

Communigram

Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity
Volume 51 Issue 9 November 2017



Remembering Our Deceased Sisters

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—During the entrance procession for the Mass on the November 2, the Feast of All Souls, the Sisters at the Motherhouse remembered the nine Sisters who died since November 1, 2016. Pictured in the above collage they are front row l to r: Sister Roselani Gomes (May 26), Sister Malachy Donnelly (May 25), Sister Mary Kevin Mitchka (Nov. 14), and Sister Karen Anne Berger (Aug. 30).

Back row l to r: Sister David Marie Long (Jan. 20), Sister Mary Josephine Schmitt (April 24), Sister Florence Piotrkowski (Mar. 12), Sister Virginia Neja (March 11), and Sister Anne Brochtrup (May 4).



The environment display in St. Mary chapel for the Feast of All Saints featured photos of persons canonized or beatified in 2017.

This day [Feast of All Saints - Nov. 1, 2017], Pope Francis said, "is a family celebration of many simple and hidden people who actually help God to push the world forward."

FSCC Return to St. Francis School, Yuma, AZ



Yuma, Arizona—How exciting! For the first time in about 15 years the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity are serving at Saint Francis of Assisi School, Yuma, Arizona.

The Sisters that are serving at Saint Francis are Sister Mary Beth Kornely and Sister Hannah Johnecheck. Sister Mary Beth is a part-time office assistant and Sr. Hannah Johnecheck is the Second Grade teacher. The people of Saint Francis have been extremely welcoming and excited to have Sisters back. As the expression goes, the people of Yuma are truly as warm as the weather.

The faculty and staff of Saint Francis are a group of extremely talented people who understand the value of teamwork. Sister Hannah was in awe the first day she entered her classroom to start setting it up for the year when two teachers came in and offered to help her cover her bulletin boards. In fifteen minutes Sister Hannah and these two teachers had all six bulletin boards covered. This

was her introduction to the value of teamwork present at Saint Francis.

A school office is a place buzzing with activity; there are many different projects and people that fill each day! Sister Mary Beth is able to help with the overflow of paperwork so that the regular secretary can keep up with all the reports, scraped knees, phone messages and unending requests.



Needless to say, Sisters Mary Beth and Hannah are delighted to be working with these beautiful people.

Article by Sister Hannah Johnecheck. Photos by Sister Mary Beth Kornely



Sisters Sing at St. Joseph Parish Sturgeon Bay

As a vocation awareness event, a group of Sisters traveled to St. Joseph Parish, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin on October 21 to lead the congregation in song for the Saturday evening Mass. Pastor Fr. Bob Stegmann extended the invitation announcing our arrival in the bulletin for weeks. We arrived with the sun shining to set up instruments before 4 p.m..



Indeed, the drive to Door County was fall picture perfect. The Eucharist truly was a celebration of a caring faith community in a loved golden-hued church. The building highlighted the richness of the natural and liturgical seasons.

After Mass, we were treated to a meal at Monica Hilbert's home, a special friend of our Community. It was a feast of good food and good conversation. We headed home very aware that Jesus is with us and with all we met on the road. - Sister Julie Ann Sheaban



Photo by Suzanne Weiss, SLC

Sister Teaches in SLC Nursing Program

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—Sister Anne Turba, NP, is teaching future nurses as a Silver Lake College of the Holy Family instructor. As an adjunct on the nursing department's faculty, she teaches the Pharmacology class to juniors on Tuesday and Wednesday. Sister had prior experience with student nurses when working as a teaching assistant while pursuing her own graduate degree at Marquette University, Milwaukee.

Nursing education has been a major part of our apostolate for more than 100 years. An all Franciscan Sister faculty at Holy Family School of Nursing in Manitowoc, Wisconsin had its first graduate in 1912. By 1923 our Sisters provided a fully credited program passing state requirements. Sisters experienced in obstetrics, pediatrics, orthopedics, medical-surgical, passed on fundamental skills to those seeking this career. Almost at the same time in

Zanesville Ohio, Good Samaritan School of Nursing offered training from 1905-1975. In Silver Lake College's more recent history, Sister Helena Young was department chair during some of the years when a bachelor of science in nursing program for registered nurses was provided in 1984-1990. In the last few years, Sister Sarah Bertler taught at Bellin School of Nursing, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Because of our Sisters' presence in these educational settings, some of the student nurses over the years developed relationships with our Sisters. This friendship opened the door to responding to God's call to be a Franciscan Sister as well. We pray that God's will be done in these current times. The world is ever in need of this healing presence!

