

Communigram

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY

Going Back to School?

(This is the first in a series of articles on what is planned for the starting of school in some of the areas in which our Sisters teach.)

Yuma, Arizona—Originally, Yuma Catholic High School was going to begin face-face-teaching on August 17, Immaculate Conception School at the end of August, and St. Francis School on August 17. All three schools have plans for modified teaching to incorporate safety measures, such as safe distancing, masks, hand washing procedures, modified recess or lunch schedules, etc.

However, on August 7, the Arizona Department of Health Services through the governor's office provided three benchmarks, to be reviewed every two weeks, for counties to consider before opening with any in-person learning. Right now, Yuma County meets two of the requirements, so therefore, no in-person learning has begun.

Yuma Catholic High School

Sister Mary Teresa Bettag teaches theology and is the track and cross-country coach. Online classes started on

August 6th. Sister is able to meet with her cross-country team for practice each day after school. She was able to schedule time in the weight room and have time for runs throughout the summer for both track and cross-country participants.

Sister Alexandra Bettinardi officially began working in the office on July 31.

Immaculate Conception Grade School

Sister Ann Mary Hart, Vice Principal, upper grade interventionist, and hot lunch program, worked throughout the summer on getting the Cafeteria requirements organized for the hot lunch program and working with the new principal. Even though students are doing on-line work, the breakfast and lunch will be available every day for families to pick up.

Sister Janet Rose, interventionist and second grade religion teacher, began working in school on August 3 and began on-line classes on August 7.

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New Novice Directress Installed



Sister Kathleen

Sister Kathleen Murphy was installed as the new Novice Directress after Evening Prayer on Saturday, July 18. Sister Natalie Binversie called her forth with the two novices, Sister Maria Guadalupe and Sister Mary Jane. After reviewing the responsibilities, goals and values of the Novitiate, Sister Kathleen faced the community while we sang the Blessing of St. Francis for her. She then left with the



two novices and her new journey with the Lord began.

Renewal of Vows

Because of Covid 19 travel restrictions, the temporary professed Sisters were not able to spend time together this summer before renewing their vows at the Motherhouse.



The two temporary professed Sisters missioned in Wisconsin arrived at the Motherhouse where they spent 14 days in self-quarantine before entering into the activities of the Motherhouse Community. On July 6th at the early morning Mass, Sister Colleen Demro and Sister Clare Rose Oswald renewed their vows before Father Gerald (Jerry) Brzezinski, OFM and Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director. The middle photo is Sister Colleen signing her vow card and Sister Clare Rose is on the right.



Father Manuel Fragoso, Pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Yuma, Arizona, presided over the July 12 Sunday liturgy during which Sister Mary Teresa Bettag renewed her religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience for one year on her journey in preparation to giving her life to Christ. Sister Mary Beth Kornely was the witness. An interesting piece of information, the pen Father wanted Sister Mary Teresa to use to sign her Vow card is the pen from his ordination that he uses only for very special occasions. Since attendance at public Masses was once more prohibited because of an increase in COVID-19 cases, the Sisters were the only people in attendance. However, all the Masses are live streamed, so there were many people who were able to witness her renewal of vows.



Sister Cecilia Joy Kugel renewed her vows of poverty, chastity and obedience during Mass at St. Paul's Retirement Center in Kaukauna on July 12. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, masks are being worn at the service. Here she is signing her vow card after pronouncing her vows for a second year. Sister Juden Lang is the Local Director who accepted her renewal.

Going Back to School— St. Benedict, Cambridge Ohio

Sister Carol Juckem teaches music
Sister Mariadele Jacobs teaches primary religion
Sister Helen Marie Paul is librarian
Sister June Smith volunteers as office assistant

School will begin September 1st with a “soft opening”, that is, Grades 5-8 on the first day, 3-8 on the second day and K-8 on the third day. Pre-K will begin on September 8th. Our teaching will be face to face with the students staying in their classrooms with 3-sided shields on their desks, while the teachers do the moving when changing classes.

