

Communigram

Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity
Volume 52 Issue 9 November 2018



Remembering Our Deceased Sisters

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—During the entrance procession for the Mass on November 2, the Feast of All Souls, the Sisters at the Motherhouse remembered the fifteen Sisters who died since November 1, 2017. Pictured in the collage above are front row l to r: Sister Andrée DuCharme (Nov. 14), Sister Phyllis Schouten (Nov. 26), Sister Eugenia Vande Hey (Jan. 25), Sister Mary Fidelia Mindeman (Feb. 3), Sister Jean Heppler (Dec. 13).

Middle row l to r: Sister Renita Tadych (May 11), Sister Pavel Morin (March 6), Sister Mary Felice Wellman (March 5), Sister Maria José Scharinger (July 10), and Sister Ronald Held (May 6).

Back row: Sister Joanne Plain (July 16), Sister Francine Goodman (June 5), Sister Mary Louise Skutz (Aug. 25), Sister Mary Beth Prinz (Sept. 18), and Sister Mary Jane Mertens (Aug. 18).



The environment display in St. Mary chapel for the Feast of All Saints featured photos of persons canonized or beatified in 2018.

Three Sister Students Join Motherhouse Community

Three new Sister Students arrived at the Motherhouse in late August to begin their studies at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family.

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—Two Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes Chiploe of St. Gertrude Convent, Imiliwaha, Njombe Diocese, Tanzania arrived at Holy Family Convent in mid-August. Both Sisters came to the United States on July 22, 2015 to study at Assumption College for Sisters in Denville, New Jersey, sponsored by the Sisters of Christian Charity. Sister Charity Nkwera and Sister Norbertha Mlowe obtained Associate degrees in liberal arts before transferring to Silver Lake College of the Holy Family.



Sister Charity, OSB

Sister Charity, 39, was born in Tanzania. She has two brothers and one sister. Her mother is living in their home village. Sister is working toward a major in elementary education and a minor in English.

Sister Charity entered her Community candidacy at the age of 20. After her elementary education she moved to Dar es Salaam to live with her uncle where she studied tailoring. Before coming to the United States, Sister provided first aide at St. Gertrude secondary school while getting her own secondary education.



Sister Norbertha, OSB

Sister Norbertha Mbwe, 37, has two brothers and five sisters. Her mother is still living in Nundu. Sister loves to sing and taught singing in the order's secondary school preparing the girls for Mass. While receiving her secondary education, Sister was also responsible for overseeing the cooks and ordering the food for the St. Gertrude

400 girl boarding school.

Sister Norbertha is majoring in education and minoring in English hoping to teach in secondary school when she returns to her county.

Both Sister Charity and Sister Norbertha are grateful for the opportunity they have to receive an education. They love to do native dancing and are seamstresses who make their own habits.

Sister Mary Theresa Thao-Ly Nguyen, O.P. a Dominican Sister of Mary Immaculate Province, Houston, Texas arrived with returning Sisters Catherine Mary Duong and Mary John Mai Thao Lam the last weekend of August.



Sister Mary Theresa, OP

Sister Mary Theresa, 34, is the fifth Sister from her Community to study at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family and to live at Holy Family Convent.

Sister was born in An Binh, Viet Nam and moved to the United states with her family in 1995. Her father, a soldier in the war, was imprisoned after the fall of Saigon and spent four years in Communist prison camp. Under an agreement with the Hanoi Government called the HO (Humanitarian Operation) detainee resettlement program, he was given the opportunity to move his family to the U.S. It was not an easy decision for her parents to make but for the benefit of their children they decided to come and settled in Dallas, Texas. Sister, the oldest of seven children, was 11 years old at the time.

Sister Mary Theresa entered the Dominicans at the start of her senior year in high school. After initial formation, she received an associate degree in early childhood development and worked for five years as an aide in her community's Mary Immaculate Preschool.

Sister is majoring in early childhood education and minoring in theology. She enjoys crafts, scrapbooking, making cards, and music. She likes to do things for us to show her appreciation for all we are doing for her.

News from Our Lady of Guadalupe Convent

St. Louis, Missouri—

Sister Sue Ann Hall and Sister Delores Vogt housed four delightful, spiritual, happy, and outgoing young women from an organization



called *Created Equal* who met and talked with students at Washington University and St. Louis University about abortion. They displayed rather graphic posters by Planned Parenthood the two mornings before going to the Universities. Three young men with their group stayed elsewhere.

