

Communigram

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY

Formation Mission Experiences

Experience of Sister Catherine Peter Logan Mission: West Point, Nebraska

After attending SEEK, I ventured to the winter wonderland of West Point, Nebraska for my Mission experience. You know your trip is going to go well when you can spend time with Jesus at the airport on the way. How great that the Atlanta airport has a tabernacle in their interfaith chapel. When I arrived in West Point I shared I was missing the snow of the Colorado mountains but I guess I forgot to push the stop button. We had about two feet of snow by the end of the week with subzero temperatures.



My experience started off with a Green Bay Packer party as the Sisters continue to try to convert the locals in West Point to become cheese heads. It was wonderful to have an opportunity to get to know Sister Louise, Sister Joy, and Sister Elizabeth Ann throughout the week. For us in Formation here at the Motherhouse, we don't really have ample opportunities to get to know the Sis-

ters on Mission so this is a special part of the experience that I look forward to each year. To have a chance to join them for prayer, meals, recreation, and of course this week ... shoveling snow.

Sister Louise took me to where she works as the Assistant Director of Mission at St. Joseph's Retirement Community and St. Joseph's Hillside Villa nursing home which are beautifully decorated and have a great home-like feel to them. The staff and residents were all so friendly and you could witness the wonderful care. I had a chance to call BINGO followed by indoor snowman building with real snow from the abundance that mother nature provided. The building of mini snowmen turned



into a playful snowball fight and lots of laughter by all.

I then went with Sister Joy to see her ministry and to learn about the different parts of her work as Director of Mission at the hospital including attending an orientation and yearly mission refresh. The hospital facility, Franciscan Healthcare, is modern and decorated in a manner which brings a sense of peace with the Catholic and Franciscan foundation highly visible for all to see. I had a chance to attend a meeting where all the departments come together in the morning to give updates of what is happening in their areas. Many staff had called off due to dangerous road conditions due to snow but even being short staffed there was a spirit of joy and care in the air. A real family work type of atmosphere.

While I saw the snow falling I had hoped for sledding and before I knew it I was joining CEO Tyler's kids to go sledding at a local park. There was about a foot of snow at that point and lots of fun was had by all.

I had a chance to go to Guardian Angels Central Catholic School with Sister Elizabeth Ann. How amazing to see classrooms filled with kids throughout all of the grades from elementary through high school. I had a chance to share my vocation story to different classes from 8th

Continued on p. 2.

Mission Experiences Continued from p.1.

grade to 12th and then I was able to sit in on one of Sister Elizabeth Ann's classes. All of the teachers, staff, and students I met were so friendly and you could sense a true joy through the school as well.

Throughout the week we attended Masses at St Joseph's Retirement community and Hillside Villa, Franciscan Healthcare, and Saint Mary's. The chapels were all so peaceful and the church was beautiful. At Saint Mary's with Father Weeder presiding, the Sunday Bilingual Mass was filled with families and so many children. Such a blessing! It was also so heartwarming to witness and hear how much the West Point community cares for our Sisters and the impact our FSCC community has made in this city for over 138 years. This mission experience was definitely one that I will not soon forget. Thank you to all for the generosity and hospitality and kindness extended to me.



Experience of Sister Michelle Marie Ozuna Mission: Zanesville, Ohio



I was grateful to visit Sisters Maureen Anne Shepard, Bernadette Selinsky, and Kay Warning in Zanesville, OH on my mission experience this year. It was very meaningful to see the impact our Sisters have made on the community of Zanesville over the years, especial-

ly in the ministry of healthcare through our establishment of Good Samaritan Hospital which merged with Bethesda Hospital to become Genesis Healthcare System. It was also meaningful to be immersed in such a diverse community of faith, although Zanesville is only 10% Catholic the combined parishes of St. Nicholas and St. Thomas Aquinas are a very vibrant part of the Zanesville Christian community.

I really enjoyed visiting the new Cancer wing of Genesis Hospital which provides a beautiful backdrop for cancer patients as they receive treatment and is equipped with very modern technology.