All of our teachers are learning online Google Classroom and Dojo in case they will need to switch to remote learning. Lunch will be in the classrooms and each student will bring their own. Recesses will only be one class at a time (Pre-K through 5) with equipment sanitized before and after each recess.

Throughout the school we will be practicing the 6 feet distancing, wearing masks, frequent hand washing, and wiping down of surfaces. The teachers are looking forward to seeing the students, but the challenges involved are many to keep everyone safe.

—Sister Helen Marie Paul

Baptismal Consecration: The Theological Virtues and the Life of Faith

Previous columns have focused on how, at our Baptism, the Father invests us with the life of His Son by gift of the Holy Spirit. God does not just give us “tools” to help us obey His commands; rather, we are given God’s very self! God’s own life and love have been “poured forth into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given us.” (Romans 5.5) Jesus, the Son of the living God, takes up His own divine life within us, so that, with St. Paul, we can say that “I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” (Galatians 2.20) Because the life planted within us is divine, we are empowered to not stay dead after our death! Christian belief is that the final fruit of our Baptism is our own bodily rising from the dead! What a day that will be!

Another way of putting this all of this is to say that our humanity receives a divine-upgrade so that what would have been a merely human life becomes a “divine-human” life! Our capacity to freely engage in relationships with others, the world and even ourselves has widened and deepened: by God’s grace, we can now directly engage in a relationship with the living God. All of my human knowledge, love, desire, emotion and virtue now unfold in the presence of the living God and are infused with God’s own divine life. Baptismal life is the life of faith, hope and charity.

When it comes to these three Theological Virtues, the Church’s teaching has focused on the truth that they are “divinely infused.” However, when we focus *only* on this truth, we easily lose the human reality that Jesus’ Incarnation requires us to keep in view. The Theological Virtues *are infused*, but let us not forget that they are infused *into our humanity*. If, as St. Thomas famously said, grace (God’s life) truly does build on nature (human life), then we must pay attention to the ground (our human nature and life) in which God’s life is planted.

We begin here with Faith, and will continue with Hope and Charity in upcoming articles.

Regarding Faith: The bare minimum necessary for relationships to *exist* is that we are able to believe as true that which is affirmed by those around us. More deeply, for human relationships to *flourish and bear fruit*, we must be

able to believe that the other person *is now, and will be into the future, who they represent themselves to be*. Fruitful human relationships are grounded in *truthful persons* even more deeply than they are grounded in the truthful exchange of information between persons, though the latter remains important. Fruitful human relationships require us to *give our word* to one another and *keep it*, the most *profound word* being *ourselves*. They require us to faithfully BE what our words speak. Faith / fidelity is the bed-rock and soil of human relationships.

We live this human truth in many ways: we teach our children to make promises and to keep them and to speak honestly; we require that our teenagers go to basketball practice long after the glamor of playing on the team has worn off; we insist that our children show up at school and at work with consistency.

The Gospels show us that Jesus, in His humanity, believes what the Father has spoken to (and in) Him as true. More deeply, they show that Jesus demonstrated his belief in his Father’s fidelity, and HIS unwavering fidelity to mission to Him by His Father. Jesus demonstrated Himself to be a man of his word, to be a man of good-faith by remaining faithful to the Father’s Word (which he *was and is*).

Because our Baptism invests us with Jesus’ own life, Baptism “embeds”, if you will, His faith and fidelity within *our* human faith and fidelity! Our human capacity for faith / fidelity is fueled by Jesus’ divinity, transforming all of our human choices to be faithful into occasions to meet the living God. Our ability to receive the word of another and believe it as true is transformed into the ability to receive God’s own Word to us (in the Scriptures, but also in the depths of our own consciences) and believe it as true. Our capacity to count on others (and have others count on us) becomes an occasion to count on the living God. We are no longer alone, and all human communication is transformed into life-giving communication! Perhaps most profoundly, the power we have to give our word to another and keep it is transformed and upgraded into the power to give our word to the living God and keep it! Our entire life becomes a “vow of obedience,” so to speak. May it be so!

