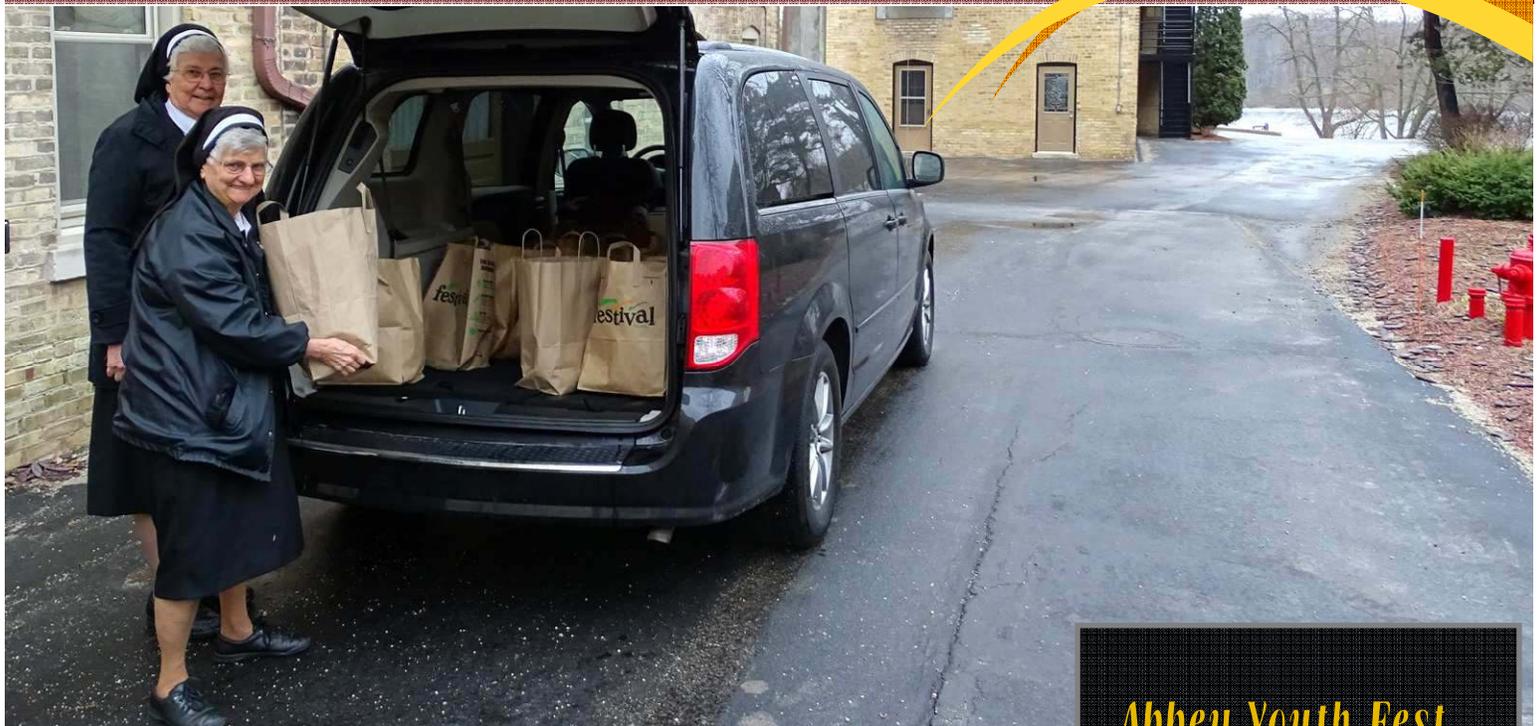


Communigram

Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity

Volume 51 Issue 4 April 2017



Recycling — A Community Effort

Sister Marlene Schwaller reports on various recycling projects that our Sisters support at the Motherhouse.