It was a privilege to meet a current volunteer at Genesis who was so uplifted by the caliber of care he received

while being treated for cancer at Genesis. He returned to the Catholic Church and was inspired to become a volunteer and share that love he received which he wore so evidently with his joyous smile and nature. I was blessed to have met this tangible witness of the fruitfulness of Catholic Healthcare and those who minister in Catholic Healthcare.



I enjoyed meeting members of the spiritual care team as well as the mission leader at Genesis. Rest assured the spiritual care needs of the residents of Genesis are well attended to. Although I feel called to healthcare, I still feel a call to spiritual care as well and meeting with others working in the field of spiritual care and so closely with those in the nursing field was a welcomed and helpful experience.

Sister Kay invited me to experience one of her shifts at the patient information desk at Genesis. Many visitors come into the hospital only knowing that their loved one was recently admitted, it was special to see their demeanor change from anxiety ridden to peaceful as they were

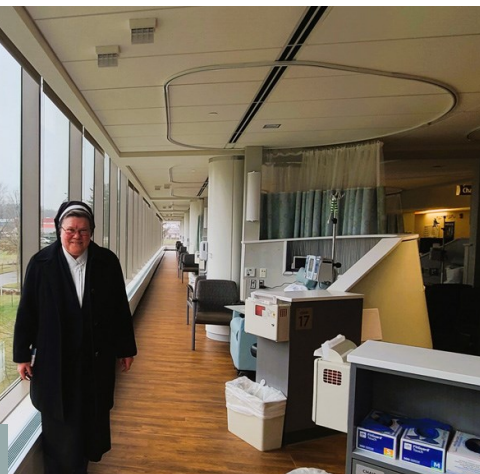


helped by Sr. Kay or just by the sight of her.

Visiting the archives and helping Sister Maureen Anne catalogue items was a treasure in itself. I was inspired by a slab of concrete that once was housed at the nursing school ran by our Sisters. It read "The love to do good is the foundation of all service." Amongst the historical treasures of photos of Good Samaritan over the years, Sr. Maureen Anne was able to paint a picture of the legacy we have had on the city. As the needs of the



The view from the new Genesis Cancer Care Center, Zanesville.



community of Zanesville grew so did our legacy of service to meet their needs.

It was a joy to be with our Sisters missioned in Zanesville for the week and learn what it is like to live on mission. It was beautiful to see their loving support of one another and their respect for each other's needs in such a familial way all while living their call to Religious life and being a light to those around them.



No trip to Zanesville is complete without visiting Tom's Ice Cream Parlor.

Experience of Postulant Jennifer Bourque Mission: Chassell, Michigan



It was a true delight to spend my mission week with three marvelous women of faith. Their desire for the Lord and sharing him with others was beautiful to experi-

ence. Throughout their ministries, Sister Jacqueline Spaniola, Sister Linda Brandes and Sister Hannah Johnecheck work with a variety of families, adults, and young adults. I truly enjoyed visiting with the adult men and women at the different senior centers as Sister Linda would bring them Holy Communion and spend time talking with them and praying the Rosary with them. It was



a joy to hear their stories and learn about their backgrounds. One of the men, Joe allowed me to take one of his professional photography pieces.

Sister Hannah's 1st and 2nd grade class was a lot of fun and excitement, the students were so happy and eager to learn. For the history portion of the class, the students were studying about Captain John Smith and the

Jamestown colony. With my past experience working at Colonial National Historical Park on Jamestown Island as Park Ranger, I was able to teach the students about the history of colony as well as teach them 17th century dice game: Captain, Ship and Crew; that Captain John Smith and the others would have played. It was so wonderful to be able to share the information with the students and see them so engaged with learning about their nation's history.

With Sister Jackie, it was beautiful to see how she and the college students truly connected on so many levels. Having spent a week with her and the students at SEEK and seeing how they positively interacted with one another, I saw how she was not only

Mission Experiences Continued from p.3.



a mentor to them, but a friend as well. Most of Sister Jackie's church programming was starting the week after I left.

Along with the Sister's ministries, they also had a deep connection with parishes at St. Ann and St. Albert for they would often, before and after Mass stand in the narthex area and meeting with

the parishioners as well as going downstairs to hall and spending time with other parishioners eating donuts, bagels and drinking coffee, etc. It was during these encounters that you saw the deep respect that the church community had for the Sisters and the deep respect the Sisters had for them.

