



Co-Franciscan News

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FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART • FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS

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Works of Neighborly Love in Our Congregation's Name: Paying It Forward

BY SR. JOYCE SHANABARGER

At our 150th Anniversary Closing Celebration on November 20, 2016, 20 guests were given \$50 to do a work of neighborly love to help the Sisters fulfill their charism. Winners of the money were asked to let us know what work of neighborly love they chose to do. Below are the messages we have received to date. The project has touched many already, and we are grateful! May it inspire more works of love among neighbors everywhere!

Paying It Forward:

- Purchased a CVS gift certificate for an elderly woman to put toward her medications (Kay Senffner)
- Made a donation to Project Smile which matches donations (Kathy Ellinger)
- Donated \$50 to each of these charities: Brady's Journey, St. Martin's Healthcare; Warm A Heart Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry, St. Michael's Quilters (Mary Blomeke)
- Gave "The Gift of Years; Growing Old Gracefully" by Joan Chittister to an elderly women experiencing difficulty

finding joy (Maria Powers)

- Purchased coats, mittens, shoes and outfits for five children in need (Annette Nigro)

- Donated it to World Vision, Inc. to provide 5 ducks and 2 chickens to a

needy family in order that they might have eggs and/or meat to feed the family year-round (Sr. Alexine Knotek)

- Purchased \$10 Family Dollar gift certificates and randomly gave them to five people who came to the Pro Labore Dei mission in Robbins, IL (Chuck Whittier)

- Helped the prison ministry of a priest incarcerated unjustly, gave the gift of a warm meal to a Salvation Army bell ringer, and took a man in need to Walmart to buy shoes and a hat before driving him to the bus station (Mildred Reyes)

- Divided \$200 between Earth Justice, Green America, Mercy Corp, The Trust for the Public Land, Women for Women International (Pat Tomich)

- As the money kept multiplying, gave \$250 to an unemployed, young mother along with toys for her three boys for Christmas, and gave a donation to a man unable to work due to severe complications from diabetes (Mary Lou Nugent)

- Purchased 12 coats for needy students in the Aurora School District 131 (Michelle Mitchell)

- Gave to Heather's Foster Dogs, an organization that rescues, rehabilitates and finds new homes for dogs



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– Geraldine Guzaitis, Director of Development

God Bless Our 2017 Jubilarians

We will honor our 12 Jubilarians on June 10th with a special Mass and reception. This year we reflect upon the Sisters being "God's Masterpieces, designed to do good."



60th Jubilee ☞ Sister Kathleen Hook

Sister Kathleen has music in her DNA, and God's artistic dream for her gave rhythm to the hearts she has lifted through her musical abilities. She has found that one song, unlike any other and often requested, has a powerful impact on people, and that is "Surely the Presence of the Lord Is In This Place." While ministering in the field of education for 30 years, Sister worked in collaboration with many dedicated people to provide a strong academic program and faith-based education, and she was thrilled to be among those who inspired a strong community spirit that not only made parents, students and teachers proud, but which also drew graduates back to the school as teachers. When serving in congregational leadership for 15 years, she helped to breathe life into the congregation's vision through her creative, gentle way. But most of all, Sister has a heart that is very much in love with God and her Franciscan calling. She appreciates walking with her Sisters in community—friends who inspire and help her to make a worthy footprint. Through the years she has tried to faithfully steward God's endless goodness to her. God's design for Sister continues to unfold, moving her forward into blest opportunities and possibilities, always with a song in her heart.



60th Jubilee ☞ Sister Mary Ann Hartz

(THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN PRIOR TO SISTER ENTERING HER ETERNAL JUBILEE ON APRIL 12, 2017.)

