program at the Soy Kitchen. Mercedes in turn became part of the group of faithful volunteers who cooked and served the meals for the many women and children who came to the Soy Kitchen each day.

Mercedes soon took part in almost every workshop made available. She learned about micro loans to help her gain economic independence. She learned about women's rights and her rights as a consumer. She also participated in a group that met at our Franciscan home called Grupo Esperanza (Hope Group). The group of women, always with children in tow, gathered weekly to learn about the cycles of violence and found strength in each other to stand up to the physical and emotional violence they experienced in their own lives.



Karina Duran (Managua, Nicaragua) and Hannah Schulenberg (Glendale, Calif.) joined the Franciscan Community Volunteers in January. Karina will be serving at Companion Animal Hospital and Casa Guadalupe, and Hannah will be at Anna Marie's Alliance.

Karina, who was too young to stay home alone, moved in these circles with her mother. As she grew older she followed her own unique path, studying accounting after high school and getting a job after she graduated. She saw these as stepping stones to support her in her dream of becoming a veterinarian. Even though Karina was walking her own path, there was something stirring in her that led her to quietly inquire about the Franciscan Community Volunteer (FCV) program. Karina wanted to discover inside of herself the desire to do community work and help others that she witnessed in her mother. She has set out not to imitate Mercedes in specific work and actions but rather to ground herself, like her mother, in faith and values as she walks toward her own unique vocation.

Karina did not tell Mercedes she had applied to FCV until she was accepted. She moved quietly and steadily, like her mother, toward a decision that will enlarge her understanding of herself, others and the world in which we live.

# Living their Franciscan values and spirituality

*Deanna V. Boone*

**F**our Franciscan Sisters, through their faith-sharing, communal and personal prayer, and celebration of the Eucharist, discover how clearly God is present in their lives.

Three of them have lived together in the same St. Cloud location for 20 years: Sister Maurita Niedzielski, Foster Grandparent volunteer at a day care and spiritual assistant to Secular Franciscans; Sister Joyce Piotrowski, Foster Grandparent at All Saints Academy and assistant to students who need extra help in academics; and Sister Caroline Stoltz, assistant director of Health Services for the Franciscan Sisters in Little Falls. Joining them in September was Sister Aurora Tovar, from Mexico, who is working with Latino Americans at Casa Guadalupe which serves Cold Spring, Rockville and Waite Park.

Sister Aurora describes her ministry as “building bridges and creating paths for a life with more dignity as she presents strategies to assist others in their difficulties.” This answers her questions: “Why did I come to learn and why did I come to teach? So that together we are teachers and students for each other and this helps me practice the spirit of joy, peace and understanding.”

Sister Aurora specifically requested that she live with a group that does not speak Spanish. “That gives me the opportunity to experience diversity and learn from our cultural differences, presenting opportunities for enrichment,” she said. Also, sharing with another culture is a journey to the interior and to the exterior, which gives her insight and the ability to create space for encounters with the sisters and with God.

Sisters Maurita, Joyce and Caroline agree that Sister Aurora “has brought a burst of life and energy” and, through her, they are opening their eyes to the hardships the Hispanic people suffer. “We Americans are not always supportive of people from other cultures, even though our ancestors were all immigrants at one time, too,” Sister Maurita said.



Sisters Joyce Piotrowski, Aurora Tovar, Maurita Niedzielski and Caroline Stoltz. Sister Aurora joined the St. Cloud living group in September.

“They are often overwhelmed by American systems and they feel lost. It helps to have Sister Aurora as an advocate to guide them through multiple challenges. Sister Caroline enjoys the “mini-immersion that Sister Aurora brings to our group. We learn about foods, death rituals, celebrations and traditions—La Posada and Our Lady of Guadalupe—and the Mexican health care system.”

As the sisters reflect on communal living, they describe it as “sharing our life together, sharing our joys as well as our differences. We take time to be with each other daily, listening and respecting each person’s opinions, values and beliefs. In addition, we enjoy each other’s company and doing fun things together including movies, jigsaw puzzles, playing cards and board games and taking walks.”

In the broader community, the sisters are members of Sacred Heart Parish in Sauk Rapids, continuing a 40-year legacy of Franciscan presence, long-term relationships and active involvement. They serve as lectors, as Eucharistic ministers at the nursing home, bake for parish occasions and work at the bazaar. Sister Joyce agrees with the others that “we all value family and community relationships. We are mindful of the need to listen and understand one another in deeply rooted ways.” Relationships within community, with family, with associates and with neighbors have developed and deepened over the years.

