



# Heritage Happenings

Archives Office  
January 2023

Lest We Forget...



This year the Franciscan Centenary is celebrating Christmas at Greccio 1223—2023. Special to our community is the event on Christmas Eve when the Infant Jesus is brought out to the grotto in the cold of winter. Either the youngest novice or the youngest community member carries the Infant to the crib, after which the story of Greccio is read along with Luke's gospel description of this most holy event. How far back does

this tradition go? Any memories you might have to share about participating in this event, carrying lighted candles, singing Christmas carols?



Hear the words of Mother Perpetua for Christmas of 1940.

## Celebrating the Nativity of our Savior

Dearest Sisters: May the mystery of our Saviour's Nativity work its full effect in your souls: PEACE, JOY, FAITH, and above all HUMILITY and CHARITY, bestowed by CHRIST our new-born KING this CHRISTMAS DAY! I am not writing you at length but asking our humble holy Founder to speak to you each day in the NEW YEAR through



"THOUGHTS from ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI". Let me quote just one THOUGHT here:

"A joy to me is every pain For I await a greater gain."

Celebrating 800 years since Greccio, triggers a frequent question:  
How many of our Sisters lived to be over 100? 26 made it!!

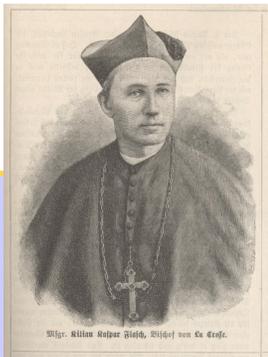


Above: Sr. Karlene Berger-100; Sr. Catherine Glim-100; Sr. Pauline Knust-100; Sr. Stanislaus Kosmicki-100; Sr. Anne Liegl-100; Sr. Cecil Melchoirs-100; Sr. Berard Schroeder-100; Below: Sr. Gervase Seidl-100; Sr. Bilhildis Speel-100; Sr. St. Agnes Stuttgen-100; Sr. Dolores Ann Uppena-100; Sr. Roberta Wolff-100; Sr. Rose Gerend-101; Sr. Bernadine-101; (see next page)





**Above:** Sr. Matilda Peterschick-101; Sr. Othelia Skrowronska-101; Sr. Kenneth Devlin-102; Sr. Eligius Hoolihan-102; Sr. Justin Pollak-102; Sr. Antonita Diederich-103; **Below:** Sr. Alma Westenberger-103; Sr. Leon Bergeron-104; Sr. Claude De Mario-106; Sr. Cecelia Marie Kalous-106; Sr. Julius Wickesberg-106; Sr. Mary Zigo-106.



**Amalgamation Update:** *Is Sister Andrene Flasch really related to Father Killian Flasch, the Retreat Director and Election Delegate???...sent by Archbishop Henni to oversee election of the new Mother Superior? And the answer is.....YES! She really is.*



Father Killian Casper Flasch was born in Retzstadt, Bavaria, July 9, 1831 and came to America in 1847 with his father, Andreas Flasch and his uncle, Balthazar. He attended Notre Dame University and then entered St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee. He was ordained on December 16, 1859 and assigned to mission work. In November 1869 he returned to the seminary and accepted a teaching position as professor of moral theology and master of discipline. He remained there until August of 1881 when he was appointed Bishop of La Crosse. He died August 3, 1891. He was noted for his religious fervor and kindness of heart. In tracing Sister Andrene's connection to Father Killian, Balthazar, brother of Andreas, would have been her great-great-great-grandfather and Andreas her great-great-great-uncle....and thus Father Killian would be her.... (you figure it out...and let me know!!)



With the amalgamation complete during the Summer of 1877, the community members totaled about 66 Sisters. Agreements were reached: Prayers alternated German one day, English the next. All Sisters had to learn both languages. The German Sisters dropped their title and everyone became Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. Money was all put into a general treasury. Now 12 Missions were being served with at least 2-3 Sisters missioned to each. Three new missions were to be opened in the fall. This would leave about 30 women (Professed Sisters, novices, postulants) living at the Motherhouse. Mother Augustine now faced the need for more living space. With her counsel the decision was passed to build an addition to the convent. With Archbishop's Henni approval, preparations were made. During the winter of 1877-1878 materials were hauled. Work began in spring. The bricklayers were Valentine Totzler and Xavier Meyer. Mr. Bohaer was the carpenter. Father Joseph Fessler was again the overseer of the project. The building seemed to progress slowly so it was not until the spring of 1879 that it was really ready for occupancy. But it meant payment and that was a weighty matter. After praying for light, Mother Augustine suggested a plan which seemed feasible. She would return to Germany, where, she thought, financial aid would be forthcoming. (To be continued in the next issue: February)

