

Communigram

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY

Sister Lorna Honored by the Organization of American Kodaly Educators

The Organization of American Kodaly Educators (OAKE) held their National Conference March 14-17, 2024 at the Palmer Hilton Hotel Chicago IL. Sister Lorna Zemke and Sister Carol Ann Gamsky were among the 800 attendees at the Conference. Matt Hanne, Chair of the 50th Anniversary Celebration Task Force for the Organization of American Kodaly Educators (OAKE) invited Sister Lorna to share her reflections of the first conference that was held fifty years ago.

In addition, Matt sent this letter to Sister Lorna announcing she along with two other recipients would be recognized with the Golden Acorn award. He wrote, "...On behalf of the 50th Anniversary Celebration Task Force and the Organization of American Kodaly Educators, I am pleased to share that we are recognizing you with the Golden Acorn award. This award honors your significant foresight and contributions to OAKE as the co-chair of the very first OAKE National Conference in 1973. Thanks to your work, as well as the work of Stephen Jay, the vision of communication and cooperation between teachers interested in the Kodaly concept of music education found a sure footing that has allowed it to grow for 50 years..."

The Golden Acorn necklace symbolizes the growth of OAKE from a small select number of music educators to one of the largest Kodaly organizations in the world.



Matt Hanne and Sister Lorna at her legacy table (The framed photo is Katinka Daniel and Zoltan Kodaly. The photo on the table is Sister Lorna and Stephen Jay, co-chairs of the OAKE conference held 50 years ago.)

Sister Lorna was co-chair of the Founding Conference of the Organization of American Kodaly Educators (OAKE) fifty years ago in 1973. She was involved in the founding of OAKE, as well as the International Kodaly Society (IKS), the Midwest Kodaly Music Educators of America (MKMEA) and the state Association of Wisconsin Area Kodaly Educators (AWAKE). Sister Lorna also served as a past President of OAKE.

Sister Carol Ann Gamsky



Legacy Session— Sister Lorna sharing about the first conference held 50 years ago.



Presentation of Golden Acorn Award



Golden Acorn Award presented to Sister Lorna.

Sister Serves on CORE Board

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—Sister Adrianna Schouten has been a member of the Board of Directors for CORE and the secretary since fall, 2020. She shares with us what CORE is and how it helps people it serves.

CORE is a service organization founded in 2019 to help people who are struggling with mental health and substance abuse. The mission of CORE is to create healthy and resilient communities. The vision is to identify and meet the unmet needs of people struggling with mental health and substance use and through strategic collaboration with the community to create strategies for sustainable success.

CORE offers residential and outpatient services. In Manitowoc there are two residential facilities. The women's facility on Riverside Drive (former St. Clare convent) with a capacity for 16 persons. The men's facility on Vista Drive (former assisted living facility) with a capacity for 20 persons. The occupancy for these facilities has been 90%. The outpatient facility in Manitowoc is on Dewey Street. The sober living and outpatient services are also offered in Waupaca and Shawano. There are requests and interest in the program from at least 10 other counties. At present we employ 40 persons as peer support staff, outpatient clinician, and administration. In 2023 just under 1000 persons were helped.

The response of those served has been very positive. Some examples are:

“This place saved my life, and the people here truly care about you and want you to succeed.”

“The treatment was exactly what I was hoping for and needed. You have to want it though and once I was able to believe it was possible and was able to really take in what they were saying, my growth was unstoppable and will continue to be thanks to CORE.”

“CORE is an amazing place to recover at. This team teaches and helps out in every aspect of life. I thank them 1,000 times for making my stay as welcoming, as helpful as they could. If I could rate this place it'll be a 5 out of 5 on every level. Thank you.”

The members of the Board have expertise in health care, legal, financial, human resources and law enforcement.



Sister Adrianna posed outside of CORE's outpatient facility on Dewey Street.



The former St. Clare Convent near the hospital serves as CORE's residence for up to 16 women.



A former assisted living facility on Vista Drive is the Core residence for men with a capacity for 20.



Gift of Life Celebration

Sister Marcus Steede celebrated her 89th birthday on Sunday, March 10. Some of her family accompanied her to the Pro Arte Quartet Concert at the Franciscan Music Center to help her celebrate her birthday in grand style. A surprise announcement made by Dr. Stanislava Varshavski, DMA, Director of Concert Series, asked the audience to stand and sing “Happy

Birthday” to Sister Marcus. So many remember Sister Marcus as their violin teacher at Holy Family Conservatory.