# Thank you

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*I met Sister Ramona Johnson on a trip, and she asked me if I would teach her how to do basic dental work in Peru. I traveled to Peru to meet the sisters. We formed lasting relationships. We traveled to Little Falls this fall to be reunited to our Franciscan missionary friends and continue our support and relationships.*

— Dr. Carl and Barbara Montione, Rochester, N.Y.

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# Saint Francis, patron saint of ecologists

*Rick Dietz, director of Franciscan Life Center*

Thirty-five years ago Pope John Paul II declared Saint Francis of Assisi the patron saint of those who promote ecology. I wondered if the pope woke up one morning and said, "I think I'll name Francis the patron saint of ecologists." It didn't take me long to find out it didn't work that way. How it did come about proved to be quite interesting. An American college professor was the one who started the ball rolling.

In 1967 Lynn Townsend White, Jr., a medieval historian and teacher, gave a speech entitled "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis" for the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It was later printed in the journal *Science*. In the speech he stated that more science and technology would not fix the problems of the environment. He went on to say that Judeo-Christians and their faith were the leading causes of the environmental problems. He felt the creation story in Genesis, where humans are given dominion over nature, established an anthropocentric mentality; in other words, it's all about us humans. He went on to explain that Christianity makes a distinction between humans who are formed in God's image (with a soul) and the rest of creation. This distinction, he

felt, set up a hierarchy putting humans above the rest of creation and allowing humans to use creation for their own needs and desires. White's ideas ignited an extended debate about the role of religion in creating and sustaining the Western world's destructive and exploitative attitude toward the natural world.

White went on to say that it would take a radical change in thinking for us to make improvements in our environment. The greatest change would be to rethink our superiority, our dominating mentality with creation. He went on to state that Saint Francis and his unique relationship with creation (seeing nature as brother and sister) might make the difference. White, the son of a Presbyterian minister, was credited with being the first person to suggest Saint Francis be named patron saint for those promoting ecology.

It seems this shift in thinking White proposed is starting to take root. Seeing humans and all things created by the Creator, loved by the Creator and having their own worth, apart from their usefulness by humans, is coming to the forefront of people's consciousness. I invite you to be one with us as we live out Saint Francis's understanding that all of creation is brother and sister with us.

Francis Wilmes  
Dorothy Wilson  
Sherry Wilson  
William & Kathleen Wimmer  
William Wimmer  
A. C. Winter  
Loretta Wippler  
Ron & Laureen Witt  
Mary Witucki  
Paul & Pat Witucki  
Dick Wojciechowski  
Tom & Bonnie Wold  
Jean, Frank & Lindsey Wolf  
Joanne Wolf  
Bernice Wollack

Wendy Worner  
David & Lynda Wosmek  
Geraldyn Wotzka  
Terry Wotzka  
Bruce & Kathryn Wright  
Viola Wuebkers  
Loretta Wuertz

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Mike & Yvonne Yapuncich  
Matthew & Barbara Yelle  
Ann Yoerg  
Robert & Bridget Yorek

Alan & Marilyn Youel  
Russell & Martha Young  
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Barbara & Jerry Ziliak  
Marcy Zilkoski  
Sabina Zimmer  
Rev. Nicholas Zimmer  
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Les & Beth Zimmerman  
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Benton Telecommunications Foundation  
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## In-Kind Gifts

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Benedictine Sisters, St. Joseph	Dominican Sisters, Racine, WI	St. Mary's Mission Group, Bluffton	St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Anoka
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Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis

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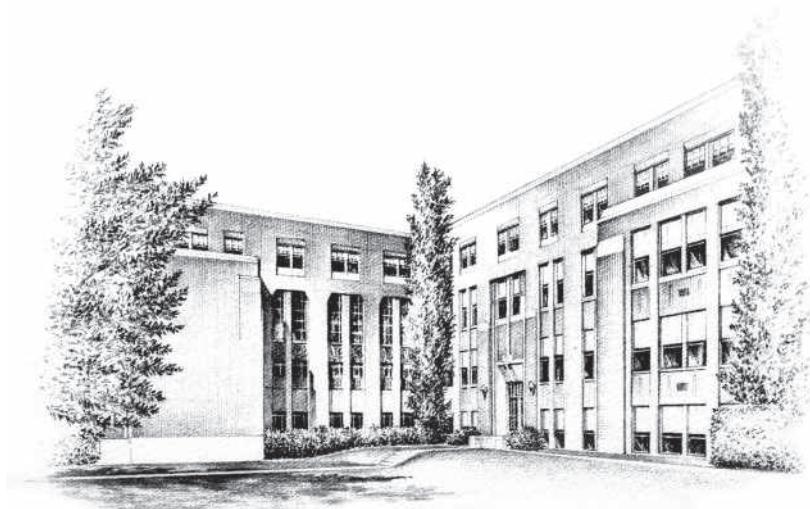
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Sister Mary Dumonceaux's	The 2014 Jubilarians	Pat & Ruth Kosel's 50th	Anniversary	David Solars
50th Jubilee	Maureen Isaacson	Anniversary	Lori & Jim Rausch's 50th	Rich Wegler
Sister Bea Eichten's 50th Jubilee	Mike Isaacson	Linda Kraemer	Anniversary	Carrie Willy
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# Thank you