By Sister Julie Ann Sheahan

Grandparents Day



Sisters Carol Juckem and June Smith led the Mass music for the all school Mass with Grandparents in attendance

Cambridge, Ohio—One hundred sixty Grandparents were welcomed at St. Benedict's School, on Thursday, October 12. They attended the all-school Mass, had breakfast, visited the classrooms, bought books at the annual Book Fair, and had lunch with their grandchildren.

During the homily, Fr. Paul Hrezo asked the children to remember some words of wisdom that they have heard from their Grandparents. Some responses were: "Catch more flies with honey than vinegar." "Treat others how you want to be treated." "Care for one another." "Don't be jealous but be grateful." "Forgive." "Respect." "Be courageous." "Share." - *Sister Sharon Paul*



Sister Jan Villemure welcomes a Grandmother and her granddaughter.

On the Road with NaProEthics



Omaha, Nebraska—Through the heat of the summer into the cool of the autumn, my CEO, the Holy Spirit, has been busy directing things inside and outside my office, the Center for NaProEthics. My on-the-road activities have been packed with all sorts of ethics projects and public presentations (see map). Things began with a lecture I delivered in **Dallas, Texas** on July 21st to the American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals on transgender challenges to healthcare rights of conscience. Then I flew to **Macon, Georgia** where, on August 12th, I shared the medical-moral excellence of our women's health science—NaProTECHNOLOGY—with the network of deeply committed people connected to and supportive of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Center for Life. I bonded with these folks immediately as they selflessly serve women in crisis pregnancies up to, including, and beyond delivery of their baby. Then, on September 19th, I flew to **Minneapolis, Minnesota** where I had the privilege of addressing the Minnesota Catholic Conference—all six bishops of Min-

nesota and their leadership staffs—on healthcare rights of conscience. Back to **Omaha, Nebraska** where from October 7th until the 13th I had the honor of serving on the Faculty of the Pope Paul VI Institute during the first

phase of their 40th educational conference. Highlights for me during this full immersion program were (1) planning, playing, and singing the daily liturgies and (2) uncovering the goodness, truth, and beauty of *Humanae Vitae* and God's original plan for human procreation for the 79 physicians and practitioners from around the country and the world who were assembled in the Omaha Sheraton Hotel. But the Holy Spirit continued to "fly low" as I like to say as he guided me to **Neenah-Menasha, Wisconsin** and the Jane Bergstrom Performing Arts Center where on October 21st one of our graduates from the Surgical NaPro Fellowship, Dr. Melissa Weidert, and I jointly presented on the FertilityCare System of family planning and the entire health science of NaProTECHNOLOGY to a group of interested married couples, healthcare professionals and clergy. Smooth take-offs and safe landings all. . . Praised be Jesus Christ and His Spirit of Life and Love!

By Sister Renée Mirkes



Saturday Smorgasbord for Sisters at Greenwood

Greenwood, Mississippi—The Sisters at St. Francis began the morning on Saturday, October 14 by attending a "Regional Faith in Action Workshop" here in the cafeteria. The session was sponsored by the Diocese of Jackson and dealt with the topics of Catholic Social Teaching, Parish Social Ministry and Advocacy. The Diocese is encouraging parishes to form "Faith in Action Teams" which will build on the existing social ministry programs so that Catholics can more effectively live the Gospel.

Following the workshop, a group of our parishioners gathered at the grotto of Mary next to our convent to pray the rosary and commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions to the children at Fatima.

Next on the day's busy agenda was our Fall "Meet the Sisters" gathering. As the young ladies arrived, snacks were served and games "relaxed" everyone! "Heads Up," using a tablet was first. This has become a favorite activity for the group. Then our guests were challenged to use a spoon to transfer ping pong balls from a full bowl to an empty bowl. Finally, with a sandwich

Continued on page 7.

JUST Gospel!

By Sister Kathleen Murphy
Social Justice Commission

. . . *Spirit of love, crush the pain of hatred . . . Make us your own, now is the time . . .* The words of Tom Kendzia's song seem so very appropriate for our present world situation. Yet, how can we make these more than just words or a nice hymn to sing at Mass. How can we bring these words to life?