Sister Marie Kolbe Zamora, OSF, S.T.D.

smkolbeschol@gmail.com

“. . . the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest justice which can be offered to the heart of humanity, which has a vital need for it, even if it does not realize it.” Pope Francis, March 11, 2020

If we have not yet perceived the desperate need for Gospel values in our world, then Pope Francis’ words will surely make this clear. The justice of Jesus enters into every issue, every corner of the Earth and every human need. Knowing this call verbalized by the Holy Father, we enter into another year of articles meant to explore matters that Pope Francis asks us to bring to prayer as well as considering the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter on racism entitled *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*. So, let us begin.

This month’s intention is “That the planet’s resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.”

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis reflects on St. Francis’ practice of addressing each element of Creation as “Brother” and “Sister”. He writes, “Such a conviction cannot be written off as naive romanticism, for it affects the choices which determine our behavior. If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters. . . .By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. The poverty and austerity of Saint Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled.”

We do well to go one step further and to understand our own view of Creation with all its resources as a collective “thing” to be possessed, manipulated and hoarded for our own national affluence. It is in this attitude that global troubles are often sourced.

Share The World’s Resources – an advocacy organization with consultative status at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations wrote in its report in 2010, “The incidence of hunger is more widespread than ever before in human history, surpassing 1 billion people in 2009 despite the record harvests of food being reaped

in recent years. At least 1.4 billion people live in extreme poverty, a number equivalent to more than four times the population of the United States. One out of every five people does not have access to clean drinking water. More than a billion people lack access to basic health care services, while over a billion people – the majority of them women – lack a basic education. Every week, more than 115,000 people move into a slum somewhere in Africa, Asia or Latin America. Every day, around 50,000 people die needlessly as a result of being denied the essentials of life.”



These are tragic statistics that surely give us pause, and one can only assume that they have only worsened over the last 10 years. Why do these shameful facts remain? It seems that Robert Fulgham had it right when he wrote *All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten*. First on his list of things to know is “Share everything.” Too often the “haves” are not interested in this most basic activity of sharing with the “have nots”. Nations and their citizens give greater priority to progressing in wealth and comfort than in making sure that their neighbor has what is needed. Pope Francis is asking us to pray that our resources, all resources, be shared in a just and respectful manner. Returning to the *Share the World’s Resources* report, we read, “Sharing is a simple solution to complex problems that reflects the moral values and ethics that should underpin the fabric of society. Everyone understands and practices sharing within their family or community. By relating the principle of sharing to social and economic policy, it simplifies and brings to life important global issues and complex economic thinking in a way that anyone can relate to.”

This same perception of ourselves as masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, enters into the issue of racism.

Continued on page 5.

New ministry as an Educational Consultant



Sister Marcollette Madden
Educational Consultant
Contact her at 920-323-7768
or smarcollette@fsc-calledtobe.org

Sister Marcollette Madden is excited to serve as an Educational Consultant because “coaching” is in her DNA. As a Catholic School principal and Associate Professor of Education at Holy Family College, she had extensive opportunities to guide professional educators and pre-service teachers—a role that “made my heart sing.” She genuinely enjoys promoting others’ growth.

Sister Marcollette reflects: “My new ministry is an expression of our Congregation’s commitment to respond to the needs of our time. In a world broken by divisiveness, we strive to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi who promoted unity and equity. Our times challenge us to open our hearts, to embrace diversity, to listen, and to learn.

“Many of the topics I can offer provide tools for healing a broken world: listening skills, coaching conversations, characteristics of Servant Leadership, Six Thinking Hats. Some topics are more curriculum oriented: *Understanding by Design*, Integrating the Arts in the Curriculum, *Visible Learning for Teachers*, and Best Practices in Online Instruction.”

Just Gospel (continued from p. 4)

As the U.S. Bishops write in their pastoral letter, *Open Wide Our Hearts*, “Racism arises when a person holds that his or her own race or ethnicity is superior, and there judges persons of other races or ethnicities as inferior and unworthy of equal regard.” When we begin to perceive ourselves in these roles, then naturally, the master must have a servant, the consumer must have a provider, the exploiter stands upon someone who is exploited. If we are in these overbearing roles, how is that sharing? How is that practicing charity?