## Memorials

All Franciscan Sisters	Nora A. Burton
All Veterans	Stan & Connie Byington
All Who Have Died	Marcella Schaefer Cairns
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Sister M. Leonette Bursch	Sister M. Blanche Fyle



### St. Francis High School Gathering July 19, 2015 — 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. St. Francis Convent, Little Falls

The Franciscan Sisters invite former students, staff and faculty to gather on Sunday, July 19, 2015, for Mass and brunch. This time together is an opportunity to nurture and promote the Franciscan spirit that was instilled during your high school years.

Welcome, all!

Cost: \$20. Registration information will be sent via email.  
Please help us spread the word.

**Sister Judine Cassidy's** Scholarship Fund was designed to carry on her life's mission of education. Scholarships will be divided evenly with \$500 each to the Little Falls Community High School, Continuing Education Center, St. Francis Music Center and Franciscan Community Volunteer program.

The fund was established in 2014 at the request of St. Francis High School alumnae in memory of Sister Judine who served as assistant principal and principal of St. Francis High School from 1958-1977. Sister Judine devoted her life to education; this fund extends her values to today's youth.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the fund can do so by sending a check to the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls and, in the memo line, directing the gift to the Sister Judine Cassidy Scholarship Fund. Gifts can also be made online at [www.fslf.org](http://www.fslf.org).



# Thank you

R. & H. Garrison  
Frank & Ida Gerads  
Eugene Gerlach  
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## FRANCISCAN GIRLS CAMP JUNE 9-JUNE 11, 2015

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

**Register by May 1, 2015.**

For more information, contact **Sister Ange Mayers**  
amayers@fslf.org, (320)632-0680.

**COMPLETED  
GRADES 6 TO 8**

# Thank you

Sister M. Aloysius Petermeier  
Rosemary Petersen-Elijah  
Mary Lou Peterson  
Debbie Pfeiffer  
Andrew Plafcan, Jr.  
Ed & Pauline Plante  
Lillie Mae & James Plummer  
Tina Poegel  
Hugh Porter  
John & Cecelia Posch  
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Rich Proulx  
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Jerome & Clarence Wuebkers  
Stanley & Elizabeth Wyrowski  
Sharon Wyrowski  
Andrew Zajac  
Sister M. Rachel Zenzen  
Albert & May Zimmerman  
Joseph & Florence Zimmerman  
Sister M. Roberta Zimmer  
Clara Zimny  
Neil Zniwski  
Roman Zwak  
Leonard D. & Gertrude A. Zylla

## Parents of:

Dad of Susan Brown  
Dolores & John Furnstahl  
Mother of Jay McNamar  
Mother of Kathy Meyer  
Ruth & Lloyd Pallansch  
Judy & Barry Petro  
Mother of Claudia Schmidt  
Elmer & Jaletta Stommes  
Mother of Linda Theisen  
Judy & Roger Virnig  
Father of Dawn Wittenberg

## Family Members of:

Ahles Family by Julie Bizzell  
Ahles Family by Joyce Nelson  
Anderson & Nagel Families by Ron & Andre Anderson  
William & Clara Barthel & Family by Bernice & Arnie Banish  
Clark & Rieland Families by Mary & Michael Clark  
Louie, Emma, Ann, Karl, Della & John by Richard & Louise Eltgroth  
Gilsdorf Family by Carol Snyder  
Eugene Hassler Family by Joseph & Loris Hassler  
Heintzelman Families by Lloyd & Helen Heintzelman  
Hinnenkamp & Zirbes Families by Jim & Erma Schriver  
Herb Hortsch & Family by Barbara Hortsch  
Jansen & Langer Families by Alfred & Barbara Langer  
Kantor & Manslonkowski Families by Edward & Dolores Kantor