Newspaper, magazines, book, catalogs, actually any paper lighter than Kleenex boxes-including greeting cards-are acceptable. Sister Adrianna Schouten and Sister Marlene Schwaller collect and deliver to the Quad Parishes in Green Bay, Wisconsin on a regular basis. Parishes use the money from 2 dumpsters for special parish needs or projects. We supported St. Jude Parish in repairing their church organ with our donations. St. Patrick Community did some needed painting and Annunciation Parish purchased new doors. St. Joseph's budget received additional revenue. Parishes report that they have made over \$15, 000 on paper collecting thanks to the awareness of others who are trying to be environmentally-friendly.

Cancelled stamps are shipped to Friars of the Assumption of the BVM Province in Pulaski, Wisconsin through the friars serving our Motherhouse. They drop them off on one of their scheduled stops. After receiving the part of the envelope with the stamp and location mark, friars study to see if there is any historical, geographical or subject value. Any profit from sale of the stamps is sent to their home missions e.g. St. Francis of Assisi Mission, Greenwood, Mississippi.

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Abbey Youth Fest Covington, LA



Our Sisters from Greenwood, MS attended the Abbey Youth Fest, March 25.



National Vicars Conference for Religious

We asked Sister Louise Hembrecht to share on the National Vicars Conference for Religious she attended in Chicago.

The Felican Sisters in Chicago hosted the 49th Annual Meeting of the National Vicars Conference for Religious from March 18th to March 22nd. There were forty-seven vicars/representatives/delegates for Religious present from across the United States including Sister Louise Hembrecht, who serves as the national secretary for the conference. The four regions of the country take turns planning the meeting with the executive officers. This year it was the Western Region who did the planning. Their theme was *Remembering the Journey: Opening the Doors of Hope*.



Sister Louise giving the Secretary's report at the Business Meeting of the NVCR.

The keynote speakers, Sister Lynn Levo, CSJ, and Brother Bill Short, OFM are known to the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity because both have been speakers at the Motherhouse in past years. In addition to the keynotes on Transformation and the recent Vatican docu-

ment on "Brothers," there was a session on Immigration laws given by Sister Mary Ellen Burns, ASCJ. Breakout sessions were held on Canon Law, Consecrated Virgins, and Vocations. Several groups greeted the Vicars/Representatives/Delegates and explained their roles in being available to the needs of Religious.

Father Hank Lemoncelli, OMI, the representative from the Dicastery of Consecrated Life, Apostolic Life, and Secular institutes came from Rome to attend the conference. At one of the meals, he again complimented our Community on its Vocation Manual and said that he continues to offer it to other Communities as a guide.



Father Hank Lemoncelli, OMI answering a question from the group on the work of the Sacred Congregation with Brother Bill Short, OFM at the lectern.



St. Joseph's Dinner for the Hungry

Cambridge, Ohio—There has been a tradition in the Catholic Church of honoring St. Joseph by hosting a dinner for the hungry. This year the Faith & Life Team of Christ Our Light Parish provided a free dinner for the parish. It was held at St. Peter & Paul social hall in Lore City, Sunday, March 19.

Recent Happenings at St. Gabriel Mercy Center



Mound Bayou, Mississippi—In early March twelve students from Virginia Tech came to provide volunteer services at St. Gabriel Mercy Center as well as to the civic community. Through a gift of one of our benefactors, Sister Monica Mary DeQuardo arranged for tickets and entrance into the Grammy Museum in Cleveland, Mississippi for the students and the Sisters where Taylor Swift, pop-rock singer, is being featured. (The only other Grammy Museum is in Los Angeles.)



At the invitation of Ray Lacy, Director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Biloxi and companion, Mr. Mark McMillan, Sister Monica Mary and Sister Emy Beth Furrer attended the 40th Diocesan Youth Rally in Biloxi to speak about the services offered at St. Gabriel Mercy Center. While on the

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Creative Ministry Includes Prayers for Mom and Baby

Using a talent she developed much earlier in life, Sister Mary Stephen Keller began crocheting baby afghans for *Love Life Ministry* while missioned at St. Agnes Convent, Green Bay, Wisconsin. Sister's interest was peaked in February 2014 when an article appeared in the Green Bay Diocese's *The Compass* highlighting the work of the *Love Life Ministry* and its many volunteers who "promote life by assisting families with the basic needs of newborns."