Pope Francis writes again in *Laudato Si*, “The created things of this world are not free of ownership: “For they are yours, O Lord, who love the living” (*Wis* 11:26). This is the basis of our conviction that, as part of the universe, called into being by one Father, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect. Here I would reiterate that “God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement”.

So, let us write to our legislators with the foundational plea that we become a nation of “sharers”. Let us pray for all leaders of the world that they be guided by a spirit of justice. Let us pray that we will feel the pain of Mother Earth and of her children who suffer. Let us pray!



Going Back to School Continued from page 1.

Sister Lorita Gaffney is working in the office since July 27.

St. Francis of Assisi School

Sister Hannah Johnecheck began with meetings on August 10 and on-line classes on August 17.

Sister Mary Beth Kornely began work in the office on August 10.

The adjustments to beginning the school year on-line have been challenging and don't give those who teach a good way to get to know their students or to interact with them in a more meaningful way. We are counting on prayers and the grace of God to provide the strength to hang in there until it is possible to move towards in-school teaching.

—Sister Mary Beth Kornely

Summer Happenings



Nine Sisters from the Motherhouse picked 240 pounds of strawberries on the Wilfert Farm, June 29. They shared some of them with the Sisters at St. Francis Convent and our Sisters in Newton. Many hands helped hull the juicy treasures before enjoying them served in various forms.



Summer Happenings

Reception into the Novitiate, June 13, 2020



Postulant Mary Jane receives the habit from Sister Natalie Bimversie, Community Director, during the Reception Ceremony.



*Sister Mary Jane Schwartz
Mary Jane Schwartz
From: L'Anse Michigan*



Pandemic-response creativity led to the first Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity summer gathering (July 10) in the safety of our convent homes. Sisters logged on more than 50 devices with often more than a few Sisters present. Many logged on early and stayed on longer just to see everyone and offer greetings.



Scott McConnaha received a Faith That Works award—Franciscans were there to celebrate with Scott and his family

The Compass honored this year's Faith That Works awardees on August 4. Bishop David Ricken celebrated Mass with honorees and their families at St. Joseph Chapel in Allouez.

Profession of vows, July 5, 2020



Sister Concepción pronounces her vows.



*Sister Concepción Medina
From: Midland, Texas*



Sister Mariadele Jacobs is new in Cambridge, Ohio. The Sisters were blessed to welcome her on August 9th. She will be teaching Religion in the Primary Grades at St. Benedict's School.

—Sister Sharon Paul



True Franciscan fun... puppies!!! Thanks Nurse Annika for bringing your border collie puppies.

Catechist In-Service Format—“It’s a Changing!”

Imperial Nebraska—Previously, Sister Rochelle Kerkhof, Youth Minister, was responsible for a Fall and Spring In-Service Meeting for the Catechists of the nine parishes in the Grant Deanery. The in-service was held in St. Patrick Parish Hall, Imperial. Meetings were held on Wednesdays, regular class nights, between 6-8 pm. (Mountain Time) and included a meal sponsored by Altar Society. Catechists car-pooled, traveling between 30-60 minutes or more, one way. Coming from various time zones and sometimes in very threatening weather, attendance was often negatively impacted.

With the ongoing pandemic, Sister Rochelle requested the following changes to her Director, Fr. Matthew Eickhoff, the Dean, and received approval to proceed with a new plan. In place of the two Catechists’ In-Services held in Imperial, Sister Rochelle has the approval of each parish pastor to present one Catechist In-Service gathering at each parish site before CCD and CYO programs begin in 2020.