Ever hopeful and with a smile in her heart is how one finds Sister Mary Ann at Presence Villa Franciscan in Joliet. She proudly displays the cross won at BINGO. "It's a masterpiece," she said. "I think it's beautiful, and I wish I could stitch this pattern because the suffering is also beautiful." With that she is the 2017 Jubilee theme, "We are God's masterpiece." Sister worked in domestic services all her religious life. In her mind, these were small and seemingly unimportant tasks. But she faithfully completed the assignments she was given. Because work was just what you did according to someone else's standards, Sister created masterpieces of her own design. Everyday cards, stationery, get well and birthday cards were crafted, all the while saying a prayer for the person who would get the card as well as for the one who would give the greeting. Other masterpieces would be Sister's needlework. She would make dish towels and pillowcases and tablecloths with napkins to match. Next she taught herself cross-stitching because she simply thought it was pretty. Whether there was a pattern or one she had to iron on, she created many masterpieces until her fingers became too arthritic. But like St. Francis, she longs to start again to make beautiful things.



60th Jubilee ☞ Sister M. Diane Martin

Sister Diane had a teaching career that spanned 27 years. In her interaction with students and parents, she was gentle and patient, always with a beautiful smile that has become her trademark. In 1987, Sister was assigned to Queen of Angels Medical Center in Los Angeles where she worked as a receptionist and then as part of the Pastoral Care Team. She found much joy in visiting the patients, listening to their stories, giving them encouraging words of hope, holding their hands when that was what was needed, and praying with and for them. In 2002, she became a Religious Services Coordinator for the Catholic Cemeteries in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles where she supported people in their grief and loss at the time of a loved one's death. Sister also responded generously to other needs. She walked in protest against human trafficking and spent many Tuesday evenings with an organization called Brothers Helpers, packing and distributing hot dinners to the people on Skid Row in Los Angeles. Over the years, Sister has learned that God is an artist who is using different tools (experiences) and brushes (people) in an effort to create and transform her into a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. God is not finished with her yet; but when He is, she will be a collector's piece.



60th Jubilee Sister Theresa Diane Lopez

During these past 60 years, Sister Theresa Diane has always felt that God was with her, asking her for daily signs of her love for Him. It has not always been easy to say "Yes," but by the grace of God, Sister has continued to be open to what the Lord asks of her, even on a daily basis and even after 60 years of humble, dedicated obedience. One of Sister's great joys has been her ministry as a hospital chaplain. Sister met wonderful people throughout her life, but especially in those serious situations in which a hospital chaplain finds herself. She feels blessed to have been present with families as they watched and waited with a parent, spouse or child to live their final hours on this side of eternity. On numerous occasions, Sister was able to assist a family to recognize the time, need and also the grace of letting go. Other special moments occurred when Sister was able to reconcile children and parents, especially regarding the faith formation of the child or grandchild. For example, there was joy for the grandparents when a daughter's Mormon husband permitted a Christmas crib to be set up in their home. God has always been with Sister, and she continues to answer "Yes" to all that is asked of her. The fidelity of this masterpiece is exquisite!



50th Jubilee Sister Kathleen Moseley

During her first assignments in Food Service Departments, Sister Kathleen began taking nutrition classes and courses in Food Service Management. Her cooking, baking, planning and management gifts were soon recognized, and she was eventually transferred to St. Joseph Hospital Food Service Department in Joliet. Among other responsibilities, she became the hospital's first Catering Coordinator and became famous among the employees for her dessert specialties. Imagine the creativity it took to create monthly for six years a different, fancy dessert for the Employee Recognition Luncheons. Besides her culinary skills, Sister always enjoyed history and was subsequently appointed the congregation's Archivist to organize the wealth of the congregation's history. Her talent for creating and organizing displays, "nunthing" crafts and photography were used in the numerous celebrations and anniversary events of the congregation. She also used her creative talents as seamstress, Associate Program Director, party planner, garage sale/flea market/antique junkie and maker of crafts, receiving accolades and ribbons from local, county and state craft fairs. Certainly the Master Artist must say, "I have made another masterpiece. She is good and one of a kind."



