

Communigram

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY

Celebration of Catholic Schools Week

Greenwood, Mississippi—St. Francis of Assisi School celebrated Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 26 at the parish Mass. Students served in various roles throughout the liturgy from the entrance procession to reading the Word of God to singing their hearts out in the choir. Franciscan Friar of the Assumption BVM Province, Fr. Camillus Janus presided at the inspiring Eucharist with family members also present. Sister Kathleen Murphy was the organist and directed the children's choir. Sister Janet Rose and Sister Maria Goretti Scandalianto assisted wherever there was a need for extra hands.

After Mass, everyone was invited for an open house at the convent. Includ-



ed in the tour was the convent chapel. All were able to add their prayer intentions to a book for the Sisters to remember during their Community prayer times. Guests took the opportunity to enjoy pictures collected in albums over the years. Refreshments provided time for warm-hearted conversation.

—Sister Kathleen Murphy



Sister Jane Kinate (while on Visitation in Arizona) helped out at the Book Fair being held at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School in Casa Grande, Arizona as part of their Catholic Schools Week activities.

—Sister Carol Seidl

Cambridge, Ohio—St. Benedict School began its' celebration of Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 26, "Celebrating the Parish." Students wrote thank you cards to the Parishioners at Christ Our Light Parish and they were distributed at the Masses. In the evening a Family Fun Night was held at Pritchard Laughlin Center. The children enjoyed playing on the "Bouncy Castles," "Bouncy Balls," "Pogo Sticks," and getting their faces painted. Pizza and cookies were enjoyed by all.



Sisters Helen Marie Paul and Carol Juckem enjoying the pizza during family fun night.

children prepared thank you notes to the parents. They had a Pajama Day and enjoyed Bingo with their Mass partners. Wednesday, was "Celebrating Our Community." The all school community service activity was to make fleece blankets for the nursing homes. The students also enjoyed wearing their favorite hats. Thursday's theme: "Celebrating Our Families" was carried out at a family luncheon and the family designing a banner.

Monday, January 27 was "Celebrating Our School and Teachers." A prayer service, a staff baby picture match game, and a Spirit Wear Denim Day was on the agenda. Tuesday's theme "Celebrating Our Students and Parents." The

On Friday the closing theme "Celebrating Vocations" saw Bishop Jeffrey Monforton visiting the classrooms and celebrating a Mass for the students, parents, and staff at 1:15 with the Pastor, Fr. Paul Hrezo concelebrating.

—Sister Sharon Paul

New International Sisters to Study at Holy Family College

Sister Beatrice Ojwang and Sister Caroline Ogongo, Franciscan Sisters of St. Anne (FSSA) from Kisumu, Kenya, arrived at Holy Family Convent on January 4, 2020 to begin studies at Holy Family College. They share the following about their Community and themselves.

The Franciscan Sisters of St. Anne were founded on the feast of St. Anna, July 26, 1838 in Oudenbosch (Netherlands) and became a Pontifical Institute in 2008. The Region of Kenya was founded as a response to the appeal by His Holiness Pope Pius XII to all Congregations in the Western world to send missionaries to Africa for evangelization. In June 1957, Bishop Hall and Fr. Van Oudraa of the Diocese of Kisumu went to Oudenbosch (Netherlands) to ask for sisters to come for a mission in Kisumu Diocese.

Five Sisters left Oudenbosch (Netherlands) for Kenya on 2nd October 1958 and on 21st October 1958, they arrived at Lwak where they were received by Fr. Verhey and Fr. Van Oudraa amid cheers, dance and songs from the villagers and school children.

Mother Consolata continued to send more Sisters from Holland to serve in the institutions they staffed in Kenya. She soon realized that for the work of the congregation to continue, they needed to start admitting Kenyan girls into the congregation to fulfill the many educational and healing needs in the country which the Dutch Sisters could not accomplish alone. She pressed for starting a branch of the congregation in Kenya and the first girls were admitted in the congregation on October 29, 1962.

Currently there are 154 perpetually professed Sisters (15 are Dutch Sisters, the youngest being 70 years old); 46 temporary professed Sisters; 9 1st year novices; 13 2nd year novices; 7 postulants; and 10 aspirants living in 30 communities doing a variety of Apostolates in Kenya.



Sister Beatrice Ojwang

Both Sister Beatrice Ojwang and Sister Caroline Ogongo grew up in the Kisumu archdiocese and have a common mother tongue as well as having learned the official languages of Kenya: Swahili and English in school.