It was wonderful, one night a couple from the church had invited the Sisters and I to come to dinner and a special blessing that they were having done at their house by a diocesan priest Fr. John who was a close friend.

Even with the Sisters busy ministry schedules and house duties, they made sure to pray the office together. They were also respectful of each other in making sure that they all had time for quiet prayer and reflection. In the evenings it was fun to spend time together watching the Hallmark Channel, talking and enjoying Sister Jackie's amazing popcorn.

Overall, it was an outstanding week to see and experience our community's charism and devout faith in full actions, for these Sisters are truly Christ's hands and feet to all they serve.

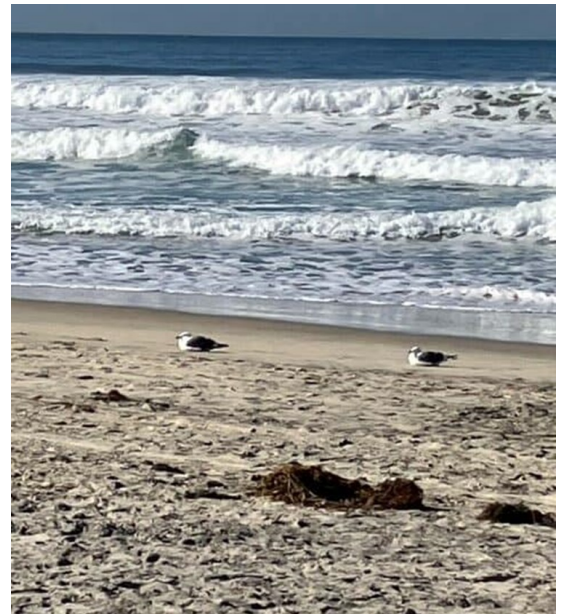
Sisters' Outing Destination: San Diego, California



Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, Sister Mary Beth Kornely, Sister Janet Rose, Sister Ann Mary Hart and Sister Mary Teresa Bettag, recently visited Immaculate Conception Church in Old Town San Diego. This is not the first time our congregation was here. We taught catechism in this church at one time. It was here in Old Town that Saint Junípero Serra celebrated his First Holy Mass in California on July 2, 1769. On the hill overlooking Old Town, he planted the cross which marked the site of the Mission and the Presidio.

Why take a trip now? Our Yuma, Arizona Community of Sisters decided on an adventure now because the weather is cooler and breaks from both Immaculate Conception School, St. Francis School and Yuma Catholic allow for more time to be leisurely. They spent the day in San Diego.

In addition to stopping at the Mission, they watched waves at the beach, people surfing and just moments of being with others doing the same thing. They toured old town, took a cruise in the harbor and had some local cuisine for lunch.



FSCC Legacy with Manitowoc Rotary Club

Ever since Sister Anne Kennedy was involved with the Manitowoc Noon Rotary Club, our community has played a vital role in supporting the club's mission of service to the civic community. Sister Barbara Belinski initiated Manitowoc Sunrise Rotary in 1994 so that business professionals wouldn't have to interrupt their work day. Our college lay presidents continued the involvement.

When Dr. Barry Bast, an original member of Manitowoc Sunrise Rotary, invited me to join the organization, he explained that the club wanted to expand its membership. He shared his fond memories of Sister Barbara: "At the end of each meeting, the president rings the 'Barbara Bell.' We miss her."

While attending a 7:00 a.m. meeting as a guest, I learned that the foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-political corporation that is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. Rotary is a global network of more than 46,000 clubs around the world committed to enhancing communities and improving lives. The areas of focus are basic education and literacy, environment, peacebuilding, maternal and child health, disease prevention, and community economic development.

Just a few of the many contributions Manitowoc Sunrise Rotary has made include the 72 scholarships awarded to college students (Holy Family College, Lakeshore Technical College, and UW Manitowoc), KAN Cool for School (school supplies for low-income children), Miracle League (for Special Needs children), Camp Sinawa, and the Veterans Day Breakfast. The big fundraising project for this summer will be the Sand Sculpting event on the beach.

