

Communigram

Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity

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Sister Antonita Celebrates 100th Birthday

Celebrating with Sister Antonita on her 100th birthday are members of her family l to r: Sister Carol Diederich (sister), Edward (brother) Diederich, Dave and Marlynn (sister) Krings, Paul (brother) and Nancy Diederich, Sister Anonita, and Debi Diederich Ciaccio (niece). Mark Krings (nephew) was also at the celebration.

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—Sister Antonita Diederich a resident of St. Rita Health Center at Holy Family Convent, celebrated her 100th birthday on April 17, 2018. The celebration began the day before with the arrival of family members from Nebraska and Colorado.

A special reception commemorating the event was held in the Motherhouse cafeteria allowing Sisters from the local houses to greet Sister and her family while enjoying birthday cake and socializing with others.

Many happy memories were shared as Sister Antonita's family remembered a number of the Sisters from their home town of Lindsay, Nebraska and those Sisters who once taught there.



Sister Antonita Diederich on her 100th birthday.

Volunteers Recognized

Holy Family Memorial's volunteer banquet was held on April 24.

Milestone volunteers receive a lapel pin and as the number of hours increase, stones are added. Sister Marlene Schwaller served 100 hours and received the pin. Sister Marsaia Kaster received the 2nd stone for 2,000 hours. Sister Shirley Spilker has served 6,000 hours and Sister Paulyn Vanden Hogen was recognized for 7,000 hours of service. Other Sister volunteers attending were Sisters Dora Lee Monian, Georgellen Vissers and Rose Ulmen. Sisters Paula Vanden Hogen, and Patricia Linszen were asked to represent the members of the General Administration. Sister Laura Wolf represented our Sponsored Ministries and gave the after dinner remarks.

By Sister Marlene Schwaller

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



The photo shows Sister Emy Beth and Sister Monica Mary - as well as the daughter of Ms. Mammie Tates (Mound Bayou Community Service), Ms. Jenifer Jenkins (representing Father Kent Bowlds of Our Lady of Victories' Catholic Parish) and Mr. George Douglas (standing in for his brother, Mr. Myron Douglas, posthumously being commemorated) receiving an award which reads: "In Recognition for Years of Service and Dedication to St. Gabriel Mercy Center - Given on the Seventh Day of April, 2018 by the Board of Directors and the Administrative Team.

For nine years St. Gabriel Mercy Center in Mound Bayou, Mississippi has honored people and organizations that have supported the 'mission of service' at an annual fundraising event: 'A Night to Remember'. On April 7, 2018, Sister Monica Mary DeQuardo and Sister Emy Beth Furrer were honored, in the name of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, for their supportive ministry. The goal of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, as we replaced the Sisters who had gone before us, was to prepare St. Gabriel Mercy Center for the future when there would no longer be women or men religious to serve in the leadership position. Sister Monica Mary continued to prepare the staff, and put into place an administrative team that worked with her in augmenting the growth of the ten various adult education programs and

passed to his eternal reward on January 11, 2018. Ms. Mavis Honorable, Assistant Director and COO, was designated by the Board of Directors to serve as Interim Executive Director.

Submitted by: Sister Emy Beth Furrer and Sister Monica Mary DeQuardo



The event provided an occasion for Sisters Annette Kurey, Kathleen Murphy, and Judith Norvick from St. Francis Convent, Greenwood, to celebrate with Sister Monica Mary and Sister Emy Beth.

Spring Has Sprung at St. Rita's Despite Wintry Weather Outdoors



St. Rita's Sisters enjoyed making kites recently with staff from St. Rita's Activity Department. The kites constructed out of foam, Washi tape, fabric and ribbon are now "flying" in the computer parlor on 3rd floor in St. Rita's Health Center.

Submitted by Lisa Rezagb, Activity Coordinator

Franciscan Sisters Joyfully Ring Handbells

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—Sister Marcus Steede and Sister Elizabeth Benvie belong to the Silver Lake College Handbell Choir. On April 8th, the Silver Lake College Handbell Choir performed at St. Norbert's College under the direction of Sandra Eithun. They performed again on April 24th at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family.

Both Sisters are trained musicians who enjoy using their musical ability outside of their regular duties. Sister Marcus has taught violin and continues to teach cello at the Holy Family Conservatory of Music. Sister Elizabeth teaches general music at the Consortium of Schools including St. Mary/St. Michael School at Clarks Mills, Chilton Area Catholic School at Chilton, and Divine Savior Catholic School at Kiel.