Jesuit and former papal spokesman, Father Federico Lombardi gives us some thoughts in this area. He writes, "We can communicate to establish a dialogue, to arrive at an encounter and thus to build together communion in the church, in society and in the family of peoples. We can also communicate to divide, to offend, to spread hate, to prevail over the other. Indeed sometimes it is theorized that communication is more effective, interesting and dynamic if it is conflictual, if it thrives in opposition and struggle. I have always invited my collaborators to take as their motto: *'Communicating to*

unite, communication to build communion.' We now begin to recognize the seriousness of the spread of hate speech on the internet and how it can be used as a way to catalyze and channel hatred. In our history we still experience the divisions of Babel, but we must let the Spirit of Pentecost guide us from Babel to Pentecost, from division and confusion to universal understanding and communion."

In this same vein, Pope Francis chooses as his prayer intention the following: *That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.* At first glance we might think this intention has nothing to do with us, but is just for Asian Christians. Yet we are called to pray for these challenged Christians and for the suffering Church in this part of the world. We pray that they will be Spirit-led in their

encounters and communications with those of other and even oppositional faiths. We pray that their spirit of love may crush the pain of hatred.

Beyond praying for the strength and courage needed by these distant brothers and sisters, we also hear the challenge of our Core Values statement which reads: *We work at building community by learning to better communicate with each other.* So we pray for the fortitude needed to honestly communicate for unity in parts of the world oceans away, but we also pray for the grace to communicate for unity among our Sisters and all we encounter daily. Here in the everyday meetings we experience, we need to call on God's Spirit of love to crush the pain of hatred in our local community, in our total community, in our ministry groups, in our towns, in our nation, in Asia, in our world, for *now is the time!*

Cancer Awareness Activities

Greenwood, Mississippi—The Franciscan Sisters, St. Francis of Assisi faculty, and students participated in Cancer Awareness the week of October 16-20. During Wednesday's school Mass the students carried up candles in remembrance of those who died of cancer, those who survived, and their caregivers. Survivors were mentioned by name in the prayers of petition. Thursday, pink table cloths covered the cafeteria

tables and pink lemonade was "on tap." Come Friday the students came in with pledge sheets and monies for the cancer walk slated for the afternoon. At 2:00 p.m. everyone headed for the field behind the school. Mrs. Lewis gave a countdown and students and teachers began doing laps. The aim was for everyone to do five laps. Some did more and little ones did less, but it all averaged out to a worthwhile activity.



After the long walk a refreshing bottle of water or a snow cone hit the spot!

Sister Teaches in Consortium of Catholic Schools

Desiring to share our new ministries, Sister Elizabeth Benvie updates us on her music teaching in the Consortium of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Green Bay.

Thank you for your prayerful support as I embark on my new mission experience of teaching music for the Consortium of Catholic Schools!

In the past weeks, I completed about two months with three schools. All is going well so far. It takes time to get to know the personnel and students because I am not at each school for very long each week. The principals and teachers have been supportive and welcoming. The students seem eager to learn music, especially at the Chilton Area Catholic School (CACS). When I was setting up try-outs for the musical with grades 6-8 at CACS, the students were quick to raise their hands to ask if they could try out for solos! I was pleasantly surprised at the eagerness of these students and their desire to participate in this way. Usually students at the junior high level shy away from the spotlight.



Fun with music at Divine Savior School, Kiel.

Different days, different schools:

Mondays—Mornings at Kiel, Divine Savior (PreK-8, 91 students) and afternoons in Chilton CACS (PreK-8, 91 students)



At Good Shepherd School, Chilton.

Tuesdays—All day. Clarks Mills St. Mary/St. Michael (PreK-8, 33 students) I assist with their school Mass before teaching music. Their parish musician plans/plays all of the Masses. We have an 8:15 a.m. Mass each Tuesday except when the schedule changes.

Wednesdays—All day. Chilton CACS. I plan, prepare the song leaders/choir and lead the music for their school Mass before teaching music.

Thursdays—I have been giving Novice Sister Colleen Demro guitar lessons in the early afternoon. So far I have two guitar students at Holy Family Conservatory—one in the afternoon and one in the early evening. Stanislava Varshavski, Director of Education, and I are working on plans for teaching two group guitar lessons (9-12 year olds 6:15-7:00 p.m. and Adults 7:15-8:15 p.m.) beginning the second week of January for seven weeks. I am also taking action pictures for the Holy Family Conservatory website.

Sundays—I will be playing and directing the grades 6-8 CACS choir



Sister at Divine Savior School, Kiel.

for the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass on the third Sunday of each month. The Masses are at Good Shepherd church in Chilton.