50th Jubilee Sister Ruth Agee

Sister Ruth is one of God's special masterpieces. Her ability to in turn build a masterpiece comes from living out the words of her favorite scripture passage put upon her life's canvas from God's "Corporal Works of Mercy" palette. She feeds the hungry by helping in soup kitchens and collecting food for the hungry. She welcomes the stranger by responding daily to people who need a listening ear or a safe place to stay for the night. Clothing the naked is second nature to Sister as she collects needed clothing for the street people in Los Angeles. Visiting the Sick was painted on her canvas so often by her visits to hospital patients and the homebound. Corresponding with a woman on death row and visiting her personally allowed Sister to use brush strokes of mercy and compassion to paint a picture of hope for this woman. In each of these gospel encounters, Sister Ruth's heart of compassion is the art work, the central masterpiece of God's creation. It is where the Creator gives breath to her life and allows her to participate in the life of those around her. She has received the "Peacemaker Award" and several other awards for her witness to these gospel values. We celebrate Sister Ruth and the painting that portrays her open heart and a life lived in fidelity for 50 years.



50th Jubilee Sister Christina Fuller

Sister Christina ministers at St. Nicholas Parish in Evanston, IL, as Director of Religious Education. This title is misleading as Sister is so much more. Words used to describe how she is God's masterpiece are: catalyst, guiding light, inspiring example, keeper of the Gospel vision, amazing woman and yes, even Chicago marathon runner. Some of those who know and love Sister use the following powerful descriptions to share how she is God's masterpiece. "Sister truly is a masterpiece. Christ is the artist; she is Christ's best work entitled "Joyful." "God created Christina in the image and likeness of the Divine; and God took great delight and sighed, "My masterpiece - the 'little Christ.'" "Christina shares her love and skill with unparalleled generosity and commitment." "Her outstanding leadership, enthusiasm and can-do attitude are gifts she generously shares." "She learns everyone's story, and by asking us to lend a hand, calls forth gifts in us that we never knew we had." Truly, Sister Christina is Cheerleader for the Body of Christ. Above all she is JOY! It is joy that shines out from the "shook foil" that is Christina. It is a joy that bubbles up from a life of Franciscan poverty, humility and holiness. Glory be to God for God's



50th Jubilee Sister Mary Shinnick

Sister Mary is a special masterpiece and the "gold" that reflects back the love of God which has been shining very brightly for the past 50 years of her religious life. None of us can think of Sister Mary without acknowledging her extraordinary vigilance as Treasurer of our congregation, a position she has held for 40 years. The detail and the functions she provides in this position are too numerous to count, and we can certainly say she is "mint perfect" in doing them. Sister has also served on more Boards and Committees than she can count and has created many more masterpieces within our hospitals and nursing homes. Through her diligent study of the facts and her intuitive ability to see where any project may need closer examination to ensure its success, she has been not only a Treasurer, but a treasure to any group with whom she has worked. Behind the calculator and computer, the budgets and the numerous accounts, God's masterpiece flows out in many directions. Sister is a woman of prayer, and the fruit of her prayer is seen in her kindness toward others. Sister is indeed God's golden masterpiece, and we are blessed that God has lifted her out of his treasury and shared her with us. Sister is a beautiful masterpiece—more priceless than gold!



50th Jubilee Sister Joyce Shanabarger

Sister Joyce envisions her vocation as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart as a precious, multi-faceted jewel. Some facets are her ministry, community, prayer, family and all the people and opportunities which have blessed her. Her ministries include teacher, principal, pastoral associate, working with homeless and addicted women, and leadership. She recalls how each ministry was right for her at the time, and each one helped prepare her for the one that followed. Her idea of community living has grown along with her. She says that she had the right kind of community living at the right time. The changes that have come into religious life over these 50 years have not always been easy. But she says, "God never left me alone; I always had that sense of support." In 2014, she was elected as our General Community Leader. She says that it is the ministry she attempts to stay open to each day. It has much to teach her, and she is humbled to be able to serve in this role. She prays each day for the grace to do only God's will. She says that this is God's community, and she is only here to serve. Her great joy is the goodness of the Sisters, and she is privileged to experience that every day. This year, she hopes to make an "intentional" retreat to reflect on these 50 years.