Sister Beatrice (42) grew up a few miles from the Motherhouse in Kisumu so she would go there often. She has six brothers and one sister

and both parents are still living. Before coming to Wisconsin, Sister earned a two-year degree in business administration in Kenya specializing in human resource management. She worked 12 years as an administrator of the Sisters' schools (pre-school to 8th grade)—St. Mary of the Angels and St. Angels Academy eight years and four years respectively. She was responsible for the building and the employees including hiring, training, and evaluating. Her major studies at Holy Family College will be business administration which she hopes to use in her country “as she continues serving the people in the assignments that my congregation will entrust to me.”



Sister Caroline Ogongo

Sister Caroline (33) has three brothers (1 deceased) and seven sisters (2 deceased). Her father is still living and mother died in April 2011. Sister grew up a three-hour car ride from the Motherhouse she entered. Sister earned a two-year degree in social work and community development in Kenya. She worked four years in a mission called St. Anne's Health Center where she worked with the Kenya Aids Response Program taking care of people living with HIV Aids—counseling; doing follow-up in their homes; checking to see if they were taking their medication; and forming and managing community and facility health based support groups. At Holy Family College, Sister Caroline, plans to study nursing “in order to fulfill the mission of her Community in service to those in need of health care in the Kisumu Archdiocese and the society at large.”

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Sister Mary Gam Pham

Sister Mary Gam Pham, OP from The Dominican Sisters of Bac Ninh Diocese, Vietnam arrived on January 6, 2020 after studying three years at Donnelly College in Kansas City, Kansas.

The Dominican Sisters of Bac Ninh Diocese became independent from the Dominican Sisters of Rose de Lima in the southern part of Vietnam seven years ago. They have 115 Sisters, 10 Novices, and 30 Postulants. Postulancy can last 1-4+ years as this is the time those interested in religious life finish high school and perhaps a bachelors degree. The Community has a home for

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Novices Enjoy SLS20 Conference and Arizona Mission Experiences



The Novices with the Sisters from Yuma and Bapchule who attended the SLS20 conference. L to r: Sisters Hannah Jobnebeck, Maria Guadalupe Martinez, Mary Teresa Bettag, Concepción Medina, Jim McPerrin, Elena Gonzales, and Pamela Catherine Peasel.

Second year novice, Sister Concepción Medina, shares the following reflection on her experiences. This year's mission experience began with the SLS20 conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The conference was enjoyable and riddled with beautiful experiences. Spending time and creating bonds with the Sisters that I was with was a wonderful blessing and being able to witness, answer questions, and meet new people was inspiring. We are all different people with different stories and journeys that are connected by our love for God. The experiences of adoration will never be forgotten, to see so many adore and worship our God was revitalizing.

The week in Bapchule, Arizona was equally as inspiring. The Sisters on the mission are beautiful images of Christ. To experience all of the work that they do for others was amazing. It is obvious that everyone they meet is met with kindness and love. They have done amazing work to create an environment of love and safety. They work hard and give so freely of themselves to all. Through this experience my heart has been touched and changed in such a deep and profound way. I am beyond grateful to the Community for this experience. God is Good.

Sister Maria Guadalupe Martinez reflects on her experiences: The SLS 2020 Conference was so awesome. The three best parts were definitely Mass, Adoration and Confession. Three themes that I felt God speaking to me during this event are the following. Fr. Mike Schmitz said, "Jesus is not just an option among many. We are not fine, we des-



perately need Him." He also said, "Only Jesus is enough." Damon Owens said, "Friends love each other in the good and the ugly—wanting good for the other even if it means self-denial." And a group of young band musicians at worship night said that we have to be with Jesus not for how He makes us feel, but just to worship Him because He's that good, even when we don't feel that God is working in us. It was so good to meet and spend time with so many religious and young adults. I definitely encourage others to go next year.



Sister Maria Guadalupe discovered a family friend living in the Yuma area.

My mission experience in Yuma was so good. The Sisters there were so kind to me. The people in the schools and parish are so warm and welcoming. The children in St. Francis School, Immaculate Conception School, and Yuma Catholic High School are getting excellent academic, moral, and Christian values. I even got to see a very good friend of mine and her family. I enjoyed every second of this journey.

International Sisters (continued from p. 2)

unwed mothers. The Sisters educate children, young people, and adults. The Community has a small school and religious center.

Sister Mary Gam (40) relates that Mary is her baptismal name and that she prefers to be called Sister Mary Gam. She grew up in Ninh Binh about three hours south of Hanoi. Sister has two brothers and four sisters. Her parents are still living and wait for one of the children who has a better cell phone to converse with Sister through the internet. These times have to be planned because of the time difference between the US and Vietnam.