On October 13, while Sister Anne Marie Lom and Sister Julie Ann Sheahan were in Belleville (see below), Sister

Delores and Sister Sue Ann went with the Cathedral Women's Group to the Shrine of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne in St. Charles, Missouri. St. Rose is one of three patron saints of the Archdiocese. The other two are St. Louis of France and St. Vincent De Paul. St. Rose's remains are in a sarcophagus in the Chapel dedicated to her honor. Like many who came to help in America they were poor and found their way into the hearts of the people they served.

Philippine's last name, Duchesne, means "of oak", and a fitting name who remained faithful through her trials and struggles. There are schools all over our country which she established. Unfortunately we did not meet any of the Sisters from the order.

Submitted by Sister Sue Ann Hall

Vocation Discernment Events



Belleville, Illinois—Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity and Poor Clare Nuns from the Monastery of Our Lady of Mercy, offered a Franciscan Discernment Day on October 13, 2018. Sister Anne Marie Lom facilitated the day. Young women tried to answer these two questions: How do I know God's will (call/invitation) for me? How did St. Francis come to know God's will (call/invitation) for him?

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—Fifteen young women ages 17-31 were recently welcomed to the Motherhouse for the weekend. All arrived by car for a Friday night social of nacho chips and taco dip. Night prayer followed in St. Francis Chapel. Saturday and Sunday continued the adventure of reflection on the vocation to Franciscan consecrated life.



What part of the weekend did you find the most helpful?

- The time we spent with the novices and postulants talking about their discernments and realizing how everything works out in God's timing. The scavenger hunt and exploring the Motherhouse also helped.
- Adoration. I love the journal and the readings from the Bible to help with meditation and growing closer to Jesus.
- Being able to see the sisters in their everyday lives at the convent, that they live happy lives in community
- I found the personal stories and advice that each sister gave was helpful. This added a sense of realness that people go through.
- The most helpful was all the times for silent prayer in the morning or in the evenings.
- The Holy Hours and meals with the sisters.

Preparations For St. Francis' Feast Day

Bapchule, Arizona—Wednesday morning, October 3, Sister Pamela Catherine Peasel began cooking a recipe that would have been made and eaten by those living in Italy 800 years ago. Maybe St. Francis' mother would have requested



her cooks to make this dish for the family. The dish has a history with the Gubbians of the Medieval period. Sister Pamela Catherine worked away at recreating the Fricco di Pollo all'Eugubina - Gubbian Style Stewed Chicken. The chicken was infused with fresh rosemary and sage which filled the house with rich aromas. It was Sister's first experience with blanching almonds, pureeing and sieving plum tomatoes. She also found an old recipe, Mostaccioli - Almond Pastry that Lady Jacoby might have made for the brothers. Since this day was a fast day

the meal was prepared but eaten gratefully on the Feast day. The recipe recommended that the chicken would have more flavor the following day.

That very evening the Sisters began preparing St. Peter Church for the Transitus. After the 6:09pm sunset the parishioners and Sisters praised the Creator for the life of St. Francis and his transitus into heaven. Sister Martha had put together a beautiful prayer service of the Transitus. After the service we all gathered in the school cafeteria for cookies and drinks.

After school on the Feast of St. Francis Sister Pamela Catherine made a fry bread that was eaten during the time of St. Francis. Once the meal was completed we gathered in the evening for our 800 year old meal that was decorated with fall colors.

Submitted by Sister Elena Gonzales



Over the years the craft room, under the direction of Sister Linda Brandes, received quite a collection of yarn from various donors. During the summer she made ample amounts of yarn available to the Sisters who had knitting or crocheting projects in mind. Even though much yarn was picked up for any number of projects, there were balls of yarn and partial skeins of yarn left on the tables in the creative arts room. A few Sisters thought that yarn could be turned into a unique patchwork afghan. Many Sisters picked up on the idea to make a patch, or two, or three, or more, for the afghan, using these small amounts of yarn or some they had in their own collection. The patches were collected, arranged and crocheted together, making an afghan large enough to easily cover a twin bed. It will be donated to one of the organizations in town that serves those in need. Several patches have already contributed to start of a second afghan.