Sister Natalie and her Council reviewed all the information I shared with them, and gave their approval for me to apply for membership. I was inducted into the club on December 12, 2023. As is true of so many of our Sisters, the willingness to devote time and study in serving on boards and committees reflects St. Francis' vision of fraternity – building relationships within and without the Community.

Sister Marcollette Madden

Bottom photo l to r: Elsie Patterson, President Elect; Kathleen Bernhart, President of Sunrise Rotary and Sister Marcollette.



What does Sister Marlita do for Fun?

When we returned to Tucson in December, I had one suitcase filled with yarn from the Craft Room. Sister Delores was kind to share her bounty! So, since December 4 I have been crocheting warm hats and stocking caps for the women in the Homeless shelter where I volunteer. I shared 12 with them this week because the weather here is turning very cold (snow predicted over the weekend!), and many sleep outside. Their heads will be kept warm, and hopefully make their evening sleep a little more pleasant. I plan to continue to crochet more hats/caps so that others can also have a warm head!! 25-30 ladies come in each morning to the Shelter for a warm breakfast and a shower, and I often do a load of laundry for them.

JUST Gospel!

By Sister Kathleen Murphy

In the early 18th century Katharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel wrote the now familiar lyrics to the hymn *Be Still My Soul*.

Be still my soul the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Leave to thy God to order and provide
In every change He faithful will remain.
Be still my soul thy best, thy heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

These comforting words relate well to Pope Francis' intention for February. He asks us to pray *that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment*.

This intention leads to taking a look at some healthcare terms. One has become rather familiar and one perhaps remains rather new. There terms are hospice care and palliative care. Information from the Catholic Healthcare Association will help us to understand these areas of care. Palliative care and hospice care are not the same. Hospice care is a specific type of palliative care for patients who are not expected to live longer than six months. Hospice care focuses on relieving pain, providing comfort-oriented medical treatments along with emotional and spiritual support. Hospice is only for patients with a serious illness who are not expected to live longer than six months.

The goals of palliative care are to:

1. Control pain
2. Manage symptoms such as fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, trouble sleeping, loss of appetite
3. Ensure treatments are consistent with the patient's values and wishes
4. Coordinate care across medical teams and specialists for serious illness and other chronic conditions
5. Offer spiritual and emotional support to patients and their families experiencing stress, anxiety or depression
6. Provide comfort and care when a cure is no longer possible and the end of life is approaching.

Palliative care neither hastens death nor uses unnecessary measures to postpone it, recognizing that dying is a normal part of life

Contemporary palliative medicine grew out of the hospice movement of care for the dying. In the early 1970s, Dr. Balfour Mount coined the term "palliative care" as a means of providing all around care for any patient during a serious illness. Most insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid, cover all or part of palliative care.

One may wonder about the Church's stance on these kinds of care. The Catholic bishops' Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services explain that "patients should be kept as free of pain as possible". Over the years, Popes from Saint John Paul II to Francis have written positively about palliative care. In his address to the Pontifical Academy of Life in 2015, Pope Francis said: *Palliative care is an expression of the truly human attitude of taking care of one another, especially of those who suffer. It is a testimony that the human person is always precious, even if marked by illness and old age. Indeed, the person, under any circumstances is an asset to him/herself and to others and is loved by God. This is why, when their life becomes very fragile and the end of their earthly existence approaches, we feel the responsibility to assist and accompany them in the best way.*

In addition to praying for those suffering from terminal illness and their families, it is good for us to keep informed as to government funding for such home health programs as hospice and palliative care. Bill Dombi, president of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice comments on recent cuts in funding: *Certainly, any reduction in revenues from home health will make it much harder to implement new programs such as palliative care or to participate in innovations such as hospice. In some circumstances, lower home health revenues may lead to the use of hospice revenues to subsidize other programs, rather than to continue to invest in hospice improvements such as technologies, or to begin palliative care programs.*

In faithful prayer with Pope Francis we return to von Schlegel's lyrics:

Leave to thy God to order and provide
In every change He faithful will remain.

