

Communigram

Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity

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Manitowoc, Wisconsin—Fifty-seven Sisters at the Motherhouse celebrated their local house Community Days August 25 and August 26 after which they posed for this group picture on the stairs of the front lobby. We thank God for each other as Sisters in Community journeying to conversion through Gospel living and for the beauties of creation in which our convent home is nestled. Below, Sunday morning—“From our hearts we thank You, for your countless blessings!”



St. Clare Convent – beginnings and endings

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—The local house archives of St. Clare Convent dated May 18, 1984, reads: “We moved!!!” This small notation is referring to the fact that the hospital Sisters had moved from the hospital’s 5th floor into St. Clare Convent located at 3 Riverview Drive, Manitowoc—immediately north of Holy Family Memorial Medical Center.



Previously, on November 10, 1983, ground breaking had taken place with Sister Lois Ann Gosch shown scooping the first shovel of dirt accompanied by Rev. Richard Klingeisen, Sisters Stephen Marie Luebbert, Joy Rose, Helena Young, St. Barbara Haen, Clarence “Jiggs” Hartman, and Sister Catherine Glim. Absent was Sister Mary Felice Wellman.

During the 33 years of its operation (1984-2017), St. Clare Convent was considered ‘home’ to 238 Sisters. Two hundred thirty-eight Sisters x 33 years totals 7,951 years of housing provided to individuals!

Some Sisters were missioned at St. Clare Convent for several consecutive years; some were missioned multiple non-consecutive times; very few were stationed at St. Clare less

than 3 years. The highest number of occupants at one time was 11 Sisters (1992). The lowest number was 3 Sisters (2017). The average yearly number of Sisters stationed at St. Clare was be 7.2.



On June 10, 2017, the last three Sisters who had lived at 3 Riverview Drive, Manitowoc, left encouraging the good memories and fine stories to live on in the hearts of those who enjoyed calling St. Clare Convent home for a while.

Submitted by Sister Rochelle Kerkhof

Summer Bible School



This summer Sister Veronica Schad and Sister Marsaia Kaster went to Spalding, Michigan to teach Vacation Bible School for children at St. John Neumann Parish. Sister Marsaia reflects on the experience— For many years some Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity have gone

each summer to this parish in upper Michigan. We enjoyed working with boys and girls from age four through sixth grade. The theme of the week became the Good Shepherd. A new priestly-shepherd is present in the parish and welcomed us all. Father Jacek Wtyklo, came from Poland 17 years ago to serve in the Marquette, Michigan diocese.

Sister Veronica did many exciting and engaging things with her dozen students. Dry bones, gifts of the Spirit, Mass kits, songs and rhythm instruments as well as time for prayer and scripture stories, and visits to church made their days special. I worked with the older students. They took on special tasks to formulate offertory petitions, prepare Mass readings, and lead the singing.

Debbie, a friend of the parish, promised a year ago to bring sheep to class some morning. On Tuesday morning it happened! The Good Shepherd theme was enjoyed and experienced in an especially pleasing manner. The lambs were four months old and had been shorn once. Father Jacek led them into the group of children and adults who petted and had pictures taken with them.

Then all went to Mass where the songs and readings celebrated Jesus, our Good Shepherd. How happy we were to ponder our role as sheep and the love of our shepherd.

By Sister Marsaia Kaster

Heritage Walk



Photo by Sister Elena Gonzales



This year's Heritage Walk, July 8, 2017, began on San Road in White-law. Sister Caritas Strodthoff read from Mother Gabriel's memoirs which noted that Father Joseph Fessler sent Theresa Gramlich to teach at the public school located on county road "S" in 1866. The school is long gone but it was significant to start the heritage walk here. On her way walking home to Clarks Mills, Teresa would meet members of the Joseph Fullmer family who lived on Pine Street. She also met their young daughter, Pauline, who later joined the Community and became Mother Alexia.

The heritage walk began with a prayer and blessing for those making the journey. About 16 Sisters walked the first half of the trip (about 7-8 miles) to Clarks Mills. Here Mass was celebrated by Father Dick Klingeisen. Following the Mass, lunch was served—brought out by Chef Tom from the Motherhouse. Thirty-two Sisters attended the Mass and lunch—then the bravest continued the walk to the Motherhouse, another 9 miles. Three Sisters road their bikes and enjoyed the beauty of the countryside.