Knowing the many health challenges Sister Marcus endured this past year, we thank God for this Blessing Gift.

St. Rita Sister Team

Sister Marcus enjoyed her family’s visit on her birthday. Her sister sure looks like her!



Sister Carla and Sister Rosalyn show off the tulip in their raised garden.



Retreat on the Our Father

St Paul Elders Services, Kaukauna, Wisconsin—We had a retreat for our residents, families, volunteers and staff that could come. It was one talk in the afternoon of March 11, 12, and 13. The topic was “The Our Father”. The retreat was directed by Fr. Ben Markwell, a Capuchin, from St. Fidelis Friary in Appleton. The retreat added a richness to our Lent.

*Sister Delores Wisnicky
Director of Mission and Spiritual Care*

Holy Family College Crucifix Continues Being Lenten Focus

Benjamin Wideman shared some photos of a favorite crucifix once hanging in the chapel of the former Holy Family College, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. As you may recall the crucifix was given to the parishioners of St. Clare Parish in Wrightstown, Askeaton and Greenleaf, Wisconsin.

This photo was taken in May, 2022 when the crucifix was taken down from the chapel.



Today, the crucifix continues to call the faithful to “rebuild My Church”. Fr. Brian Wideman prays at the Ash Wednesday Liturgy with his congregation.

Exploring Local Sites Via Scavenger Hunt

Yuma, Arizona—Sister Mary Beth Kornely shares these pictures from a fun activity Sunday [Feb. 25th] when Sister Myra Jean Sweigart was in Yuma for visitation. She was interested in exploring some of Yuma, so Sister Mary Teresa Bettag put together a scavenger hunt of places of interest in Yuma. The first stop was to check out the new sign for Immaculate Conception School. The task was to measure the circumference of the symbol using toilet tissue sheets as the form of measurement - within an accuracy of two sheets. Then the riddle gave the clue for the next stop in town.



2: St. Francis School, about 10 minutes away, was the destination. There we had to identify pieces of five different candy bars. That was not as easy as it sounded.

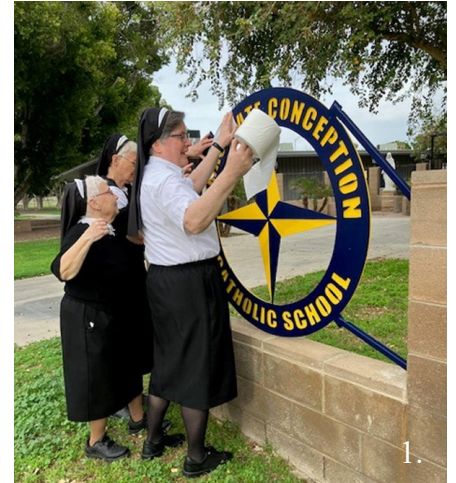
3: Not surprisingly, our next stop was Yuma Catholic High School and Sister Mary Teresa's classroom. Her walls are covered with newspaper articles about the students and the school. We couldn't leave the grounds until we shot some baskets in the gym.

#4 We then headed out to a location near the United States Marine Corps Base where they train the majority of marine pilots. Our task there was to build a two-story card structure - a little tricky on an "almost" level surface.

#5: we then headed out to the number two tourist attraction in Yuma, Roxaboxen (how it is even on the list is a mystery). The thing to do there is paint a rock and leave it there. Our trunk was filled with the chairs and table. The painting accessories were provided by two of the YC students who met us there.

6: The Yuma Territorial Prison was next. It has quite a history and has been voted in the past as one of the most haunted places in the country. Our task was to find our way through a paper maze to escape from prison.

#7: A short drive took us over the bridge into California to see St. Thomas the Apostle Church and the beautiful view of the Colorado River and overlooking Yuma and California. By this time, we had worked up an appetite and headed to Moos Creamery for some ice cream to celebrate Sister Ann Mary's birthday. It was a perfect ending to the day.





Tucson San Miguel Seniors Discern with Franciscan Sisters

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity welcomed six San Miguel High School Seniors from Tucson, Arizona for a discernment experience. San Miguel High School, a Lasallian, Catholic learning community, empowers youth from underserved families through the integration of Christian values, rigorous academics and practical work

experience, educating the whole student for college, career and a fulfilling life.

The school provided scholarship monies to make this visit a reality. Sister Mary Ann Spanjers serves as a Theology teacher on the faculty at San Miguel High School.