40th Jubilee Sister Ella Binz

After Profession of Vows, Sister Ella ministered as a teacher, always interspersing some humor in her teaching because she felt the children did not laugh enough. Following this, she served in the Development Office with the addition of working at the front desk at the Motherhouse. For many years, Sister Ella has also worked with our Associates and is now the Assistant Director. Teaching others about God is something Sister Ella loves to do, and she shares this gift currently as a member of the RCIA Team at St. Anthony Parish, Frankfort, IL. Sister Ella is very grateful for her 40 years as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart. She has valued her annual retreats, her Spiritual Companionship Course, the Roots Pilgrimage, and her pilgrimages to Assisi, Brazil and the Holy Land. She loves people and is thankful for her family, friends, fellow teachers, students, and the many wonderful Sisters whom she has valued and learned much from as they showed God's love and patience. The simple beauty of God's masterpiece, Sister Ella, has been and is appreciated by so many people. Her gentleness, generosity, kindness, faithful prayer life and love for God allow the goodness and love of the Master Artist to be wonderfully expressed through her.



40th Jubilee Sister Mary Barbara Hassler

Love and commitment to prayer and appreciation of God's creation have woven many beautiful threads into this cross-stitch masterpiece—Sister Mary Barbara. Her varied ministries have also added beauty to this masterpiece. Sister has ministered in the hospital, in our Temporal Affairs Office, as a teacher, as a Religious Education Coordinator, as Novice Minister for our congregation and presently as the Director of Ministry of Care and Bereavement Ministry at St. Mary of Vernon Parish, Indian Creek, IL. She feels her present ministry is very important because God uses her to touch people's lives at times when they are most vulnerable—when they are sick, elderly or grieving the loss of loved ones. Sister experiences God when hiking, listening to music, seeing beautiful artwork, serving God's people and enjoying friendships. She relaxes by taking long walks, doing cross-stitch, book puzzles and jigsaw puzzles. Throughout these 40 years, Sister Mary Barbara continues to deepen her relationship with Christ, and together this cross-stitch masterpiece is full of many brilliant colors of love with yellow being the most prominent, representing enthusiasm, cheerfulness and optimism, gifts that Sister Mary Barbara has been given by God.



25th Jubilee Sister Cipriana Maria Lima

Sister Cipriana Maria was born in St. John of the Point, a small town in the rural area of Para, Brazil. At 13 years of age, she felt a strong call to do something different, and she desired to be a Sister without really knowing who a Sister was and what a Sister did. One day she took up a book about St. Francis of Assisi and was enchanted with him. She spoke with her pastor about wanting to participate in vocation meetings to understand what her heart was saying. The priest put her in touch with our Sisters in Brazil who she began to visit on a regular basis. This relationship grew and eventually drew Cipriana to enter our congregation. After her years of initial formation, Sister assumed various ministries in the base communities. She was then asked to take a Formation Training Course after which she assumed responsibility for the Aspirants and Novices in Brazil, along with continuing in the various aspects of the base communities. Sister says that she is truly the Lord's masterpiece, and her heart is overflowing with joy to be able to celebrate 25 years as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart. She has chosen a personal theme for her reflections during this year: "Lord, we are the clay and you are the potter. I am the work of your hands to go and encounter those who need you."

God Bless Our 2017 Jubilarians!

In Loving Memory...

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the Sisters memorialized on this page. Our Community will deeply miss our Sisters, but we are happy to know that they are now at peace in their Heavenly Home.