The Specific Goals of this In-Service:

- 1) Provide teachers and aides’ time to prepare for students’ return to classroom in pandemic times; i.e. sensitivities, awareness, listening skills;
- 2) Share key elements of catechesis with the ‘end in mind’: namely, the person of Jesus; i.e. explicit kerygma within each class lesson connecting information to Jesus;
- 3) Provide teachers time to create and prioritize their catechetical teaching goals for this new year;

The Pros of ‘on site’ in-service:

- 1) less travel (especially at night) for the catechists from distant parishes;
- 2) ‘more hands on’ opportunity during in-service due to smaller numbers in group;
- 3) shape a quality catechesis focus for all teachers at one site benefiting students;
- 4) new format will provide two Wednesdays/year for CCD and CYO instructions;



Protocols: As advised by our local Health District in Southwest Nebraska.

—Sister Rochelle Kerkhof

Going Back to School—Holy Family Conservatory, Manitowoc



Sister Mary Carol



Sister Rosaire



Sister Carol Ann

Sister Mary Carol Kopecky teaches piano
Sister Rosaire Pigeon teaches piano
Sister Carol Ann Gamsky, Administrator, teaches piano

In-person classes start on Monday August 31, 2020 with special precautions: temperature reading, masking, social distancing, no more than three people in a studio, contingency plans in place etc.

—Sister Carol Ann Gamsky

Going Back to School—Sacred Heart School in L'Anse, Michigan

Sister Carolee Vanness teaches first and second grade at Sacred Heart.

In-person classes start on September 1st. Our classes are small and we will have the desks distanced as far apart as possible. Teachers, staff, and students may wear masks or shields in the classroom, but we are not required to wear them at this time. We must wear a face covering in the hallways and common areas. Bathroom breaks and recesses will be scheduled for each classroom.

—Sister Carolee Vanness



Praising God from Whom All Blessings Flow



The Sisters in St. Rita Health Center praised God during an Evening Prayer, on each of the three floors, for the blessing that Sister Lois Ann has been to them these past years as their Local Director. On each floor she was presented with a *Book of Messages* describing how the Sisters would keep her in special prayer.

The staff showed their appreciation of Sister Lois Ann's 50 years of Nursing Care with a lovely poster and beautiful Retirement Banner.

May the Lord continue to bless you, Sister Lois Ann, as you follow His call in all you do.



*Sister Maria Guadeloupe and
Sister Mary Jane*

Resuming Studies—

With the closing of Holy Family College, the Sisters in formation will be pursuing their education at other colleges.

Sister Mary Jane Schwartz will be taking theology and philosophy courses online through Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio during her canonical year as a first-year novice.

Sister Maria Guadalupe Martinez will be pur-

suing a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education at Lakeland University in Plymouth, Wisconsin during her second-year as a novice.

Sister Concepción Medina is pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at Bellin College in Green Bay, Wisconsin while living at the Motherhouse as a first year Temporary Professed.



Pray for Our Deceased Sisters



SISTER MARELLA WAGNER
Born: March 6, 1938
Died at Holy Family Convent
June 27, 2020
Religious Profession of Vows
August 15, 1956



SISTER MIRIAM DOSCH
Born: March 5, 1936
Died at Holy Family Convent
August 17, 2020
Religious Profession of Vows
August 15, 1956



SISTER MARY ANN MCELROY
Born: February 25, 1925
Died at Holy Family Convent
July 28, 2020
Religious Profession of Vows
August 15, 1945



SISTER RAPHAEL PIOTRZKOWSKI
Born: March 28, 1928
Died at Holy Family Convent
August 20, 2020
Religious Profession of Vows
August 15, 1946