A Fun Day Together

In the spirit of St. Francis, "...simple joys are holy..." on March 4th, the Sisters in Green Bay joined our Sisters in Kaukauna for a wonderful day at the Houdini Museum and afterwards for some card games.

As we hunted for a parking lot in the downtown area of Appleton we learned that we actually parked at the church site where Martin Luther King Jr. presented. The castle looking Masonic Building hosted early America in the Appleton region and upstairs the Houdini Museum. When we entered the Houdini Museum from the stairs it started with his tribute to his curtain call. Walking around we found handcuffs, a strait jacket, boxes, and cages you could enter and try to escape. Sister Charlene Acker is seen in the death defining cage. Sister Anne Marie Selinsky was tempted to try her way out of a locked box. Sister Jan Villemure, Sister Delores Wisnicky, and Sister Elena Gonzales did their best to escape a prison cell like Houdini... but no luck! Sister Elena did her best to be strong as the Great Houdini!

After breaking free of the Great Houdini's Museum, we played cards. Then we followed with evening prayer in chapel and said our good byes to one another.

Sister Elena Gonzales



Learning About Our Sisters From the Past

In 1979, Sister Rosalani Gomes started writing what our Archivist calls "eulogies" on each Sister at her death. Working with files from the archives, Sister Paula Vanden Hogen has been writing them on the Sisters who died prior to 1979. We share one such eulogy on Sister Bartholomew Lemberger who will be remembered in the reading of the necrology for April 9th.



Sister Bartholomew Lemberger

Born: November 30, 1873
 Birthplace: Clarks Mills, Wisconsin
 Admitted: December 14, 1895, Age: 22
 Received: August 12, 1896
 First Profession of Vows: August 11, 1898
 Died: April 9, 1948 - Age: 74
 Professed: 49 years

Theresia Lemberger (Sister Bartholomew) was born

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JUST Gospel!

By Sister Kathleen Murphy

As we continue to celebrate these joyous days of the Easter season, the resurrection stories call to mind the role of the faithful women who followed Jesus throughout His ministry and beyond. Pope Francis keeps such recollections before us as he invites us to join him in praying *that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.*

Our reflections on this intention could follow many paths, but it seems it would be hard to find a better resource for thoughts on this theme than the words of Pope Francis himself. The following is a summary of the Holy Father's homily at the Mass celebrated at St. Peter's Basilica on January 1, 2024—the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. The selected thoughts were edited by Justin McLellan in an article for the Catholic News Service.

The world and the Catholic Church must respect and defend women and foster a motherly care for others to end dehumanizing cycles of violence, Pope Francis said.

"The church needs Mary in order to recover her own feminine face, to resemble more fully the woman, virgin and mother, who is her model and perfect image, to make space for women and to be 'generative' through a pastoral ministry marked by concern and care," the Pope said during Mass on the feast of Mary, Mother of God, and World Peace Day Jan. 1.

The world too, he said, "needs to look to mothers and to women in order to find peace, to emerge from the spiral of violence and hatred, and once more see things with genuinely human eyes and hearts."

In his homily, Pope Francis called on all societies to "accept the gift that is woman, every woman" and to "respect, defend and esteem woman in the knowledge that whoever harms a single woman profanes God, who was born of a woman."

Pope Francis recalled how just as Mary knew the wine had run out at the wedding at Cana and asked Jesus to intervene, she "knows our needs" and "intercedes to

make grace overflow in our lives and to guide them to authentic fulfillment."

"Brothers and sisters, all of us have our shortcomings, our times of loneliness, our inner emptiness that cries out to be filled," he said. "Who can do that if not Mary the mother of fullness?"

"Whenever we are tempted to retreat into ourselves, let us run to her; whenever we are no longer able to untie the knots in our lives, let us seek refuge in her," the Pope said.

He added that the current times, "bereft of peace, need a mother who can reunite the human family." The Pope encouraged people to look to Mary "in order to become artisans of unity" and to do so "with her maternal creativity and concern for her children."

Pope Francis noted that since God chose Mary to "turn history around" by bringing Jesus into the world, "it is fitting, then, that the year should open by invoking her," and that God's faithful should acclaim her as the "Holy Mother of God."



In that spirit, the pope ended his homily by asking the 24 cardinals, more than 200 concelebrating priests and the thousands present in the basilica to proclaim, "out loud, three times, together: Holy Mother of God, Holy Mother of God, Holy Mother of God!"