By Sister Elizabeth Benvie



Sister Elizabeth and Sister Marcus play in Handbell Choir.

Sisters Attend IRL National Meeting

Sister Jean Anne Moser and Sister Mariella Erdmann attended the 2018 Institute of Religious Life (IRL) National Meeting at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois held April 6-8. The theme was *Religious Life . . . Ever Ancient, Ever Beautiful*. The days were filled with inspirational speakers, great sharing among other religious and those discerning a vocation to religious life as well as faith-filled liturgies. The meeting helped us to return home with renewed joy and dedication to carry on the mission given by Christ.

The two Keynote Speakers, Rt. Rev. Austin Murphy, O.S.B. and Father Cassian Folsm, O.S.B. were especially good in showing how there is a need for structure in religious life. This structure that does not go against the free spirit but rather al-

lows for much expression of a spirituality that can become truly counter-culture and once again show that we have a God that is worth living and dying for. The life of common prayer, meals, recreation, and work fosters personal growth in Jesus Christ and leads to personal conversion. We need to return to the spirit of the founder. We do not need more documents from the Church. *Perfectae Caritatis* is a key source for the renewal of Religious Life. What we need is the personal conversion of each member in our Community. Without a radical return to the sources we cannot survive.

The above are only a few ideas from



Sister Jean Anne and Sister Mariella with Brother Paschal Kolodziej. Brother is a Conventual Friar and is interested in our Community because of its ties with the Conventual Friars in years past.

the talks. There were, also, workshop sessions with inspiring speakers on topics of Evangelization, Discerning, Religious Life, Asceticism and Beauty, God is not Nice: Rejecting Pop Culture to mention a few.

By Sister Mariella Erdmann

Sisters Come To the Table with First Communicants

Greenwood Mississippi—The third Sunday of Easter held much happiness for 22 First Communicants.



The first Mass of the day was at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish with six happy First Communicants.

The second Mass was the 11:00a.m. at St. Francis parish. The two Communicants here attend St. Francis School and as the day of their First Communion came closer, the two children counted down the moments until they could receive Jesus with the rest of us. It only seemed right to sing with them, “This is the day!”



As the native dress indicates, Sierra and her family are Nigerian. All wanted to celebrate with her this happy occasion. Her little brother looks on waiting for his turn next year!

Brylon’s family is unique in that his great grandmother was an early convert at St. Francis Parish and when she arranged for her own baptism,



she included all her children in the reception of the Sacrament of Baptism on the same day. This picture shows four generations of Catholics who have belonged to the St. Francis Church community. Brylon couldn’t be happier! Monday morning, with a gleam in his eye, he asked if he could receive again on Wednesday at the school mass. The innocence and joy in his heart was a gift to behold!



At 1:30p.m. we had the celebration of First Communion at the Spanish Mass. At the close of Mass the usual pictures were taken of this happy group of 14 young Hispanic children along with Fr. Kim, the pastor, and Sister Kathleen, who helped Sister Elena with the final preparations for the day’s celebration.

The Church and the city of Greenwood is blessed to have so many of its children happy and excited about

their reception of the Lord’s Body and Blood. May this joy carry them through the ups and downs life will bring them as the Lord’s love grows and deepens in their hearts.

By Sister Annette Kurey



Sister Carolee Vanness with her students on their First Communion day—Sacred Heart School, L’Anse, Michigan.



Sister Veronica Schad is pictured with one of her First Communion students from St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Manitowoc. Sister teaches two religious education classes for the parish preparing students for the sacraments. She and Sister Michael Ann O’Donnell also prepare students at School Hill.

JUST Gospel!

By Sister Kathleen Murphy
Social Justice Commission

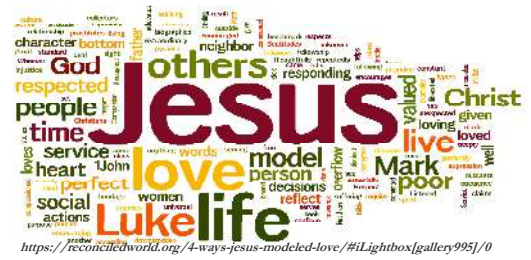
...*Make us your own. now is the time...*
We know that we belong to you in every fiber of our being, and yet in our day to day rush and rumble we often forget whose we are. We operate under the false idea that we belong to ourselves and can determine our own way. Sometimes we feel that we belong to the ministry we strive to perform. No matter what error becomes our *modus operandi*, the truth remains that we belong to God and we live and grow and strive in his time.