Before arriving in Kansas, Sister taught children in a government-controlled school. At Holy Family College she plans to major in theology and minor in psychology. This coming semester she is taking three theology courses and one psychology course, having met most of the liberal arts requirements at Donnelly College. Sister Mary Gam hopes to share her education with the young Sisters in information and with young children in their school and Church upon graduation and returning to Vietnam.

This month is often associated with the love practiced by St. Valentine as the church was just beginning. These 2000-plus years later, we still struggle to bring the love of Jesus into the world we live in. Pope Francis asks us to focus our efforts on this intention: *We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.*

What a heart wrenching call to prayer this is as we can literally hear the cries of children on our borders echoing in our ears. We have seen the images of trucks packed with young women being transported as commodities in human trafficking. These violations of human dignity are not happening in far distant lands, but right here in our country. Pope Francis spoke out strongly in a homily of 2013 saying:

“But God asks each one of us: ‘Where is the blood of your brother that cries out to me?’ Today no one in the world feels responsible for this; we have lost the sense of fraternal responsibility; we have fallen into the hypocritical attitude of the priest and of the servant of the altar that Jesus speaks about in the parable of the Good Samaritan: We look upon the brother half dead by the roadside, perhaps we think ‘poor guy,’ and we continue on our way, it’s none of our business; and we feel fine with this. We feel at peace with this, we feel fine! The culture of well-being that makes us think of ourselves, that makes us insensitive to the cries of others, that makes us live in soap bubbles, that are beautiful but are nothing, are illusions of futility, of the transient, that brings indifference to others, that brings even the globalization of indifference. In this world of globalization we have fallen into a globalization of indifference. We are accustomed to the suffering of others, it doesn’t concern us, it’s none of our business.”

The pope is impassioned in his words and pleas. Now what action are we willing to take? First, we heed his call to prayer for these victims and we pray diligently. Beyond our prayer ministry, perhaps the list below will offer some ideas of actions to take.

1. Contact your legislators to voice your opinions about care for immigrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking.
2. Write a letter to the editor voicing your own stance as well as the Church’s position on these issues.



<https://longislandwins.com/news/national/no-human-being-is-illegal-and-elie-wiesel/>

3. Thank local officials who have taken action to support the immigrant population.
4. Help people learn their rights. United We Dream and the National Immigrant Law Center have excellent resources to help immigrants and refugees understand their rights. Work through some of these resources with someone who is not sure of their rights.
5. Learn the indicators of human trafficking.
6. Become an educated and informed consumer by trying to avoid use of products that come from slavery supporting economies.
7. Explore the website <https://www.state.gov/15-ways-you-can-help-fight-human-trafficking/> to learn more about the issues.

We know that God cannot smile upon policies and actions that harm his children. We read in Leviticus 26:13, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be their slaves no more; I have broken the bars of their yoke and made you walk erect.” These words challenge us to be this same freeing power of God for those oppressed. Let us lend our prayers, words and the actions that we can to this outcry of the forsaken.

First Mission Experience

Postulant Mary Jane Schwartz reflects on her mission experience to St. Benedict Convent, Cambridge, Ohio.



Postulant Mary Jane visiting a nursing home resident in Cambridge, Ohio.

I went on a weeklong mission experience in Cambridge, Ohio. It was my first time on mission and I had such an enjoyable and exciting time. The Sisters I had the pleasure meeting were Sisters Carol Juckem, Sharon Paul, June Smith, and Helen Marie Paul, Local Director. All the Sisters were incredibly kind and welcoming towards me. Not only were the Sisters amazing but it was exciting to tour their convent. My favorite room in the house was their chapel, because it was round. It was wonderful to see how all the Sisters do so much for the community and they in turn also use their time to help each other in times of need. I had the opportunity to be with Sister Sharon when she visited the nursing home and offered Communion to the residents. I witnessed how Sister connected with all the patients and knew what to say. She also took me to see two basketball games at Bishop Rosecrans High School in Zanesville, Ohio. There not only did I enjoy the game, I experienced the generosity of the local people when a kind couple bought us two bags of popcorn.