Sister Mary Ann Hartz
1934-2017

Sister Mary Ann was one of God's flowers whose many years as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart added variety to our congregation. She was much like the prairie rose whose flower has five heart-shaped petals, reminding us that Sister grew up in a family of "Hartz," with five children. The lives of the Hartz children were shaped by two wonderful parents, with three of the children choosing religious life and two the married life. Like the prairie rose that spreads out in different directions, Sister Mary Ann spread her talents out in various areas. She ministered as a nurse aide, housekeeper, laundry manager and assistant, and adult caregiver. Dependability was one of her outstanding characteristics. As someone who enjoyed being of assistance, she was always available to lend a helping hand whenever and wherever her schedule allowed. She also reached out into the field of art with her beautiful cross-stitch and embroidery work, as well as designing and making note cards. These works of art graced our bazaars and gift shop and brought much joy to those who received them.

Sister Mary Ann, may you now rejoice and celebrate your 60th Jubilee in God's marvelous and eternal dwelling place!



Sister M. Guadalupe De La O
1929-2016

After being in education for 17 years, Sister Guadalupe ministered in Brazil for almost 28 years. Besides doing catechetical and social work, she took on the role of formator for women entering our congregation as well as those entering other congregations in the area. In her humble way, she shared her love of the Lord and nourished in others a yearning for a deeper relationship with the Lord. During her time in Brazil, one special event remained very vivid in her memory. In 1980 St. John Paul II visited Brazil. Sister was honored to meet the Pope, accompany him on some of his activities like going to the leper colony, take several pictures with him at the seminary, and even help make the shrimp salad that was going to be served to him. A treasured photo is of her with St. John Pau II. On the occasion of her 70th Jubilee in 2016, Sister said that she was so grateful for all the treasures that she held in her heart, for through them she saw the greatest one of all: God's love for her and her love for God. To her the life that God carefully arranged for her was filled with many challenges, some easy and others not so easy. Nevertheless, she always made an effort to listen to God and to try to understand what God was offering her.

Sister Guadalupe, you have been one of our special treasures. Thank you for so visibly showing us and being for us the presence of the Lord!



Sister Mary Catherine Reichert
1920-2016

Sister Mary Catherine realized her first dream when she entered our congregation in 1940. Soon after Profession of Vows, she pursued her second dream—that of becoming a teacher, which she considered an awesome privilege. For the next 44 years, she taught students in grades 1-8 in our schools in Dyer, Garrett and Schererville, IN, and Peru, Lockport and Park Forest, IL, and also served as Principal in Mokena, IL, and Oroville, CA. In her classroom, Sister wanted all to feel like they belonged. She had a special gift for getting students interested in and excited about learning, which made her a favorite teacher. All of this, plus her organization and preparedness, became her teaching trademark. One of the greatest joys of her teaching career was seeing one of her students ordained a diocesan priest. After retiring from teaching, she served her Sisters in community, wrote letters in her still-beautiful penmanship, and spent much time with her hands folded in prayer. Our hearts are saddened by her loss, but she leaves with us the spiritual fragrance of her life.

Sister Mary Catherine, the Lord has certainly done marvels for you! May you now marvel at the beauty of God's face for all eternity.

PLEASE SEE WWW.FSSH.NET FOR THE SISTERS' COMPLETE EULOGIES UNDER THE HOME MENU (IN MEMORIAM). WHEN YOU CLICK (READ MORE...) THE FULL 3-FOLD EULOGY OPENS AND CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND/OR PRINTED. FRIENDS, SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES MAY POST THEIR REMEMBRANCES UNDER THE BLOG MENU ON WWW.FSSH.NET. ADD YOURS BY CLICKING ON WRITE YOUR OWN COMMENT UNDER THE HEADINGS THAT ANNOUNCED THEIR PASSING.

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Update from Sister Maria Brizuela



It has been a busy first quarter for me with a number of grade school and high school visits within the Diocese of Joliet and the Archdiocese of Chicago; a 4-day regional event in the Diocese of Rockford; Parish Vocation Fair; JAVA and CAVA Board/Committee Meetings and a pizza dinner with Amate House volunteers.

