



## Motherhouse Property Designated as a Saint Kateri Habitat



*Manitowoc, Wisconsin*—On Monday of the Octave of Easter, also Earth Day, Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity designated our Motherhouse property as a Saint Kateri Habitat. Our grounds were blessed in honor of this humble Native American Saint especially dear to our Native American Sisters. Father Gerald Prusakowski presided at a 2 p.m. prayer service beginning in our Sacred Heart Court. Scripture, song and special blessing prayers were prayed as we walked the gardens cared for by the Sisters, passed near Silver Lake, trees and general landscaping leading to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto and beyond. Sister Kateri Cooper and Sister Juana Lucero carried special images of Saint Kateri that were placed in gardens along the way.

According to the Saint Kateri Conservation Center Website, Saint Kateri Habitats should provide at least three



of the following six elements, plus one religious expression:

1. Food, water, cover, and space for wildlife, including habitat for pollinators (e.g., bees) and other terrestrial and aquatic organisms.
2. Native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers, such as milkweeds and goldenrods for monarch butterflies.
3. Food, water, cover, and space for people, including vegetable gardens, flower gardens, community-supported gardens, indoor gardens, and farms.
4. Ecosystem services, such as pollination, clean air and water, carbon storage for climate regulation, and religious faith arising from interactions with the “Book of Nature”.

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## St. Kateri Habitat (Continued from p. 1)



5. Clean energy; sustainable practices of gardening, landscaping, and farming; or removing aggressive weeds.
6. Sacred spaces for worship, prayer, and contemplation, including Mary gardens, prayer gardens, and rosary gardens. Any kind of garden, natural area, farm, or green space can be a sacred space and treated as such.

The Saint Kateri Habitat program “takes aim at the very heart of today’s ecological problems and addresses the profound moral crisis of which the destruction of the environment is but one troubling aspect. Ultimately, ecological problems are not in the first place environmental, nor can the solution to them be found in technology, economics, or politics alone. They are rather profoundly theological and moral.”

Desiring to support the goodness of this initiative, we invite you to join us in participating in this program. As stated on their website: “The initial objective is to have at least one Catholic person or family in every parish in the USA participating in the program.”



There are more than 70 million Catholics in the USA. That is a lot of potential Saint Kateri Habitats! Catholics around the world are also invited to restore healthy habitats.”

—Sister Julie Ann Sheahan

## Sister Celebrates Jubilee with Yuma School Family



*Yuma, Arizona*—Recently, Sister Mary Beth Kornely celebrated her 50th anniversary of Religious Profession with the St. Francis Catholic School children, faculty, and staff.

The Eucharist was the focus of the remembrance of Sister’s special jubilee of giving her life to God. Sister Mary Beth renewed her vows of poverty, chastity and obedience during the Mass for all to hear. She also brought a special bouquet of flowers to the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the sanctuary of the church.

A special luncheon was celebrated after school with faculty and staff.

## Sister Jan to Retire from Classroom Teaching

*Cambridge, Ohio*—Sister Jan Villemure is retiring after 50 years in classroom teaching at the end of this school year. She looks forward to her new ministry of working for the Quad parishes in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Sister states: “The years of teaching have been a wonderful experience. Now I can use those skills in helping the parishes. Before I became a teacher, I debated whether I should major in nursing or teaching. After 50 years in the classroom, I can visit the homebound, nursing homes, and hospitals. My dream of long ago is fulfilled.”

The years of teaching took her to six states: Wisconsin, Michigan, Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Ohio. She



taught science and religion 27 years in junior high, science for 18 years in high school, and worked five years in the undergrad and grad teacher education program at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Reflecting on her experiences, Sister says: “A wide range of places, schools, parishes and peoples have enriched my life so greatly. Hopefully I can bring some of these blessing to the new people I will meet in the Green Bay diocese. I did teach in Green Bay for 10 years—so, it will be like coming home for me.”

## Sisters Attend Installation of Bishop Robert J. Brennan



*Zanesville, Ohio*—Sisters Mary Ann Nugent, Laura Wolf, Maureen Anne Shepard and Bernadette Selinsky were honored to attend the Solemn Vespers and Solemn Mass of Installation for the Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, the twelfth Bishop of the Columbus Diocese on Thursday, March 28 and Friday, March 29, 2019. St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio wel-

comed representatives from the Diocese’s 105 parishes as well as civic and healthcare leaders from the local area. Also in attendance were many religious dignitaries including His eminence Timothy Cardinal M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, Most Reverend Christophe Pierre and many Bishops from across the country.

Representatives from many religious orders of men and women were on hand at the Mass of Installation to welcome the new Bishop. Sister Laura Wolf formally welcomed him on behalf of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity of Manitowoc.

Bishop Brennan expressed delight at being with the people of Columbus with his opening remark at the Mass: “I may have a New York accent, but I know in Columbus you say ‘OH.’” The congregation responded emphatically, “IO.”