After moving to the Motherhouse, Sister Mary Stephen continues to crochet for *Love Life Ministry* praying as she does so for mom and baby. She has time when she serves at the switchboard, some evenings, and while listening to the Packer games. After making a number of afghans she gives them to the Sisters missioned at St. Agnes to drop off at one of the west side locations in Green Bay—St. Agnes Parish has a play pen set up year round for donations. The Quad Parishes (St. Joseph, Annunciation, St. Patrick, and St. Jude) not only collect items for the ministry, but include an offering envelope for monetary donations.



With yarn donated to the craft room, Sister Mary Stephen crochets between taking phone calls and welcoming visitors at the Motherhouse reception desk.

Sister shares a thank you note she received from *Love Life Ministry*: "...Be assured that each afghan will find a good home with our low income clients—so many needs and the numbers continue to increase. We could not help them without the support of good benefactors such as you. It is the core of the Gospel message...love the poor... Thank you for living these Gospel words."

School Snapshots



Sister Anna Maar visiting with parents at St. Benedict's school open house.

Cambridge, Ohio—St. Benedict School open house was held on Thursday, March 9, 2017. Teachers and parents were available to speak with prospective families, answer questions, and give tours. There was an opportunity to sign up for Kindergarten screening.

St. Benedict's School will open a preschool for the 2017-18 school year and families could register also for this added feature.



Bapchule, Arizona—Wednesday, March 1, marked the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Our students, teachers, staff, and families received ashes on their foreheads as a sign of turning back to God, and strengthening our relationship with Him over the next 40 days. As part

of our fasting, St. Peter's will be giving up Facebook during this time. Happy Lent to you all!! You are in our prayers.



Casa Grande, Arizona—Sister Carol Seidl, principal at St. Anthony of Padua School, having lunch time fun with students on St. Patrick's Day.

Mardi Gras Activity Generated Numerous Laughs



Manitowoc, Wisconsin—On Tuesday, February 28th — also known as Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras — the Sisters from St. Rita Health Center gathered in the cafeteria for a Mardi Gras Party sponsored by the St. Rita’s Activity Department. There was Jazz and Blues music (New Orleans style) playing in the background, a Mardi Gras Parade Dress-up Relay Race, “I Got It” card game played for

prizes (masks). The kitchen made Amish sugar cookies decorated with purple, green, and gold served with green punch. Above are pictures of the relay teams and a few Sisters wearing their Mardi Day masks. Can you make out which Sisters are pictured? Everyone had a lot of fun celebrating before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Submitted by St. Rita’s Activity Department

Recycling continued from page 1.

Aluminum cans bring in about 40 cents a pound. This feeds into our own operation. Aluminum can tabs are reserved for Habitat for Humanity. Sister Mardelle Meinholz is our connection to that organization.

Batteries which are not only bad for the environment, but also a fire hazard, are collected and given to someone who insures a safe way of disposing of them.

Electronic devices—anything with a chord—are recycled by an individual who promises to keep all materials in the United States. Sisters Mary Frances Maher and Marlene take care of storing and arranging for the items to be picked-up.

Plastic tops from bottles eventually go to a company that melts them down and makes wheelchairs for people who can’t afford one. Sister Annette Blonde became aware of this possibility. A local person received one of the wheel chairs.

Boxes are collapsed for recycling by Sister Dolores Herrmann. This saves room in the recycle dumpster.



Sister Marlene crushing cans to save space.



Sister Mary Frances storing electronic items to be recycled.

Below Sister Dolores cutting the tape on boxes to be flattened.

Note the jars for caps, tabs, and batteries.



JUST Gospel!

By Sister Kathleen Murphy
Social Justice Commission

During April we mark World Day of Prayer for Vocations. In that spirit, we pray with the Church, *that young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.*

Prayer and sacrifice for the gift of vocations is nothing new to us as a community. We do it in some form every day, and God continues to bless us in His own time. This is a good month to increase our prayers and sacrifices in union with the whole Church. It is a good time to re-read the stories of the calls of Francis and Clare. It is a good time to reflect on the blessings of our own vocation.