By Sister Julie Ann Sheahan

St. Gabriel Mercy Center, Inc. Nominated for Lumen Christi Award



Mound Bayou, Mississippi—St. Gabriel Mercy Center, Inc. is one of eight finalists recently nominated by the Catholic Diocese of Jackson for the Lumen Christi Award, which is the highest honor bestowed by the Catholic Extension based in Chicago to organizations, individuals, or groups who demonstrate how the power of faith can transform lives and communities. "Lumen Christi"

is a Latin phrase taken from the Easter vigil, meaning "Light of Christ." St. Gabriel Mercy Center is definitely a "light" for the city of Mound Bayou whose mission is to promote and enhance the quality of life and human dignity for residents of Bolivar County.

St. Gabriel Mercy Center is a non-profit organization which operates on grants, donations, and volunteers. St. Gabriel Mercy Center offers a variety of programs at no cost to the citizens of the community and is committed to providing opportunities people need to realize their full potential as responsible, productive, and caring citizens. The winner of the award will be an-



"St. Gabriel Mercy Center is a hub for outreach services that accommodate the people of Mound Bayou and the surrounding areas of the County," said Sister Monica Mary DeQuardo, Executive Director.

nounced in the fall. If St. Gabriel Mercy Center is selected as the winner of the Lumen Christi Award, the Catholic Extension will provide \$25,000 to assist with the programs.

Submitted by Trena L. Robinson, MBA, Director of Advancement and Communications/Public Relations, St. Gabriel Mercy Center, Inc.

In the Good Old Summertime



4th of July Parade at the Motherhouse



Kekaha, Hawaii—St. Theresa parish and school honored our Sisters before they left the mission in early June. L to r: Sisters Janet Rose, Mary Ann Tupy, and Michael Ann O'Donnell.



Beginning a new mission in the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan—Sisters l to r: Jacqueline Spaniola, Carolee Vanness, and Marcelyn Gervais, moved August 2017 into the former St. Anne Rectory, Chassell, Michigan.



Cambridge, Ohio—St. Benedict's School students were awarded a swimming TREAT at the City Park Pool on Tuesday, August 29, 2017. Each grade was given a number of books of their choice to read during the summer and IF they read their quota they enjoyed an afternoon of swimming. This project was directed by Sister Helen Marie Paul, Librarian at St. Benedict's School.



←West Point, Nebraska—As part of their annual Community Days the Sisters travelled to Boys Town, Nebraska for Mass at Immaculate Conception Church. Pictured l to r: Sister Barbara Mathe, Fr. Frank Lordemann, Sister Joy Rose, and Sister Elizabeth Ann Miller at the Boys Town Museum, Nebraska.

News in Pictures



Sister Elizabeth Ann Miller entered a Custard Raisin Pie At the Cuming County Fair where she won a blue ribbon for her special family recipe. The fair concluded with a parade through the park and down Main Street in West Point. Sister Elizabeth Ann joined the Guardian Angels Central Catholic Faculty and Students in handing out goodies to children gathered along the route.



Sisters in Yuma Arizona seated l to r: Sisters Ann Mary Hart, Hannah Jobnebeck, and Mary Beth Kornely. Standing l to r: Sisters Janet Rose, Alexandra Bettinardi, and Charleen Acker.



Sister Jean Anne Moser and Sister Anna Maar worked with the novices in the sewing room. Each of the first year novices made an apron for herself during the time there. Then on Friday evening, August 25th, they put their aprons to good use in the dish washing room (see below).

Photos by Sister Elizabeth Bennie



Sisters at the Motherhouse sang the Blessing of St. Francis over Sister Tuyen Ngoc Le as she prepared to leave us to pursue a Masters in Theology at Villanova University in Pennsylvania.



Serving the people of West Point, Nebraska are l to r: Sister Elizabeth Ann Miller, Sister Joy Rose, and Sister Barbara Mathe.



Sister Cecilia Joy Kugel



Sister Clare Rose Oswald



Sister Colleen Demro



Sister Juana Lucero enjoyed whipping up Hot Green Chili Relish from roasted jalapeno peppers while visiting her family and the Sisters at Bapchule, Arizona.



Sisters June Smith, Jan Villemure, Helen Marie Paul, and Sharon Paul enjoyed a Community outing to Sugar Creek, Ohio.



Sister Hannah Jobnebeck (back far right) was among the teachers at St. Francis School in Yuma, Arizona who reaped new knowledge during their in-service days from Sister Mary Karen Oudeans who ministers at the Diocese of Tucson.