Overlooking St. Peter's Square after Mass, Pope Francis asked people at the outset of the new year to notice the often-overlooked gestures of love of Mary, and all mothers, "to learn that love that is cultivated above all in silence."

The love of a mother, the pope said, "knows how to make room for the other, respecting their dignity, leaving the freedom to express themselves and rejecting every form of possession, oppression and violence." *(End of quoted material)*

This might be a good month to follow the Pope's request to invoke and acclaim Mary often using the words, "Holy Mother of God".

Bucket List Tour

Sister Patricia Sevcik and Sister Caritas Strodthoff have had on their agenda an adventure trip, visiting the thirty-eight historical places in Manitowoc County that have been designated historical sites.

The two Sisters decided to go to these places as a bucket list of something to enjoy occasionally. On March 17th they visited ten buildings and intend to visit more this summer. The first place was Central Park Historical District in Two Rivers. Ten other sites were identified, including the 1907 Queen Anne Stephany built in 1907, and the 1906 Neoclassical Napieczynski Saloon. Many memories of



1906 Neoclassical Napieczynski Saloon, 1609 – 1611 Washington Street.

those places were shared—dances and graduation at the Hamilton Community House, the old Rivoli Theatre, now a Christian Thrift Store. The following pictures show some of the sites visited.

Photo on the right: The Queen Anne Stephany Block is at 1618 Washington Street.



Sucky Badger in Manitowoc by the street leading to Badger Boat landing. (NOT historical!)



Ice Cream Social Celebration

We are celebrating the St. Rita Sisters' Week in one scheduled event at a time. Our plans were delayed due to the Norovirus outbreak and quarantines. On Tuesday, February 27, all of the St. Rita's Sisters and their Buddies came to the

cafeteria for an ice cream sundae treat and to socialize with each other. Each floor had a half hour to celebrate, and this social brought forth many words of gratitude and winning smiles! A real time of joy! We are very appreciative of our Motherhouse Sister Buddies being so helpful with their outreach and support. Ice Cream parties always hit the spot!

Equipped to Aide Students with Disabilities

Sister Janet Rose was among the Diocese of Tucson elementary school principals, interventionists, and teachers invited by Matthew 19:14 Project (TMP) to attend a toolkit training session at the Bishop Kicanas Pastoral Center. The mission of TMP is "to provide Arizona Catholic schools with the resources and support for the success of students with special needs, because a Catholic education should be accessible to all students." Gleaned from: [Educators equipped with toolkits to aid students with disabilities :: Home | New Outlook \(diocesetucson.org\)](#)



In the picture, standing next to Sister Janet, is Mrs. Sullivan, the principal of Immaculate Conception School.

Learning About Our Sisters From the Past

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on November 30, 1873 in Clarks Mills, Wisconsin. She was baptized at St. Mary's Church, Clarks Mills, Wisconsin. Her parents were Wolfgang Lemberger and Theresia (Meyer) Lemberger. Her father, Wolfgang, came to this country from Bavaria at the age of seven with his parents. Her mother came from Germany when she was 20 years old. Her parents had five daughters and three sons. Two of her sisters, Sister Christina and Sister Elizabeth preceded her in entering the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity.

Theresia Lemberger entered the convent on December 14, 1895 at the age of 22. She was received into the novitiate August 12, 1896 and received the name, Sister Bartholomew. She made her first profession of vows on August 11, 1898. When she made her final vows, she received the additional title "...of the Ascension of Our Lord".

Sister Bartholomew began her ministry with work in the laundry and bakery at the Motherhouse. In time, gardening was added and because she would help wherever needed, slaughtering and butchering, etc. were in her line. It was

remarked, "Sister Bartholomew does the work of two men." Sister Bartholomew served at St. Joseph Home for the elderly for 37 years. She was small and stocky. She took care of the chickens, the laundry and gathered eggs at the Home. She also served as the "official" bread maker, making tasty bread and rolls every other day. It was her special gift to be exceptionally pleasant among her co-workers and the many person living at the Home. She attended strictly to her own business and was greatly respected in all matters.

Sister Bartholomew, 74, of the St. Francis order, who had spent the past 40 years of her sisterhood at the St. Joseph hospital and home for the aged in West Point, Neb., died there Friday afternoon April 9, 1948 following an illness of four weeks. She was 74 years of age and professed 49 years.

An article in the West Point newspaper of 1948 read: "... St. Joseph has lost its official bread maker. Not only do the residents of the Home miss their very popular sister, but they also miss the tasty bread and rolls that she baked for them every other day."