This is a good time to consider the fact that no vocation comes out of a vacuum. As Pope Francis says, "Vocations are born within the

Church. From the moment a vocation begins to become evident, it is necessary to have an adequate "sense" of the Church. No one is called exclusively for a particular region, or for a group or for an ecclesial movement, but rather for the Church and for the world. "A sure sign of the authenticity of a charism is its ecclesial character, its ability to be integrated harmoniously into the life of God's holy and faithful people for the good of all." In responding to God's call, young people see their own ecclesial horizon expand; they are able to consider various charisms and to undertake a more objective discernment. In this way, the community becomes the home and the family where vocations are born.



Candidates gratefully contemplate this mediation of the community as an essential element for their future. They learn to know and to love their brothers and sisters who pursue paths different from their own; and these bonds strengthen in everyone the communion which they share."

Let us take some time to thank the Lord of the Harvest for our own vocation and for the ecclesial nature that St. Francis brought to our spirituality as he sought to have his little band blessed by the Church.

Happenings in Mound Bayou *Continued from p. 2*

Gulf Coast, the Sisters met up with friends of St. Gabriel Mercy Center, our St. Vincent de Paul benefactors from Pascagoula, Mississippi.



A one-day outing to Hammond, Louisiana, to visit with Sister Juden Lang and her sister, Dorothy was a delight! Sister Juden was on her home-visit celebrating a family wedding. Niece Debbie, and husband, Mike, hosted us at their home with an authentic Southern luncheon: shrimp, catfish, crawfish, and all the trimmings.



Tuesday, March 21st brought the members of the new Board of Directors of St. Gabriel Mercy Center together for their first active session. Unfortunately, Mr. Vic Byas needed to be absent on this particular evening. Indeed, we are moving forward the mission, vision, philosophy, and values!

By Sister Emry Beth Furrer

Creative Hands

Recently Sister Christine Stoller brought these fox animal hats in two different sizes to the Motherhouse. Besides the fox Sister has made puppy dogs, frogs, lady bugs, pigs, cows, Dalmatians, owls, panda bears, snowmen, minions, and emoji hats. She makes them in different sizes, from newborn through adult. The basic hat takes about three hours to make. Preparation time for the added features vary with the hat.



Many of the animal hats are donated to the craft room at the Motherhouse where there are also, baby cocoons, and baby sets made by Sister Christine.



Sister particularly enjoys making small items because they go faster. The variety of animal hats keeps her intrigued and is currently a big item: She has made approximately 25-30 since October. “Soon, she says, the session for these will be over and I will move to other items or make some for next year.”

Sister Christine has enjoyed various crafts since a young age—learning to crochet and knit as a child. Sewing was added to her craft repertoire in high school making play clothes for my young sisters. For a period in her life she did other crafts, e.g. counted-cross stitch, macramé, and bead work.

Completing her 25th year as Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family, Sister teaches a variety of courses, including a computer literacy course for non-computer majors and minors. She also teaches courses in the computer major and minor programs such as Fundamentals of Computing (students learn to develop apps for Android devices), Web Design & Development, Java Programming, etc. Sister also directs the Stangel Academic Computer Lab and is the onsite administrator for the College’s learning management system

The Sisters at Chiara convent enjoy Sister Christine’s love for cooking and baking on a regular basis.

Let us pray for the deceased



SISTER VIRGINIA
NEJA

Born: June 13, 1928
Died at Holy Family Convent
March 11, 2017

Religious Profession of Vows
August 15, 1946

Let us pray for the deceased



SISTER FLORENCE
PIOTRZKOWSKI

Born: March 2, 1931
Died at Holy Family Convent
March 12 2017

Religious Profession of Vows
June 14, 1949



Journal file photo



www.travelchannel.com

The Travel Channel's "Bizarre Foods"

The Mining Journal a daily newspaper of Marquette, Michigan, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan ran an article on March 16 covering The Travel Channel's "Bizarre Food" episode on the Republic pasty. Parts of the article follow.