This has been the busiest time and the most rewarding of all the school visits I have done since I took on Vocation Ministry. We've done a lot to improve ways of engaging the students to conversation about vocation and the religious life. And we've made good progress. But there are still some things to tweak and improve as we continue to be present and allow our lives to intertwine with the young lives of the students we encounter. It is also encouraging to know that we (religious) are now gaining more respect and support in promoting vocations in schools. Building relationships with pastors and principals is an integral part of our work as vocation ministers, and we're thankful for the cooperation of our Diocesan Vocation Directors both in Joliet and Chicago.



WITH SENIOR STUDENTS FROM
ST. VIATOR HIGH SCHOOL IN
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

I've also seen the impact of religious presence and engagement in the schools. One particular visit was at St. Mathias School in the Lincoln Square area in Chicago. We first visited 8th graders, and they are usually the quiet ones.

After briefly introducing myself and talking about our congregation, I asked this question, "What do you think Sisters and Priests do?" I was surprised by the students' responses. They ranged from "Sisters teach us to do the right thing" to "help us make the right choices" to "do good things for others," etc. This was a far cry from the usual, "They pray!" The next time I asked the same questions to the younger grades, I got similar responses. And I was surprised to find out that they can name "Sister Katie" who's teaching them about these things. We never met her the whole time we were there to visit with the

students from K-8th grade; but I was sure of one thing, she makes a whole lot of difference in the lives of the students at St. Mathias School.



WITH THE LITTLE VILLAGE –
AMATE HOUSE VOLUNTEERS AND
CAVA VOCATION MINISTERS

One of the lessons I learned early on in this ministry is that young adults have busy lives, so they won't show up unless what you offer matters to their lives. Until we are ready and available to meet them where they are, the likelihood of a meaningful and engaging encounter is next to impossible. Hence, a pizza dinner with the Amate House volunteers in Little Village this past week.

This was a great opportunity to meet 9 young people (male and female) between the ages of 22-25, in their own space at a time convenient to them. I had the privilege to have an engaged conversation with 6 of the volunteers before the rest of my cohorts came. We talked about family, school, ministry and how they ended up taking 10 months of their life to volunteer for Amate House. Because the conversation was focused on them (and not me talking about vocations), they were very much engaged. When it came time for them to ask me about myself and our congregation, I seized that opportunity. It always works well for me when I focus the conversation on them before myself and my business for being there.

One thing that stood out for me in this visit was the absence of a cellphone in the hands of these young people. Only one had it handy because she was the contact person. The rest of them were just eager to make face-to-face conversation. This experience reminded me of the conversation I had (four years ago) with Steve Leach (a keynote speaker for Catholics on Call) who told me this. "It is a disservice if you think that social media and the web are the best way to reach us. Like you, we prefer a conversation like the one we're having right now."

I am enthused and encouraged that, no matter how the younger generation is presented to us, there is still a group of them who prefer looking in your eyes as you listen and speak to them.

This is why I visit schools and attend pizza dinners – to plant the seeds of awareness in recognizing the "call" and to encourage them to discern wisely how they can live their own call to holiness.



Congratulations to this year's "Kentucky Derby" Reverse Raffle Winners...



Dorothy Conroy
Jacque Hoffman
Tom Snyder



Recognizing the Accomplishments of our Sisters...



Congratulations to Sister Karen Marie Lanigan who was recently honored during a Mass at St. Paul Church in Joliet as she concludes 17 years as the Director of Religious Education!



WITH LOVE... FROM BRAZIL... WITH LOVE... FROM BRAZIL... WITH LOVE...

Suzana Silva de Oliveira was received into the Novitiate at Sacred Heart Convent in Icoaraci, Belém on February 2, 2017. Congratulations, Sister Suzana!



ABOVE: Sister Suzana with Sister Cris (left) and Sister Iaci (right), her two formators

LEFT: Sister Suzana's reception into the Novitiate



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