Sisters Connect with Young People at Marinette

Holy Family Parish, Marinette, Wisconsin, invited Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity for a January 14th event entitled "Connected". This gathering drew high school students from Marinette, and other nearby towns including Peshtigo and Menomonee. Jeri Keepers, Holy Family Parish Faith Formation Coordinator, and other creative and committed adults added their gifts to create in the parish hall a January winter day atmosphere of warmth and love with a coffee house style setting.



While the day included Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Praise and Worship Music, Ice Breaker Activities and games, optional 'Praying with Scripture' and a service project for a local Respect for Life organization, emphasis was put on the topic of 'Sexual Integrity'. It was presented by The Culture Project through a live stream presentation from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Two of its young adult missionaries offered advice through personal stories, proclaiming the dignity of the human person and the richness of living sexual integrity hoping to restore culture through the experience of virtue.

Sister Anne Marie Lom shared on the topic: *Nourishment for the Soul*. After introducing herself as a Spiritual Director and sharing her own experiences with high school students, she quoted a General Principle of St. Thomas Aquinas.

"All good spirituality fosters good mental health. Good mental health fosters mature spirituality. 'Grace builds on nature.'"

She then covered four topics:

- False Humility vs Self Confidence
- Discouragement vs Faith
- False Happiness vs Joy
- Saying prayers vs Praying



Sister Anne Marie concluded her talk with this prayer: *Lord, you created me in a wonderful and mysterious way. Give me the grace and discipline to look for You in each event and to praise You for your constant friendship with me. Nourish my soul with your Presence and feed me with Your Love. I ask this, Lord, confident that your desire for me is greater than my desire for You. Amen.*

Important to the gathering was the presence of Fr. Celestine Byekwaso who was available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and leading the Eucharistic Adoration. Father, Jeri and Jon Keepers, Sister Anne Marie, and Grace, a student from University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, also formed a panel that responded to questions from the participants. Raffle prizes were awarded at the close of the evening.

Sister Anne Marie commented: "This was a rich and rewarding day spent with committed and generous adults and very attentive high schoolers. A Packers win was an added bonus!"



Our Sisters in Yuma (Sisters Mary Beth Kornely, Janet Rose, Mary Teresa Bettag and Ann Mary Hart) joined with the Secular Franciscans for their annual Epiphany party. They enjoyed a wonderful potluck dinner followed by a Secret Santa gift game, and ended with Evening Prayer after much visiting and sharing.

Sisters Preparing to Move

The Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity at 319 N. 7th. St. in Cambridge, Ohio began preparations for moving to their new residence at 714 Gomber Ave., a half block up the street. It is the former rectory of St. Benedict's Church. Our Pastor, Father Nicholas Ginnetti, resides at the St. Peter & Paul Rectory in Lore City, Ohio.



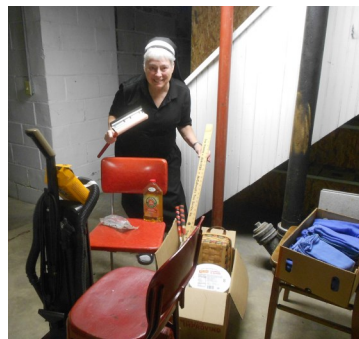
We agree with Sister Carol Juckem that St. Francis stays with us here until our final move!

It will be awhile before the move is complete as renovations are being made in the rectory.

Sister Sharon Paul



Sister Mariadele Jacobs is packing some of our dishes.



Sister Sharon Paul is in the basement organizing the contents.

West Point News



January 29th: opening day at JOYRIDE Public Transit.

Our ministry at Franciscan Healthcare, West Point, Nebraska shares these photos.

[Franciscan Healthcare](#) | [West Point NE](#) | [Facebook](#)

EXCITING NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BURT AND CUMING COUNTIES IN NORTHEAST NEBRASKA!

JOYRIDE Public Transit (with three transportation vehicles) hit the road January 29th. Communities served include Bancroft, Beemer, Craig, Decatur, Lyons, Oakland, Tekamah, West Point, and Wisner. This service will offer low-fare transportation for local trips and longer excursions within a 100-mile radius.