The most memorable time for me in Cambridge was the Epiphany party at the parish. There I met a large number of the parishioners, the food was delicious, and the parish priest, Fr. Paul, was very kind and had a phone full of jokes. There was even a prize drawing and my ticket number was called. I won the book—*A Case for Jesus* by Brant

Pitre. Toward the end of the party there was singing of Christmas carols which seemed a perfect ending to the Christmas celebration. I couldn't have asked for a better first-time mission experience, and I won't forget that a cute second grader said to me that I would make a good Sister. With the help of Jesus, I pray I will one day be a good religious Sister.



Mary Jane with the Sisters in Cambridge. L to r: Sister Carol Juckem, Mary Jane Swartz, Sisters June Smith, Helen Marie Paul and Sharon Paul were gifted with poinsettias at the Epiphany Party.

Sister Begins Practice Teaching



As a new semester begins, Sister Clare Rose Oswald is beginning student teaching at Holy Family School in the Green Bay Area Catholic Education GRACE System.

This means in the last days she packed up personal belongings at the Motherhouse and traveled to a closer location in Green Bay. As a 'growing in experience' teacher, she will be living at St. Agnes Convent, Green Bay. Right now, she is walking to school while enjoying companionship from Sister Dorothy Wagner, Sister Anne Marie Selinsky and Sister Jan Villemure.

Blessings of the New Year 2020



Bapchule, Arizona—2020 started with many of God’s blessings. On January 8th we began our elementary classes in the new school rooms. Our kindergarten through third grade are blessed by the Shea Family who had their company “Shea Homes” construct us new classrooms. Each

classroom has spacious areas, beautiful cupboards and counters, state of art smart projectors, and two huge white boards. The children are enjoying all the blessings from the Shea family. Many thanks to the Shea’s.



The Sisters serving at St. Peter Indian Mission are l to r: Sisters Pamela Catherine Peasel, Carol Mathe, Barbara Jean Butler, Thereselle Arruda, Martha Mary Carpenter, Dora Lee Monian, and Elena Gonzales.

Sister Pamela Catherine Peasel and Sister Martha Mary Carpenter did a wonderful job in preparing for the school presentations and a prayer service on Pro-Life. On the day of Roe vs Wade, 47th anniversary, we had all students meet in St. Peter’s Church and we began a walk around

the whole school property in silence for all the babies in the womb and elders that don’t have a voice. The children and staff members walked in silence with a rosary and posters for the unborn.

—Sister Elena Gonzales

Celebrating the Lunar New Year - the year of the rat!



The Vietnamese Sisters arrived bearing gifts for the members of the General Administration in celebration of the Lunar New Year.



Sharing their cultural celebration each Sister at the Motherhouse found this little package in her mailbox

L to r front row: Sisters Mary Theresa Nguyen, Natalie Binsversie, and May John Lam. Standing l to r: sisters Mary Gam Phom, Luyen Ngo, Theresa Feldkamp, Myra Jean Sweigart, Leonette Kochan, and Tuyen Phong.

We miss you Sister Jane. [Sister Jane Kinata was on visitation] Sending you our warm and best wishes for the Year of the Rat!

—Sister Mary John Lam, OP

Sisters Remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Greenwood, Mississippi— Sister Janet Rose, Sister Kathleen Murphy, and Sister Maria Goretti Scandaliato joined members from St. Francis parish at the march in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The march is held annually on the weekend during which his birthday is celebrated.



Brother Mark Gebret, OFM, and Sister Janet Rose with their posters ready for the march to begin.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.” – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“Women played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement, and so it all begins – as does life – begins in a woman’s womb.” – Bernice King

—Sister Kathleen Murphy

Sisters Attend Liturgical Conference



Sister Carol Seidl, Sister Joellen Kohlman and Sister Carla Riach attended the Southwest Liturgical Conference, January 16-18, 2020 that was held in Tucson, Arizona. Participants came from Arizona, Texas and New Mexico. It was an excellent conference with offerings for the teaching of Religion, RCIA, Church music and much more. What a blessing to be able to attend and with our Sisters.

—Sister Carol Seidl

Coming 2020 Events

Motherhouse Come and See Weekend—Feb. 21—23

**Discernment of Spirits Retreat Day—March 14 with
Cistercian Nuns in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin**

Motherhouse Franciscan Retreat: March 20—22

Camp Franciscan: June 15—June 18

Register <https://fscc-calledtobe.org>

***Design your own visit with us! That's the best option!
Call or text Sister Julie Ann at 920-323-9632.**

<https://fscc-calledtobe.org>

Pray for the Deceased



SISTER CAROL DIEDERICH

Born: March 29, 1924
Died at Holy Family Convent
January 27, 2020

Religious Profession of Vows
August 15, 1942