Pope Francis asks us to pray: *That the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.* Of course this attention to the lay faithful includes us in our role in the Church. So, as we belong to God, so do all the members of the Church in all the ways in which they serve. This intention is a mighty challenge particularly in pondering all the troubles in the world today. We could go on for volumes and never begin to cover all such issues. So, perhaps we can look at one basic attitude that arises in societies the world around. This is the issue of human dignity and respect.

Cardinal Joseph Tobin of Newark, NJ shares the following story. “In the early 1980’s a series of deanery meetings was planned throughout the West Side of Detroit for the purpose of implementing the Bishops’ pastoral letter “Brothers and Sisters to Us” which was about the sin of racism. One such meeting

was held in an affluent section of Bergen County where a good number of well-meaning Catholics had assembled to learn how they could combat the sin of racism. As they entered the parish activity building, they passed a young African-American man dressed in working clothes, who hung up their coats, served coffee and mopped up any spills. When the evening’s program began, the same young man strode onto the stage, now dressed in a three-piece suit and carrying a briefcase. He was an attorney and the keynote speaker for the evening. At the beginning of his presentation, he asked the audience whether they knew him. No one did. Had they ever seen him before? No one could recall. Then he reminded them of the young man working at the door.”

Racism no long features men dressed in bedsheets, galloping with torches in hand to burn a cross and terrify. Racism is simply not seeing or seeing people as something other than human beings. If we are to fulfill our mission in the Church today we need to know that God makes each of His children His own. No one is excluded in God’s sight. Cardinal Tobin reminds us, “Jesus did not censure people for oppressing the poor, but rather, he used harsh language to open the eyes of people who did not see—characters like the rich man who had no time for poor Lazarus lying at his door. Or the unfortunate “goats on the left hand



who couldn’t ever recall seeing Jesus when he was hungry, thirsty, imprisoned, or a stranger.”

We are further challenged by our own Core Values statement. *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.* What clarification is needed here? We have a clear mandate that directly relates to Pope Francis’ intention. Our challenge is not in comprehending what we are to do. Our task is to move into action—to pray, to work, to witness for *now is the time!*



Together Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity and Cistercian Nuns of Valley of Our Lady Monastery, Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin offered a Discernment of Spirits Retreat on the feast of Saint Anselm. Cistercian Nuns offered hospitality in one of their visiting parlors and developed prayer booklets for The Divine Office hours. Franciscan Sister Jacqueline Spaniola facilitated the talks offering Saint Ignatius’ Rules for Discernment, as well as his guidance to discerning the will of God.

Moving of Good Samaritan Convent



*All are welcome to our new home!
Good Samaritan Convent,
2654 Ridgewood Circle, Zanesville.*

Zanesville, Ohio—After residing for the past twenty years at 833 Adair Avenue, the Franciscan Sisters are now living at Good Samaritan Convent located at 2654 Ridgewood Circle in Zanesville.



L to r: Bill Ditto, Sister Bernadette, Winnie Wells, Trish Jones, Jerry Jones and Sister Maureen Anne enjoying a lighter moment.

Easter Week 2018 marked the days of the big move for this year's local community members: Sisters Bernadette Selinsky, Maureen Anne Shepard, and Mary Ann Nugent. Although heavy rain and even a snow squall accompanied the moving process on Tuesday, April 3 and Wednesday, April 4, the Sisters were

blest with a crew of energetic and cheerful movers. Tuesday's helpers included Sisters Theresa Feldkamp and Laura Wolf who also spent most of the week with the Sisters assisting with packing, transporting, and unpacking. Barbara Masters, sister of Sister Maureen Anne, Winifred Wells and Trish Jones, sisters of Sister Mary Ann, as well as, Jerry Jones and Bill Ditto, brothers-in-law of Sister Mary Ann arrived on Tuesday with a truck and several cars to help with moving the Sisters' personal items and difficult-to-pack home furnishings. Two moving vans hired by Genesis Hospital were



on hand all day on Wednesday to transport heavy items of furniture and to complete the move.