Louis B. Kost Family by Janet Kost  
Frank & Margaret Kroll Family by James & Patricia Kroll  
Son Ronald & Siblings by Richard & Evelyn Otremba  
Dolores Paggen's Family Members  
Jerry Pasela & Family by Elizabeth Pasela  
Husband & Parents by Virginia Plett  
Lawrence Poster & Family Members by Leora Poster  
Roth & Tremblay Families by Mary Tremblay  
Stanoch Brothers & Sisters by Albert & Joan Seckinger  
Family Members by Rosyney Valley  
Vernon by Elmer & Jaletta Stommes

## Relatives & Friends of:

Deleswada, Fandino & Koeral Families by Wanda A. Fandino  
Donna by Patricia Provo  
Franciscans that served at St. John's, Foley  
Lawrence Haider  
Jack & Terry by Larane Molitor  
John Kaiser & Relatives by Angeline Kaiser  
Veronica, Peter, Kathy & Tom by Mary Jo Huls  
Gen Zimmerman

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



### Sister Marjorie Bischoff

explained, "My ministry for the last 30 years has been in pastoral care as director of parish pastoral programs in Hastings and

presently at St. Joseph's Parish in New Hope. My greatest inspiration and grace has been my involvement in the lives of people in their most challenging and difficult times: illness, homebound, death of a family member, grief and other crises. An important aspect of what I do is training and guiding lay volunteer ministers to bring their skilled care ministry and outreach from our parish to our parishioners, care centers, hospitals, assisted living residences and everyday relationships. The lay volunteer ministers constantly give me the opportunity to see God's work alive and active in the deep faith, prayer lives and unconditional love with which they reach out to others. My faith and belief is that with the Spirit working in all of us, together, we do change the world right where we are."



# Thank you

## St. Elizabeth of Hungry Society, Planned Giving Members

Bob & Shirley Albrecht  
Germaine Allen  
Geri Barsody  
Rev. James F. Bernauer  
Stephen T. Bieniek  
Richard & Mary Bitzan  
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Elizabeth Black  
Lorraine Blaylock  
Rosemary Boehm  
Loren & Deanna Boone  
Rita Bryce  
Viola Budreck  
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Rev. Nicholas Zimmer

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Angeline Ammann  
Regina Athman  
Joe Barsody  
Rev. Francis M. Bialka  
Anthony Bieganeck  
Marie Bieganeck  
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John J. Schmitt  
Clarence Schneider  
Harold Schneider  
Marcellus (Sal) & Margaret  
Schneider  
Rev. Raymond Schulzetenberg

*As Christians, we are richly blessed and feel the need to give back and respond where needed. We believe in the ministries of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, who serve in the areas where the government fails. Sisters minister in the lives of those who have less, and we want to support their efforts.*

— John and Margaret Schroeder, Alexandria, Minn.

Dolores M. Gaida  
Joseph B. Gaida  
Wilber E. Gahm  
Edward Gartner  
Frank Goering  
Clarence & Mary Hageman  
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Carol Mareck  
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Leonard Menke  
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Peter Schwinghammer  
Elmer Slagel  
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Vincent P. Weier  
Walter & Rose Witzke  
Orville J. Woeste  
Thomas & Marguerite Zastrow  
Leonard Zetah  
Bridget J. Zwach

## Planned Giving

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

# Thank you

## Volunteers

Ellen Akotchik  
Lorraine Altrichter  
Deb Anderson  
Georgia Anderson  
Sherry Andres  
Kathy Angus  
Shirley Arvidson  
Cathy Aswegan  
Mikey Austin  
Dorothy & Ray Banick  
Isabell Barnes  
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Melissa Ginter  
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Marlene Williams  
Joan Wingert  
Loretta Wippler  
Mary Young  
Mary & Willie Zack  
Yvonne Zappa  
Don & Terry Zenner

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*We are happy to support the Franciscan Sisters. I (Joyce) spent six years in the Franciscan Community and continue to journey with the sisters as they carry out the Franciscan spirit in their daily lives. As a nurse, I worked with several sisters and still remember those days.*

– Bob and Joyce Kvanbeck, Marana, Ariz.

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# Living the Gospel courageously . . .



## **Sister Shirley Mueller**

accompanied her mother on the last leg of her life's journey. (Phyllis Mueller, 94, died December 17.)

They lived in Dawson, the closest living facility that would take her mother and close to where she was to be buried in Madison next to her husband. Until she moved to the Motherhouse, Sister Shirley worked as a pharmacy technician in the local Rexall Drug store—a good way to get to know the townspeople of Dawson by clerking in the drugstore.