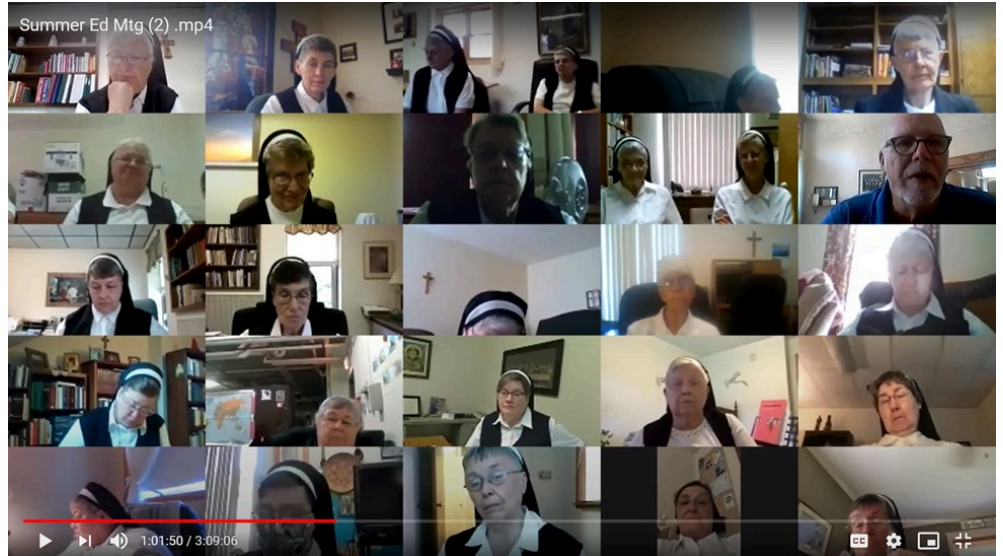
SISTER LOIS RISCH
Born: August 11, 1937
Died at Holy Family Convent
August 4, 2020
Religious Profession of Vows
August 15, 1956



SISTER MARY HUGH KERKHOFF
Born: January 1, 1928
Died at Holy Family Convent
August 23, 2020
Religious Profession of Vows
August 15, 1946

Educational Legacy Workshop

Prior to the meeting a Community-wide survey was sent to all Sisters via Google forms in April. Those Sisters who do not use email were given hard copies of the survey. This information was compiled for use this summer and will be helpful for following summers. The topics of interest that were shared this summer came from that survey.



On July 9, 2020 Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity celebrated our educational legacy with a virtual gathering of Sisters throughout the country. After the opening prayer shared by Sister Leonette, Community Director Sister Natalie Binversie welcomed the participants.

Keynote Speaker Tim Olson, friend and esteemed local educational leader at Roncalli High School over the years, encouraged all to remember where we have come in the legacy of Catholic Education and where we are going. Some points of reflection: The world of larger families and knowing your neighbors who share the same parish is no longer the normal working model in Catholic Schools and parishes. Today's young people are still hungry for direction, are looking for help in dealing with peer rebellion and often are making many decisions on their own. Moral guidelines are desired. Some are lonely, lacking real support. Being present in the educational mission of the Church becomes more critical. We are needed to form the next generation with skills to know and defend their faith. Diversity in the broad definition of the term is also important as we

look forward. Listening is vital as we pass the torch to new compassionate leaders who are called to be Christ to others.

Other topics and speakers were:

- Data-driven Instruction (Sister Mary Karen Oudeans)
- Classical Schools (Sister Carolee Vanness)
- On-line Instruction (Sister Mary Carol Kopecky, Sister Marcollette Madden, Sister Mary Teresa Bettag)

Our Sister participant's responses

to the question: *How would you define the legacy of education for the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity?*

We have always been flexible, going with the flow.

We always adapted, whatever it would take; have been well educated for each situation, always willing to try the best; nothing stops the Franciscan Sisters in doing what they could.

We have mentored, guiding Catholic leaders to carry our torch of Franciscan values in education.

We have always reached out to the poor, under-privileged.

Our rock, foundation has always been based on our Catholic faith, deepening the faith of others.

We have done well in ministering in a variety of settings – dioceses, with other religious congregations, cultures, levels of schooling.

Never an 8:00 – 3:00 job, but a ministry

There has always been a passion for self-learning and therefore we have the ability to be responsive, what more can we do for families.

My own observation regarding our educational legacy would be the respect / reverence /love we work to communicate to each student. Concern for equity in a number of the presentations, as well as the desire to ensure student success in the transition to online delivery are evidence of this. Thanks for such a wonderful opportunity.

Mentoring, directing, working to develop capacity to carry on our legacy, our Franciscan heritage, values, with the classical schools as an example, as our sponsored ministries do.

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International Sisters Depart for New Schools

With the closing of Holy Family College in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, we had to say good-bye to the International Sisters who shared Community with us at Holy Family Convent. They are greatly missed as they shared so much of themselves, their cultures and spirituality with us.