Marquette—Food has enormous power within a society. It can bring a diverse community together for a common cause, it can build tradition, bridges, and even churches.

St. Augustine Catholic Church in Republic has harnessed the power of food, and for that reason, it is one of several local specialties featured on an episode of the Travel Channel's "Bizarre Foods" this week.

The show's host Andrew Zimmern visited the church last year to film a segment about its popular traditional pasty sale.

The local staple, made with ground beef and pork, rutabagas, onions, and potatoes, has been a primary source of fundraising for the church since 1958.

Sister Margey Schmelzle, pastoral coordinator for the church, said the producers of the show wanted to film the entire process in one day — which was a challenge because

the process is normally completed over a period of four days using up to 50 volunteers.

"They wanted to see the process of the pasty sale," Schmelzle said. "We normally have different crews coming in on different days for different jobs, but we managed."

Schmelzle said Zimmern participated in parts of the process on the day of filming, and appeared to have researched the history of the area.

"He had a lot of energy and he knew what he was going after subject-wise," Schmelzle said. "His premise was that it's the food that is drawing the people together — not in the same way as the mining did — but now it's the food, it's the pasties. It's whatever else the people are doing in the U.P."

The congregation has been making pasties using the same recipe for almost 60 years — the church was literally built that way.



Sister Mary Ann Tupy was pleased that two of her students at St. Theresa School, Kekaha, Hawaii were Kauai spelling bee winners.

Sister Prepares Students for Kauai Spelling Bee

Kekaha, Hawaii—Saint Theresa School hosted the annual School Spelling Bee this year on the island of Kauai in the last months. Sister was delighted to have two of her students place first and second. Hannah Brun (left) took first place and Kanoë Dusenberry (right) took second place.

Schmelzle said someone in the community came up with the idea to make a local version of the Cornish staple in 1958 as a fundraiser for the new building.

"I think there is a long history here, the recipe actually came from Cornwall, that we use. The family that came from Cornwall brought the recipe with them," Schmelzle said.

"Pasties are also a traditional favorite of the Finnish people who reside in Republic as well," Schmelzle said.

Sister Attends Catholics at the Capital

On Tuesday, March 28, Catholics—Bishops, priests, religious and lay persons—from around the state met at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison for Catholics at the Capitol 2017. I was privileged to be among them.

It was a day of prayer, formation, and advocacy sponsored by the Wisconsin Catholic Conference in cooperation with Catholic Charities, Diocesan Offices of Social Action and Respect Life, the Diocesan Councils of Catholic Women—Province of Milwaukee, the LCWR Region 9, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Councils.

The keynote address was by Colleen Stratton, a survivor of human trafficking. How she survived and got out was truly by the hand of God. There were breakout sessions which we could choose to attend. I was interested in the Immigration and Refugee Policy as well as the panel presentation on Confronting Issues of Race.

I came away a little depressed because I felt helpless to do anything. However, I also believe that it gave me hope that the Church is working in these troubled areas and that we can pray to resolve conflicts and differences. We are all children of God with different talents and gifts to be shared in our Catholic Church.

By Sister Mary Frances Maher



Tucson, Arizona—We had a sunny day for our Camp Franciscan fundraiser to support the 10 young women from Tucson who will be participating; eight are from San Miguel high school and two are University students! Everyone contributed bakery and lots of time! One of the girls from a San Xavier Mission family won the raffle for a stuffed dog—pure joy!

Submitted by Sister Mary Ann Spanjers



Sister Speaks at UWO Class

Sister Louise Hembrecht was invited to a recent class at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Sage Hall. Professor Kathleen Corley is the teacher of *Women and Religion*. She shared in an email invitation that “the students actually requested that she find a woman religious to come to speak to the class.” Sister Louise, having done something similar to this experience at another place of higher learning at the request of her own niece, was very willing to accept the offer.



Sister Louise was a guest speaker for Professor Kathleen Corley class, Women and Religion.

Sister Louise shared personally on a variety of topics. She also seized the moment to better articulate the definition

of women religious in the Catholic Church. The various families of men and women who serve the people of God, including Franciscans, were highlighted. Essential elements of religious life e.g. the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience were explained in the context of daily living and what a typical day was like.