Christmas programs are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at each school.

Chilton, CACS—Thursday, December 7

Clarks Mills, St. Mary/St. Michael School—Tuesday, December 12



Kiel, Divine Savior School—Tuesday, December 19 only at 6:30 p.m.

There is plenty of preparation for each of the three schools. I am blessed to have a music room in each school and a place to securely store some of the materials. The other materials needed I carry with me. Two of the schools even have Smart boards, which is a real asset when teaching. Clarks Mills has a 2-3 octave set of hand chimes! I have already been teaching the Clarks Mills 5-8 grade students to play the hand chimes and they just love it!

As you might imagine, it is a supreme joy to minister at these three schools in spite of the obvious challenges. Thank you for your prayerful support.



Archives Workshop Attended

Did you know that there is a national shrine museum of St. Therese just a 2-3 hour drive from here? Sister Caritas Strodthoff, Community Archivist, attended a Claretian Archives Workshop October 1-4 at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, Illinois, just three miles off I-294 around Chicago. Mass was held daily during the workshop except for the last day. The shrine was just a short block over from the center so many of the archivists attending the meeting walked over to the chapel for Mass. It was really a most beautiful chapel and museum dedicated to St. Therese.

The title of the workshop was “Non-Print Materials in Religious Archives.” The first evening Malachy McCarthy, PhD gave an introduction to the workshop calling us to “A Different Perspective: How Non-Print Materials Enhance the Archives.” He challenged us to look at how religious life has impacted the culture of all ages and transition through the changes of time as documented through photographs and the stories that they tell. Just look at the how photos of habit changes document the variety that existed at one time.

Your hard copy photos are so important!!

The first day was dedicated to photographs and was presented by Jennifer Halloran, Director of Maryknoll Archives. She covered appraisal, preservation, arrangement, description and digitization of photos. Photos are more than just a photo—they are a “Moment in Time.” They capture memories, tell stories, and document art work, etc. They are essential to researchers which is why preservation is vital to being able to document “Moments in Time” that are long past. The second presentation was on Audio Preservation followed by Digital Project Management, and then Moving Images, Historical Analysis of Film. This last presentation on the development of moving pictures on film was most interesting, but the day spent on photos—most beneficial. There were 23 attendees at the conference, several of them who belong to Archivists for Congregations of Religious Women (ACWR) and several whom I have met at past meetings. It was delightful to meet up with them again and share their ongoing archival achievements.

By Sister Caritas Strodthoff

Saturday in Greenwood

Continued from page 4.

cookie on their brow the young ladies had to try and get the cookie into their mouth using only their facial muscles!

Sister Kathleen Murphy led the group in making a decade of a rosary using cord and beads in the same fashion as St. Theresa beads. She carried the theme of the rosary a little further. All were divided into five groups with a bag of miscellaneous items. Each group acted out a mystery using all the items in their bag. It took some thought and led to a lot of laughter as the audience figured out which mystery was being portrayed.

With Sister Elena Gonzales’ hot dogs and Sister Judy Norwick’s s’mores, the young ladies were perfectly content.



Finally, it was time to come together in chapel for a prayer planned and led by Sister Judy Norwick. Here we prayed for world peace through the intercession of Mary. A decade of the rosary was included in this prayer service. It was a perfect time to try out the new craft decade each young woman had made.

By Sister Annette Kurey

Commemorating the Quincentennial of the Reformation

The Sisters from St. Benedict's Convent, Cambridge, Ohio attended a Hymn Festival commemorating the Quincentennial of the Reformation at Brown Chapel, on the campus of Muskingum University, New Concord, Ohio on Sunday, October 29, 2017. Latin chants, German chorales, Anglican hymns, and spiritual songs from myriad cultures were sung by the 60 member chorus of the University, led by Zebulon Highben and accompanied by a brass quintet and percussion led by David Turrill. The audience joined in on different verses. Texts were as ancient as the 7th century up to melodies composed in 2016.



The themes of the program explored points of theological consensus between Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed Christian who were represented by three speakers: ordained clergy from each of those three traditions: Fr. Don Franks, Rev. Amanda Highben, and Rev. William Mullins.

Submitted by Sister Sharon Paul



*Sister Carol Ann Gamsky in Wind Ensemble Class.
Photo by Suzanne Weiss, SLC*



Sister Sue Ann Hall with pro-lifers in St. Louis.