On Tuesday July 21, Sister Charity Nkwera, OSB had finished her packing and was ready to leave our Motherhouse and transfer to her St. Scholastic College in Duluth, Minnesota. After Evening Prayer she was blessed by the Community with their hands extended during the Blessing of St. Francis. Here she is shown in the garden she worked at during the summer months growing cucumbers, egg plant, parsley, etc. Sister Caroline and Sister Beatrice will continue caring for it. It was hard to say good bye. Sister Natalie Binversie and Sister Jane Kinata left with her at 4:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 22, in an effort to take her to Duluth and return without staying overnight—to avoid the restriction of two weeks of quarantine.



Sister Charity Nkwera, OSB



Sister Caroline Ogongo, FSSA and Sister Beatrice Ojwang, FSSA will attend the University of Wisconsin Green Bay, Manitowoc Campus and remain part of our Motherhouse Community.

On Monday, July 27, Sister Luyen Thi Ngo, LHC left our Motherhouse. She is registered to attend school at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee to finish her degree in Theology and English. She is residing with the Notre Dame Sisters at their Motherhouse.

Sister Luyen Thi Ngo, LHC →



On August 6, the Motherhouse Community said good-bye to Sister Tuyen Thi Phung, LHC and Sister Mary Gam Pham, OP as



they drove off to the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Agnes, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin where they will live while attending Marion University to finish their degrees.

Education Legacy Workshop (Continued from page 8)

Continuing to serve the poor and underprivileged

Our community has always provided the education needed for us in our ministry of education.

Focus on our prayer life gives a good foundation for us as educators – our spirituality is our first priority.

Connecting with the families we serve, accompanying them outside of education settings

We reach out to all different levels, adult ed., people, and families in their needs.

The dioceses in which we serve are happy to have our Sisters, consider us great educators and have helped to develop leaders. We take our work seriously, develop Christian Catholic teaching in many ways, not just in education. We are wanted.

Our training forms us to be collaborative, work as a team, we have been mentored by our Sisters. We do not cling to the status quo, but we change as needed.

Our legacy has always been to be good at adapting, open to change, responsive to

the needs of the poor, of other cultures. Research shows that characteristics of really successful leaders are a willingness to let new evidence change their point of view. We have done this, and I believe this will lead us into the future, being open to new evidence that leads to making changes will take us to the future – study, learn, listen, not rash judgements.

I have been inspired by the Sisters innovations, and am encouraged to prepare to work hard to bring a good life to others.

–Sister Jane Kinata

Going Back to School— GRACE System for the Green Bay Catholic Schools

(This is the last in a series of articles on what is planned for the starting of school in some of the areas in which our Sisters teach.)

Starting August 26, GRACE system is opening face to face with a strong desire of over 84% of their families wishing to return to in-person learning. (An option has also been provided by the GRACE System for families who opt to keep their children home. Grace Virtual Academy is being set up by teachers belonging to the GRACE system who will teach online for the students who wish to stay home.)

Teacher in-service began August 18th. August 19, students from each grade came (masked) with a parent (also masked) to meet with their teachers who will test them individually to assign reading levels. August 24 - only students (masked) will enter the building to bring supplies; the teachers (masked) will accompany each student back to the waiting cars to meet and greet parents. Teachers, staff, and students must all remain masked; some exceptions

without masks can be allowed outdoors with social distancing.

Holy Family School, Green Bay

Sister Maria Goretti Scandaliato is a last minute 4th grade long term teacher sub. Her 4th grade has 18 who have enrolled so far. Five 4th graders have enrolled in the Virtual Academy. 5th grade has 11 in-school students enrolled.



—Sister Maria Goretti Scandaliato

Do you know the Brownie Smile song?

A parody by Sister Dorothy Wagner

I have something in my pocket that belongs across my face,
I keep it very close to me in a most convenient place.
I know that you can guess it, there is no need to ask,
So I'll take it out and put it on; it's a colorful, protective mask!