Sisters Witness at 2017 Steubenville on the Lake Conference

On the weekend of July 21-23, 2017, Sisters Theresa Feldkamp and Elaine Turba witnessed at the Steubenville on the Lake Youth Conference at Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin. The theme was Elevate: *Behold I make all things new* (Revelation 21:5).



Sisters Theresa and Elaine arrived at the conference with an assortment of materials prepared by our Sisters to share with the 1,500 participants expected to be in attendance. Hand-crafted items included paper-beaded rosaries or a wood-burned PAX on pieces of wood done by Sister Elaine's father.

After preparing the display table, not only did they meet young people from Manitowoc, but a significant group of youth from the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan. Marquette Diocese Bishop John Doerfler, Vocation Director and Pastor of Houghton's St. Albert the Great, Father Ben Hasse, and Father Corey Litzner, pastor of Baraga County Catholic Community, were among the leaders of faith communities represented in the crowd who stopped to visit. It was a good time to allow the Holy Spirit to build relationships otherwise not possible at another time or place.

By Sister Julie Ann Sheahan

Sister at NPM Convention in Cincinnati

Sister Kathleen Murphy attended the National Pastoral Musicians Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Its purpose was to foster the art of musical liturgy. The members of NPM serve the Catholic Church in the United States as musicians, clergy, liturgists, and other leaders of prayer. A full time kindergarten teacher, Sister Kathleen also leads the adult choir, serves as Director of Religious Education, and plans children's school liturgies at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Greenwood, MS.

It is a privilege and a joy to experience the National Pastoral Musicians Convention. This is a gathering of nearly 1500 Church musicians and liturgists of all description from all over the U.S. and from other countries as well. It provides a chance to gain knowledge and inspiration in the areas of music from contemporary to chant, from vocal to instru-

mental, from liturgical to inspirational: liturgical topics such as the use of antiphons in the Mass, bringing cultural richness to the liturgy, promoting celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours, planning Taize prayer experiences; network with professional composers, liturgists and musicians to learn from their experience and to make connections that may lead to appearances on a local level for revivals, parish missions or retreats. It is not often that one gets to sight read dozens of new pieces of liturgical music along with over 1000 professional musicians. It is truly awe inspiring!

A song that is particularly touching for me is Jesse Manibusan's *Hold On To Love*. It's simple but beautiful melody reminds us to hold on to the person of Love, Jesus in all circumstances. An idea that sticks with me came from a retreat morning led by



Lorraine Hess. She lives in New Orleans and she reflected on her experience of Hurricane Katrina. She watched the water rising from her home which lay below sea level, behind the levee. As the water prepared to overflow and she and her family evacuated she remembers the physical reality that water will flow to and fill the lowest place. She likened this truth to the movement of God's mercy in us. His loving mercy will flow to the lowest place in our hearts and there He longs to heal us. Beautiful! I am grateful for having the chance to experience this amazing event!

JUST Gospel!

By Sister Kathleen Murphy
Social Justice Commission

“Now is the time!” With this issue of the Monthly Memo we begin a new series of reflections in the sphere of Social Justice. Maybe you remember times when you were a child and your mom or big sister braided your hair. This year our reflections will be the product of some braiding. We hope to weave in some lyrics to the song *Now Is the Time* by Tom Kendzia along with Pope Francis’ prayer intentions for each month and finish with the strand of some concepts from the Core Values articulated as a result of our 2013 Chapter. Our goal is to bring the reality of social justice issues into our daily living and praying. So, NOW is the time, let us begin!

“...Take hold of us, our hearts, our minds, our whole being. Make us your own, now is the time...” These words from the song *Now is the Time*, are a good way to launch our considerations. Our times call for actions and prayers that aim for a more just and peaceful world community.

Pope Francis’ intention for this month is *That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.* This petition is easily woven together with the lyrics of our theme song.

Unless God takes hold of our hearts, there can be no missionary spirit. The call to go out and evangelize must originate in the faithful heart. Our song also asks God to take our minds. Pope Francis prays

for parishes and communities where faith is communicated. We are thus challenged to gain, reflect on and share a clear and true version of our Catholic Faith. This is the work of a mind given over to God. Finally our song asks God to take our whole being and make us His own. This complete giving over to God results in charity which is visible and viable.