By Sister Elaine Turba

News from Cambridge, Ohio



The annual Mass and Jubilee Celebration of Religious Sisters in the Steubenville Diocese was held on Sunday, October 7, 2018, at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta, Ohio. There were seven different Orders of Religious Sisters present. Bishop Jeffrey Monforton, Msgr. John Michael Campbell, Pastor, and Fr. Joshua Erickson celebrated the Mass.



On the feast of St. Francis The students of St. Benedict School made cards for the Sisters and provided a song of blessing. The staff treated the Sisters with rolls in the morning and a beautiful cake.

JUST Gospel!

By Sister Kathleen Murphy
Social Justice Commission

“...Peacemakers truly ‘make’ peace; they build peace and friendship in society ... And if there are times in our community when we question what ought to be done, ‘let us pursue what makes for peace.’ (Rm. 14:19)”

These words from *Gaudete et Exsultate* harmonize with Pope Francis’ prayer intention for the month which is a call to be in the service of peace. He asks us to pray “that the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.” In the document on holiness, Pope Francis makes his call to be peacemakers very practical as he writes, “It is not easy to ‘make’ this evangelical peace, which excludes no one but embraces even those who are a bit odd, troublesome or difficult, demanding, different, beaten down by life or simply uninterested. It is hard work: It calls for great openness of mind and heart, since it is not about creating ‘a consensus on paper or a transient peace for a contented minority.’”

The prayer intention focuses on language, on our words. We can pon-

der the way in which we speak to and about those who are *odd, troublesome or difficult, demanding, beaten down or uninterested*. If we can use this language of love and dialogue with one another in our day-to-day interactions, we can begin to create an oasis of peace in our lived experience and plant some seeds of peace within the locales where we minister by our work and/or by our presence. Yet, we may wonder what effect this little step can have on the world scene where wars of words often lead to wars of nations. Perhaps a little fable will help us to consider action on this level.

This story comes from *New Fables—Thus Spoke The Caribou* by Kurt Kauter.

“Tell me the weight of a snowflake,” a mouse asked a wild dove.

“Nothing more than nothing,” was the answer.

“In that case, I must tell you a marvelous story,” the mouse said.

“I sat on the branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow-not

heavily—not in a raging blizzard—no, just like a dream, without a sound and without any violence. Since I did not have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the 3,741,953rd dropped onto the branch—nothing more than nothing, as you say—the branch broke off.”

Having said that, the mouse scampered away.

The dove, since Noah’s time an authority on peace, thought about the story for a while, and finally said to herself, “Perhaps there is only one person’s voice lacking for peace to come to the world.”

Could it be that yours or mine would be that one voice that could tilt the balance toward peace in any situation? Pope Francis writes, “We need to be artisans of peace, for building peace is a craft that demands serenity, creativity, sensitivity and skill.” Let us strive to hone our use of these qualities in crafting peace.

Sisters Invited to the Inauguration of Robert B. Callahan, Ph.D.

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—All Sisters in the area were invited to attend the Liturgy and Inauguration of Robert B. Callahan, Ph.D. as the Eleventh President of Silver Lake College of the Holy Family on October 5.

Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director, presented the early documents of St. Francis to Dr. Callahan during the inauguration investiture ceremony.



As Pope Paul VI Institute becomes St. Paul VI Institute . . .

Omaha, Nebraska—The first phase of our 42nd annual education conference that trains physicians in NaPro-Technology and future teachers in FertilityCare brought national and International participants to Omaha the week of October 13th to the 20th.

The second phase of the conference in April will bring additional international students from Italy, Germany, Nigeria, and Australia. Although English is a second, third or fourth language for most of these people, they blend beautifully with the seventy plus American participants as they study and pray together, all the

while relishing the canonization of St. Paul VI and the 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*, the Church's teaching on responsible family planning.

My privilege of serving on the Pope Paul VI Institute faculty during this conference is to witness up close and personal the generous commitment of these healthcare professionals to the call of St. Paul VI to develop a system of family planning that enables couples to confidently achieve or avoid a pregnancy in a way that totally conforms to their dignity as human persons.

Submitted by Sister Renée Mirkes



Pictured with Sister Renée Mirkes are doctors from Poland, Spain, Ukraine, Canada and Ecuador.