Since our new residence will serve as a convent home, our bedrooms and rooms designated for community prayer, work, or sharing are undergoing some renovations at this time. *Submitted by Sister Mary Ann Nugent*

Wisconsin here we come!!



A sunny Sunday in April was filled with lots of home-made bakery; beautiful hand-made items made by the Tohono O'odham Natives, generous gift card donations from Tucson restaurants and donated yard-sale items. The parishioners and visitors of the San Xavier mission supported the fund-raiser for air-fare for the 11 young women going to Camp Franciscan. Many of the young women spent most of the day with the Sisters in the 90 degree sun selling and visiting with all the many people who were so generous with their support. Wisconsin here we come!!!

Submitted by Sister Mary Ann Spanjers



NaProEthics Goes to the Omaha Serra Club

Omaha, Nebraska—On April 9th, I had the privilege of addressing one of the three very active Serra Clubs of Omaha about the work of the Pope Paul VI Institute, particularly how its women's health science of NaPro-TECHNOLOGY and its natural system of family planning, the Creighton Model FertilityCare System, provide an antidote to all the moral fallout in our culture from the contraceptive mentality. I've never been so enthusiastically applauded on two scores: first, that I, a religious Sister, am ac-

tively involved on a national scale in doing this kind of work in the Church and, second, that the city of Omaha houses the headquarters for NaPro and FertilityCare. I was reminded of the many, many holy, committed Omaha natives with whom I have the privilege to rub elbows every day. Pictured above is the president of the OSC-West (left) and members of the organization who were responsible in booking me as a speaker for April's meeting. Dear people all!

Submitted by Sister Renée Mirkes

Motherhouse Hosts Xavier Appleton Silent Retreat



Xavier High School, Appleton, Wisconsin teachers Katie Wesolek and Ann McKnight brought a few junior and senior girls to visit Holy Family Convent April 13-14 for a silent retreat. All arrived late afternoon Friday and departed about the same time on Saturday.

Near the end of the retreat, Sister Catherine Gilles, a former principal of Xavier, Sister Katherine Warning, former student of the school, and Sister Mary Teresa, a current Novice teaching at Roncalli High School, Manitowoc, Wisconsin served on a panel.

Discussion Group Outing

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—On the afternoon of April 5th our Motherhouse discussion group visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, New Franken, Wisconsin [17 miles northeast of Green Bay].

Seven of the nine of us were able to go by van. It was a lively trip as we also held our monthly discussion as we rode along. It was a cold day, but the Church was quiet and so we had time for prayer and also for visits in the crypt. We also visited the gift shop and museum; both had been remodeled since some of us had visited before.

Supper was at Sweet Seasons in Dykesville where we all chose a different entrée. It was fun seeing what everyone ordered and enjoyed! On the way back, we took the scenic



route and went up the drive to see the Carmelite Monastery at Denmark. A couple of the Sisters had never been there. Then, we went down the road to see Father Bill O'Brien's chapel and stations. The gate was locked, so we looked on from the road. After a leisurely drive back, we stopped at Cedar Crest for dessert and enjoyed talking about our trip. We were truly blessed with a sunny, dry but cold day...just right for an outing.

Submitted by Sister Mary Frances Maher. Photos by Sister Elena Gonzales.

Employees Honored at Holy Family Convent

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—During a special dinner on April 22 employees of Holy Family Convent celebrated the anniversaries of twenty-one of their employees totaling 300 years of service. Sister Elaine Turba, Human Resource Director, extended gratitude to the employees on behalf of all the Sisters. This years celebrants work in nursing, activities, house-keeping, food service, the clinic, and maintenance.

Also celebrating but not pictured are: 10 years – Cathy Schroeder (10 years); Denise Donahue, Mandi Holschbach, Steve Kratz, Mary Robison, and Maureen Wiegand (15 years); Anne Busse (30 years) and Lori Oswald (35years).



Five-year awardees standing l to r: Nicole Meissner, Ellen Buck, Lori Lorenz, Kim Kerchefske, and Lisa Rezach, Seated l to r: Cindy Kaczowski and Denise Dax.



Employees standing l to r: Terri Fish (20 years), Clair Drews (20 years), Gloria Levendoski (10 years), and Sharon Danielson (15 years). Seated l to r: Diane Loeh (15 years) and Sandy Skidmore (35 years).