—Sister Mary Ann Nugent

## Sisters Take Emmaus Trip

*Cambridge, Ohio*—The "St. Benedict Convent Sisters Five" took an Emmaus Trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on Earth Day, April 22, 2019. The Lord blessed us with a gorgeous sunny day as we enjoyed God's beautiful nature and the rolling hills and valleys on the way.

We toured St. Anthony Chapel, which is located on Troy Hill, which overlooks the Allegheny River on Pittsburgh's North Side. Construction of the Chapel began in 1880, under the direction of Fr. Suitbert Mollinger, son of a wealthy Belgian family. Father personally financed the building of the chapel to house his large collection of relics. Father also acquired a set of life-size Stations of the Cross while on a visit to Europe, hand carved of wood in Munich, Germany.

An addition to the chapel was built in 1892. Four days after the dedication of the addition to the Chapel Fr. Mollinger died.

There are five thousand relics of the saints in St. Anthony's Chapel, the second most relics in the world housed in one place. Rome is first. An inscription written in Latin on the arch of the Chapel reads: "Here Lie the Saints in Peace."



*Sisters Sharon Paul, Jan Villemure, Carol Juckem, Helen Marie Paul, and June Smith in the front of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh.*

We continued our Emmaus Journey to Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. There we enjoyed God's nature in the Desert Room, Fern Room, Orchid Room, Palm Court, Serpentine Room, Tropical Fruit Room & Outdoor Garden. There also was a Japanese Courtyard Garden which featured bonsai and a babbling brook.



We enjoyed lunch at "Hard Rock Cafe," not far from the three rivers that meet in Pittsburgh.

The Divine Office was prayed on the way home as we, in gratitude, contemplated on God's wondrous nature, and our Catholic heritage.

—*Sister Sharon Paul*

## NaPro Surgeons, Class # 12, Graduate

*Omaha, Nebraska*—In July, (from left to right) Dr. Jeff Williams, Dr. Damien Olsen and Dr. Erica Kreller, OB/Gyns all, will be completing their year of surgical fellowship with Pope Paul VI Institute physicians: Drs. Thomas W. Hilgers, Catherine Keefe and



Kristina Pakiz. I had the privilege of conducting the ethics seminar segment of their fellowship and, although I say this to every graduating class, I REALLY, REALLY consider this class my very favorite. Our ethics seminars were unforgettably bright, engaging, fun and invigorating. I will truly miss them but very pleased that North Carolina, New Hampshire and Arizona respectively will all boast improved surgical services because of these NaPro surgeons.

—*Sister Renée Mirkes*

This month Pope Francis encourages us to pray: that the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.



<https://www.southworld.net/tanzania-a-church-looking-to-the-future-with-hope/x>

Have you recently heard or taken part in a conversation that bemoans the state of the Church? Have you heard concerns about the empty pews, the inactive parish organizations, the poor attendance at faith formation classes, etc.? Though these are oft heard complaints in much of the Western World, the Church is flourishing in Africa. This is the focus of our prayer intention as suggested by Pope Francis: *That the church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.*

At times people joke about our Western dearth of knowledge regarding geography and they quip, “Africa is not a country.” Sometimes we are guilty of such ignorance regarding the world beyond our experience. Pope Francis calls us to pray for the unity of all the many and varied countries of Africa. As the Church thrives, we can imagine that unity brought about by a strong faith would be no small gift to the global village.

What is the state of the Church in Africa? A recent article done by *Voice of America*, tells us: The cavernous interior of South Africa’s largest Catholic Church can accommodate up to 7,000 people—and many Sundays, it makes good on that space. The crowd is a mix—from sleeping babies and excited teenagers to tired mothers and beatific, smiling grandmothers. Since 1980, the Church has grown a whopping 238 percent, according to a study released this year. This study says Africa is now home to 198 million Catholics—up from 58 million in 1980.

The Reverend Reginald Anthony, who leads South Africa’s largest Catholic church, said the appeal of the Catholic church is how well it meshes with Africans’ deep spiritual beliefs and faith in outside forces. “So evangelization through the Gospel has simp-

ly deepened that, in many cases. There’s also the other side, that people are not as materialistic and secularized as the Western world and so that means the dependence on God for sustenance, for existence, for meaning is still very much at the heart of people in Africa.”

Lydia Mashaba, a parish council member, said the church’s popularity in Africa is actually based on something that happened decades ago with the Vatican II conference, which, among other things, decreed that services could be given in local languages, and now that the Church has opened its windows, we are drum-beating, we are in Africa, it’s a free-spirit Church,” she said.

During his last visit to the continent of Africa, Pope Francis told the gathered faithful to foster unity by avoiding “the temptation of fear of others, of the unfamiliar, of what is not part of our ethnic group, our political views or our religious confession”. He visited a mosque and shared holy thoughts of peace and brotherhood with an imam.