Memorable Celebration of St. Francis Day

Zanesville, Ohio—Sisters Bernadette Selinsky, Laura Wolf, Mary Ann Nugent, and Maureen Anne Shepard celebrated the eve and Feast of St. Francis with parish members, hospital administrators, and the Bishop Fredrick Campbell of Columbus. On October 3rd they joined members of St. Mary's Mattingly Settlement Parish at Mass and in a beautiful Transitus Service prepared by Father Don Franks.



Father Don Franks, Deacons David Lozowski and Robert Ghiloni after the Transitus with the Sisters l to r: Bernadette, Mary Ann, Laura, and Maureen Anne.

At noon on Saint Francis Day they shared a luncheon held at Genesis Hospital with Bishop Campbell, Father Don Franks, Deacon David Lozowski and members of the Genesis administrative team. Later in the afternoon they journeyed back to Mattingly Settlement to take part in

the Bishop's formal blessing and dedication of the new St. Francis Chapel, parish center, and surrounding grounds. Windows and sacred furnishings from the former Good Samaritan Hospital chapel were donated for use in the new Mattingly Settlement Chapel and Parish Center.

Submitted by sister Mary Ann Nugent.



Bishop Frederick Campbell chats with Matt Perry and Sister Laura before Luncheon at Genesis. Father Don Franks and Sister Bernadette in the background.



Blessing of new St. Francis Chapel and Parish Center at Mattingly Settlement



Celebration of the Transitus of St. Francis

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—On the vigil of St. Francis Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, Franciscan Friars and friends gathered at Holy Family Convent to celebrate the Transitus of St. Francis, a service recalling the death of our Father Francis. St. Clare of Assisi and her Poor Clare Sisters (our Novices and Postulants) recalled the events leading to those final moments.

Mother Clare: “Dear brothers and sisters, we keep Francis’ vision as we hold onto love. On this eve of our Father Francis’ death, I remember that night. Francis and I were both ill and he could not come here to San Damiano. He sent a message with one of the brothers saying, “Go and

tell Lady Clare that she and her Sisters must put aside all sorrow and sadness on account of not seeing me. They will see me after my death and that will console them.’ Dear holy ones, Francis kept his word.”

Friars of the Order of Friars Minor serving at Holy Family Convent, Holy Family Memorial in Manitowoc, and Franciscans Downtown, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, as well as those in fraternal service in a nearby friary in Manitowoc, reenacted the funeral procession from Assisi’s St. Mary of the Angels to San Damiano. Other men serving in our sponsored institution also joined the procession.

By Sister Julie Ann Sheahan

Transitus Celebration at San Xavier Mission



Tucson, Arizona—We prayed the Transitus of St. Francis at San Xavier Mission with the Friars; followed by a grand procession, fireworks, songs, music and inspiring faith filled people who gathered in the name of St. Francis the faithful follower filled with love of Jesus! Happy St. Francis Day!!!

Submitted by Sister Mary Ann Spanjers

Trunk or Treat



Sisters living at Holy Family Convent provided a trunk full of goodies for the Trunk or Treat event at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family. The students treasured homemade Celestial Cookies baked by Sister Adrianna Schouten and Rice Krispie Squares made by Sister Louise Hembrecht.

Sisters pictured above l to r: Sisters Mary Theresa, OP, Anne Turba, Margaret Ann Wallender, Christine Stoller, Julie Ann Sheahan, and Marlene Schwaller.



Sister June Smith at the St. Benedict School, Cambridge, Ohio Trunk or Treat event.

Halloween Fun

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—Having a day off from school was an opportunity for relatives of Sister Anne Marie Lom to Trick-or-Treat the Sisters at Holy Family Convent. Arriving around 11 AM, their Halloween costumes were finalized. The princesses, puppies, minions, and their guides arrived on St. Rita Health Center's third floor as the Sisters began their dinner. Next was fourth floor and finally First Floor. The Sisters had candy for the guests and the guests had candy for the Sisters so everyone's sweet tooth was satisfied. After all the St. Rita visits, the guests moved to the cafeteria to visit each table, distribute candy and eat their own dinner. It was a great day "in the castle" as the children termed our Motherhouse. We are so grateful for the generosity and imaginations of the Smith and Evers family and their grandparents, Jim and Pat Seegers.