Students were free to interject a question during any moment of the class period or send an emailed question later while working on a class project.

By Sister Julie Ann Sheahan

19 Employees Honored at Holy Family Convent

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—Nineteen employees were recognized April 2 at Holy Family Convent having completed their anniversary years of service in 2016.

Sister Elaine Turba, Human Resource Director, conveyed the Community's gratitude: "As a Community, we are grateful for all you have done for us throughout the years. What a gift you have been, and are to us! We look forward to having you with us in the years to come!"

Working here at the Motherhouse or at St. Francis Convent, our celebrants represented various areas of employment: nursing, wellness, housekeeping, food service, and health clinic.

15-35 year celebrants l to r:
20 years – Roxanne Bubolz;
25 years – Karen Disch;
30 years – Bonnie Jost;
35 years – Debra Wilhelm,
Becky Jerale,
Julie Eggert.
Celebrants not attending:
15 years – Joan Zutz
20 years – Stacie Sanford.



5 year celebrants left to right: Corina Whitaker, Katie Brey, Susan Rogala, and Jessica Heim. Unable to attend: Lori Suettinger



10 year celebrants left to right: Ann Nagel, Jeannine Neuenfeldt, Debra Waack, Donna Brunner, and Laura Fencil. Not pictured: Sarah Gagnon.

ACWR Board Meets at the Motherhouse



ACWR Board Members: Sister Caritas, Secretary; Sarah Cantor-Past President, Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary in Lake Oswego, Oregon; Kathy Hertel-Baker – President, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Bardstown, KY; Veronica Buchanan- ACWR Executive Secretary, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati; Jennifer Head – Member-at-Large, Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Dubuque, Iowa; Sister Ladonna Kassmeyer, FSPA – Treasurer. Denise Gallo (unable to attend): Daughters of Charity, Emmitsburg, MD.

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—On March 30-31 officers of the Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) Board held their spring board meeting at Holy Family Convent. Board meetings are held twice a year at different

community Motherhouses where each archivist can show how her archives have been set up and how the community honors their heritage through display, museum, etc. Each is unique, varies in size and shape, and always stimulates new ideas and ways of displaying community memorabilia. Sister Caritas Strodthoff hosted the members who enjoyed their stay in Marion Hall, had time for ice cream at *The Cow*, and concluded their work with a delicious meal at *Luigi's*.

The main agenda concerns were: needed changes in the bylaws, updates on progress of the new ListServ added to ACWR web site, and continuing plans for the upcoming ACWR Conference to be held in Louisville, Kentucky – September 13-15, 2018. The next meeting will be hosted by Emily Reed, newly elected ACWR Vice President/President-Elect, in Belmont, North Carolina, at the Archives for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

By Sister Caritas Strodthoff

Sisters' Road Trip to Houghton, MI



After a journey of beautiful, snowy landscapes, Franciscan Sisters celebrated St. Patrick's Day at St. Albert the Great Newman Center, Houghton, Michigan. The evening began with invoking the Trinity at Eucharist. Pastor Father Ben Hasse's homily offered an Office of Readings text from the Confession of St. Patrick: "If I am worthy, I am ready also to give up my life, without hesitation and most willingly, for his name. I want to spend myself in that country, even in death, if the Lord should grant me that favor."

Students then served a festive meal. Father Ben helped bake the traditional Irish soda bread. Food was followed by a fireside chat panel including pictured above 1 to 4: Judy Turba Roemer (sibling of Sister Anne Turba), Sister Julie Ann Sheahan, Sister Caritas Strodthoff, and Sister Anne Turba. We addressed the topic of chastity with students and others gathered around the circle sharing their wisdom.



Young women who share the Catholic faith and living accommodations invited us to a post-tea party. Conversation flowed freely. St. Francis and St. Clare would love their dining room furniture: a picnic table! Along with hearing about everyone's course of study and family background, we also enjoyed sharing the convent concept of 'house meetings'.

By Sister Julie Ann Sheahan