The Holy Father also writes of unity and community in *Gaudete et Exsultate*. A community that cherishes the little details of love, whose members care for one another and create an open and evangelizing environment, is a place where the risen Lord is present, sanctifying it in accordance with the Father’s plan. Contrary to the growing consumerist individualism that tends to isolate us in a quest for well-being apart from others, our path to holiness can only make us identify all the more with Jesus’ prayer “that all may be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you.”

This is surely a path to holiness for the entire Church of Africa, it is a way of sanctity for the Church of America, or any part of the world, but it is most especially an avenue for each of us as Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity to make progress towards a holy unity grounded in our one love, Jesus!

## Student Symposium Presentations



*Manitowoc, Wisconsin*—Sister Clara Rose Oswald was among the student presenters at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family Student Symposium on April 25. Impersonating our Sister Aquinas Kinskey, who assisted in the training of pilots during this era, Sister Clare Rose presented *A View of World War II from the Air: A Social Studies Unit for Eighth -Graders* to a packed room of 50 students and guests.

Sister Clare Rose presented on how to integrate best practices in teaching social studies. She achieved this by incorporating the social and emotional domain of learning using primary and secondary sources for research, creating a timeline, and constructing a map study to ensure the engagement of students.



The session facilitator was Sister Marcolette Madden (right photo), Associate Professor in the Department of Education.

In the area of fine arts, Postulant Yazmin displayed a drawing and design artwork in the Lake's Edge Gallery.



Sister Cecilia Joy Kugel presented one of her creative poems entitled: *Shattered*. Watch for a future post on this creative writing.

## Recorder Concert by Fourth Graders

*Cambridge, Ohio*—On Tuesday April 16, 2019, grade four at St. Benedict's School held two Recorder Concerts. One was held in the gym for the students in the afternoon. One was held in the evening in the Music Room directed by Sister Carol Juckem. The students played twenty songs with a script called "Adventures in Recorder Land on a Cruise."

After the concert a representative from C.A. House Music explained five different instruments and demonstrated their use. The students could try a few to see if they wanted to play one and join the band next year.

—Sister Sharon Paul

*Sister Carol Juckem with some of her fourth grade Recorder students before the Concert at St. Benedict's School.*



## Holy Week: Joyfully Serving the Lord with Our Whole Heart

*Bapchule, Arizona*—The Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity at St. Peter Indian Mission School enjoyed preparing the church and setting up for a fun Easter with each other. We attentively prepared the church from Palm Sunday to Easter morning. Our first endeavor was to set up for Holy Thursday Mass at 7pm. The following day we spent our morning in prayer in Church. During this prayer time it was good to rest in His love for a few hours. Then at noon we participated in the services of Good Friday. Later in the evening we had a great time decorating three dozen Easter eggs. Early Saturday morning we joyfully went to the Church to get it set up. That very night we had 19 baptisms, 23 confirmed, and 16 communicants. The Easter Vigil Mass went from 8pm to 10:30pm. Saint Peter Church was filled for the Easter Vigil and many were outside the church for the Mass. After Mass we all gathered and celebrated in the cafeteria with a chili-bean meal and snacks. Easter Sunday was met with a beautiful morning and we had six more baptisms with a total of 25 baptisms in our little parish.

After Easter Mass there was red and white menudo made by the people and I was very thankful for the menudo. Then we creatively frosted about eleven dozen Easter cookies that were then given to parishioners. In between the Holy Week we cleaned up the gardens and prepared the grounds with ribbons. Many flowers were blooming to praise the Risen Lord. Alleluia!



### *Jubilarians Honored*

*Sister Jubilarians at Holy Family Convent were honored on April 28. They are from l to r: Sisters Ann Joachim Haen (75 years), Natalie Binversie (50), Cyrilla Jackels (75), Maryanne Froeblich (60), Mary Stephen Keller (60), and Alice Marie Hickok (60).*



## Sisters Attended Institute for Religious Life National Meeting



*Sisters Theresa, Mariadele, and Julie Ann.*

Sisters Theresa Feldkamp, Mariadele Jacobs, Julie Ann Sheahan, and Mariella Erdmann attended the Institute for Religious Life National Meeting April 26-27 at University of Saint Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, IL. Rev. Thomas Acklin, OSB and Rev. Boniface Hicks, OSB talked on “Spiritual Direction and Sharing the Father’s Love”. Most



*Sisters Mariella, Theresa, and Mariadele.*

Reverend Robert F. Vasa’s keynote address was “Allowing the Liturgical Life of the Church to Form Apostles Today”. Sister Marysia Weber, RSM spoke on “Called from the iGen and Millennial Generation: A look at Challenges and Opportunities to form Future Apostles”. Workshops were given by Theresa Burke, Rev. Brian Mullardy Denis

Mc Namara, and Sr. John Mary Sullivan, FSE.

We also had the opportunity to view a video on how the filming of the movie UNPLANNED came to be as well as a documentary on “Glorious Lives”-The Life and Legacy of Francis Cardinal George. Both presentations were excellent and very inspiring.

It is always so enriching to be among men and woman religious from various Communities who are truly dedicated to doing God’s will and serving others.

—*Sister Mariella Erdmann*