After an absence of 10 years while she ministered with the community's Associate Relationship, **Sister Pat Imdieke** is now back at St. Mary's Parish in Willmar, where she had previously

served for 12 years. She said, "It's like 'coming home' to a place where I came to know so many wonderful people." She visits the people who are homebound, hospitalized, nursing home residents and anyone else in need. "This is simply a natural progression in ministry for me—God's loving presence in my life and in theirs."

## In loving memory... Franciscan Sisters and Associates



January 23, 1923 –  
January 27, 2015

### **Sister Mary Lerosé (Florence) Popp, 91**

Sister Mary Lerosé (Florence) Popp, 91, originally from Rice, was accepted as a Franciscan Sister of Little Falls, Minnesota, on August 12, 1941, and received Lerosé as her religious name, which she chose because it included both her mother's and father's names. She made her first profession on August 12, 1943, and final vows on August 12, 1946.

Growing up, she enjoyed caring for her younger siblings and, along with her sisters, cherished time spent helping their mother. During these times their mother talked about some of her daughters becoming religious sisters. Rose became acquainted with the sisters at St. Gabriel's Hospital in Little Falls and was pleased when Florence wanted to go to St. Francis High School and become a Franciscan Sister.

Sister Lerosé loved children and enjoyed being with them, especially the hurting and needy ones. It was no accident that Sister Lerosé's many years of ministry were spent at the St. Cloud Children's Home and as prefect for the resident students at St. Francis High School. She is quoted saying: "I went back and forth between these two places like a yo-yo! I had an okay feeling about it because I always felt needed and wanted and I loved my ministry." When the Children's Home evolved from custodial care to a treatment center, Sister Lerosé began ministering to the elderly at our Convent Care Center and at St. Otto's Care Center; however, she missed the children and returned to working as a tutor in the Little Falls schools.



# with energy, spirit, peace



The entry for **Sister Lorraine Olmscheid** in the Sisters' Directory lists her ministry as "Franciscan presence." She is the very definition of presence, as she is present to the sisters in her living group, present to all who come to her St. Cloud home, present to anyone who is on the other end of the phone line and present to those she prays for as she embroiders and crochets items for the Franciscan Gift Shop and for the Taste of St. Cloud's silent auction (which supports the Franciscan Community Volunteer program).



**Sister Bernita Lindstrom** is a teacher assistant in a kindergarten classroom at Lincoln Elementary School in Little Falls. She is sponsored by the Foster Grandparent Program, whose purpose is to provide supportive relationships for children with special needs.

**Franciscan Associate Jim Crosson** (St. Paul) became an associate in 1987. Jim passed away August 11, 2014, at age 84. He was a Franciscan Associate for 27 years. Jim and his wife Joanne, also an associate, were married 63 years. He was a father of five children, grandfather of seven, and great-grandfather of nine.

Jim and Joanne deeply loved one another, extended that love to others, and lived the Gospel values with a Franciscan mind, heart and spirit. He touched others by his witness to joyfulness and living the beatitudes. Before she passed away, Sister Mary Kraemer wrote of Jim and his wife, "Joanne and Jim Crosson daily live out the ideals, love and service of Francis and Clare."



**Franciscan Associate Tito Galvez** (St. Cloud) passed away November 16, 2014, at age 51. Tito became an associate on November 10, 2007. He is survived by his wife Deb, children Katie, Brittany and Josh, his parents, sister and brothers. His living faith in a good God inspired his family and friends.

Tito came to the United States from Chile and worked for many years as a Spanish/English interpreter at The Bridge World Language Center. Tito was an ardent archer and a tournament judge, coach and mentor to burgeoning archers. He loved being out in nature.

**Franciscan Associate Ursula Thompson** (Little Falls) became an associate in 1986. She passed away September 26, 2014, at 90 years old. She was Franciscan Associate for 28 years, one of our first.

Ursula was a widow for over 35 years. She was a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was a retired elementary school teacher, a church and hospice volunteer and a hospital visitor. Ursula's love extended beyond her children as she kept in frequent contact with her legislators and members of Congress. She had a hunger for social justice and was committed to a deep prayer life.



# Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Dear donors,

*Thank you for your generous support and kind gifts to further the ministries of the Franciscan Sisters. The response to our annual Christmas Appeal was overwhelming. Your Christmas ornaments filled two trees in our chapel.*

*Several ornaments have been given to me to remember you good people throughout the year. Each day, I ask God to bless our donors and grant their prayer requests.*

*Sister Mary Fabian Schneider*



Sister Fabian Schneider, at age 99, keeps busy with an active prayer life, personal correspondence and remembering all of you, our generous and precious donors.



## Our Journey

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