



Heritage Happenings

Archives Office

October 2018

Lest We Forget...

March Anniversaries—the Ides of March 44 BC and 2021 AC.

In 44 BC, March 15 became notorious as the date of the assassination of Julius Caesar which made the Ides of March a turning point in Roman history. In the year 2020 AC three days before the Ides of March, our own historical turning point struck with the calling of an emergency house meeting to outline pending changes due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Do we remember...what we were all thinking, doing, working at?

Dec. 12, 2019 China identified COVID-19 virus. March 15, 2020 confirmed 162,959 COVID-19 cases around the world. On Thursday, March 12, Sr. Anne returned from Haiti and went into a five day quarantine. The following day airlines shut down for incoming travelers. Italy confirmed almost 200 deaths in 24 hours due to the virus.

The rest of the year is history that we will all remember and never forget:

- Closing of Holy Family College after 85 years...August 29, 2020
- Lent without processions, lighting of the fire, ashes on our foreheads, limited music / singing; Mass in two chapels; Evening Prayer over the PA—we sat in our doorways.
- Online streaming of Sister Concepcion’s First Profession.
- Sanitizing hands, tables, chairs, pews, telephones, doorknobs, bannisters, etc.
- All outside doors locked at all times, no switchboard after 5:00 PM.
- Masks, masks, masks. Sr. Linda and helpers are still making them.
- July summer Community Meeting held by ZOOM! Jubilee celebrations canceled.
- October 4 Sr. St. Agnes first COVID-POS case
- Deaths of our Sisters with no vigil waiting/praying, no Wake Service or Funeral...so hard.
- Virtual Masses and Spiritual Communion; social distancing in cafeteria, chapel, elevators;
- January 11 COVID-19 Vaccine initiated with St. Rita’s Sisters
- Partnership of Holy Family Memorial with Froedert Health
- I-pads in St. Rita’s helped Sisters stay in touch with the “outside world!”
- Daily emails of support and encouragement from Sister Natalie

The list is unending....but the Lord leads...and we follow with faith, hope, prayer.

Now on to other more archival news!!!



COVID-19

Recently a new found letter demanded “sleuthing”!
Letter Nov. 22, 1976 to Sr. Clementia...
Dear Friends of the Historical Society..I have been told of the donation to our Historical Village of two ornamental hitching posts, which from a by-gone era graced the drive way of the Convent. The Historical society has just completed construction of a blacksmith stop at the Village. The hitching posts can be placed either beside or in front of the blacksmith shop These are relics of another age about which guides can remark as they describe the blacksmith shop to our visitors. Were they really out there? And where?



An inquiry revealed the following: *According to our files, the hitching posts from the convent are currently outside the Carsten*

building (the saloon building). They sure are neat! What an interesting connection! The photo of the Saloon shows two hitching posts on either side of the flag and an enlarged view.



A year a
Neopit n
ture.

**Death Sunday vs Adoration Sunday
vs Recollection Sunday**

Who remembers "Death Sunday"?

Memories shared recall that it was the last Sunday of the month. Sisters and novices gathered in St. Mary's Chapel but the candidates / postulants did not. They were sort of happy that Sister Mistress was gone all morning. Then the Sunday was changed to Adoration Sunday and now it is called Recollection Sunday and is the morning of the First Sunday of the month. Does anyone recall how these changes came about or have any memories about these Sundays that they'd like to share? All are welcome.



On February 2, 2021 a letter was posted from Joseph Fyszrom Trenton, NJ, in recognition of the death of Father Jeremiah and in remembrance of his great aunt Mary, Sister Mary Hedwig Nacel. His story about her bears sharing. He wrote: *My great aunt Mary, Sister Hedwig, died in your community in 1969. I was 13 years old. I remember her on visits to my grandparents and her brothers and sisters. I believe she was a domestic worker at the Motherhouse. I remember how*



different she looked in the new habit and that she had a sense of humor. My mother and I were driving her somewhere on a day when rain was expected. My mother had a statue of St. Joseph on her dashboard. When we arrived at wherever she wanted to go, she took the statue from the dashboard and placed it on the hood of the car, saying "if I am going to get wet, so are you!"

Here is a picture of Sister Hedwig. She was born in Trenton, New Jersey, February 11, 1891. entered in March 26, 1908, became a novice August 10, 1910 and professed first vows July 6, 1912. She died at Holy Family Hospital in 1969 at 78 years old, 57 years professed. It was a joy to hear from him.



**Is it: Stroinski, Stroinska, or Stroinsky??
The search is on....**

This inquiry was received from a "searching" relative:

I am looking for the location of my great great aunt's grave. I don't know her "Sister" name. Her father was Jacob Stroinsky and I believe her mother was Jacob's second wife, Margaretha Christman, maybe. I do know she had a sister in the Franciscan order as well. Her name was Helen Stroinsky (Sister Theodore) and parents were Jacob and Anna (Gassel) Stroinsky. I don't know when she passed or where. I had assumed it would be in Manitowoc but I didn't find her. I will enclose her picture. Help would be appreciated.



The Database of our Sisters revealed there were two Stroinsky's: 1) Sister Theodora (Helen) Stroinsky born 4/28/1873 and 2) Sister Laurine (Lucy) Stroinsky born 8/24/1881, but there was also Sister Aspiranda Stroinski, and Sister Dominica Stroinska. But then, Sr. Theodore (not a)'s father was listed as Stroinska!!! Directing Elaine Wallis to Find-a-Grave elicited more information plus a picture Sr. Theodore's of the gravestone. Another photo showed Christmas cards (hand made) by Sr. Theodore.



Then, to add to the mystery, Elaine's sister had only heard of one nun, "Connie" and she sent her photo. The database has a "C" Stroinska listed as Sister Dominica. The question remains: Is this Sister Dominica the missing Connie and here's her photo!



The spelling of last names is truly a challenge especially when different documents on a particular Sister all have different spellings!! It is suspected that at least two of these sisters are related as Sr. Dominica and Sr. Aspiranda were both born in Clintonville. More searching by Elaine Wallis will tell.



These beautiful beaded moccasins have been added to our Neopit Memorabilia. They were a gift made by Jane Webster to Sister Karen Krahenbuhl for service to Menominee Tribe.