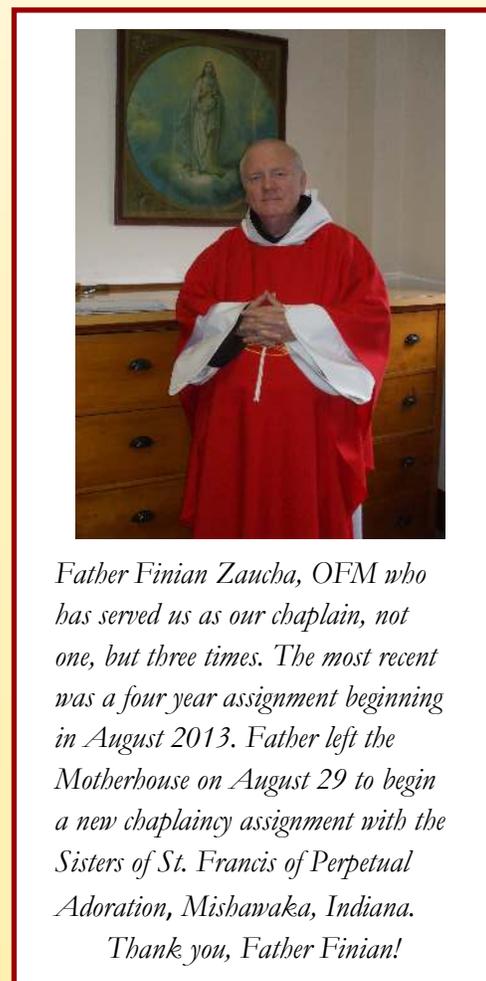
We have an example in living such a missionary spirit. St. John Paul II was not afraid to witness to his faith and he urged us to be bold as well. He emphatically announced the message of peace when he said, “War no more!” as he pounded the lectern at an Angelus address. He enacted the result of God taking over his heart when he went to the prison to forgive his assassin and did it with the world watching. He bravely gave over his whole being by allowing his weakness to be shown to all as illness took his strength.

And us, in our life? How do we let God take our whole being? How do we become animated by a missionary spirit marked by a faith that is proclaimed and a charity that is evident? Our Core Values state: *We witness a radical and joyful way of life through selfless dedication to the service of others by showing loving respect and compassion whether serving or being served.* This is a perfect parallel to Pope Francis prayer. We value a life marked by the words “radical”, “joyful”, and “selfless”. This kind of life can only be lived by one who is



given over totally to God in real time. Such a life longs to blossom into missionary spirit of recognizable faith and perceptible charity that help to bring about justice.

So as this month progresses, let us ask God to take our lives and form them so that we might live the missionary spirit in a radical, joyful and selfless way. For, *now is the time!*



*Father Finian Zaucha, OFM who has served us as our chaplain, not one, but three times. The most recent was a four year assignment beginning in August 2013. Father left the Motherhouse on August 29 to begin a new chaplaincy assignment with the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, Indiana.
Thank you, Father Finian!*

Franciscans Remember 20 year Anniversary



Left to Right:
Sister Rochelle Kerkhof, Sister Natalie Binversie,
Sister Delores Vogt, Sister James Ellen Woolsey



Right photo l to r: the Sisters mission in Greenwood today, Sisters Elena Gonzales, Judith Norwick, Annette Kurey, and Kathleen Murphy.

Greenwood Mississippi—Twenty years ago the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity answered the request of the Franciscan Friars of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Province to join them in ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Greenwood, MS. On July 28, 1997 four sisters; Sister Natalie Binversie, Sister Rochelle Kerkhof, Sister Delores Vogt and Sister James Ellen Woolsey left the Motherhouse as the Community blessed them singing, “The Blessing of St. Francis”.

Many of our Sisters have served here since that day and have found the blessings of life and ministry at St. Francis to be as

real for them as it was for those pioneer Sisters. In remembrance of these 20 years of presence and all the Sisters who have served here over the years, Fr. Jim Gannon, Provincial, and the Franciscan Friars of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Province gifted us with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. We enjoyed them with deep gratitude.
By Sister Annette Kurey

Let us pray for the deceased



← SISTER ANNE
BROCHTRUP
May 21, 1925
May 4, 2017



→ SISTER MALACHY
DONNELLY
Dec. 31, 1923
May 25, 2017



← SISTER ROSELANI
GOMES
March 21, 1927
May 26, 2017



→ SISTER KAREN
ANNE BERGER
Nov. 22, 1918
Aug. 30, 2017