



FRANCISCAN
SISTERS
OF LITTLE FALLS
MINNESOTA

MAY 20, 2021

Community News

The ups and downs

Sister Cordy Korkowski

The ups and downs of life just got better for the Franciscan Sisters on campus with our newly installed elevator. Work began on March 15 and originally it was determined that it would take three weeks of “detours” before the final installation was complete, along with inspection. After the inspection, there were more concerns. Alan Riedeman, operations coordinator, found the elevator phone needed a direct line...more time lapsed. Then the fire panel needed an extra

power source to accommodate the new elevator upgrades. More delays. With all the safety issues completed, we got the green light on April 20. With a sense of humor, Alan stated, “With a few more days of issues and this guy was moving out of the country.”

You can see the sisters are all smiles as they start their trip down with Cheryl Triplett, rehab staff, along with Sisters Helen Ann Brake, Patrice Kiefer and Kay Watts. The elevator was perhaps the most popular fundraising effort to date. The donations went over the top, and we are very grateful. Enjoy the ride!



All Community Gathering

Leadership

We, sisters and associates, had a fine time together last week. Our accomplished staff and well-functioning technology served us well. The breakout time gave us an opportunity to share thoughts and to listen. Thank you for continuing to put effort into Conversation Circles, Franciscan Life Groups, local living group activities and all the creative ways you have designed that help us live fully and faithfully into the future. The two little flowers of the logo remind us how we can lean on each other and support each other. We are all related, how blessed is that!

Living the Gospel courageously . . . with energy, spirit, peace.

Finally, a face-to-face encounter

Sister Bernice Rieland

Finally, after months and months of separation, my six sisters (Jeanette, Lillian, Anna Mae, Carol, Lenora and Mary) and I were all able to meet in person. My nephew Ron helped facilitate the event by telling his mother in St. Paul that he would be happy and willing to pick up my sisters in a grand sweep of central Minnesota. Our task was to find a date, which happened quickly.

Since we come from various places, St. Paul, Anoka, Monticello, Sauk Centre, Little Falls and Elrosa, it was a full day's event. The highlight, of course, was all connecting in Elrosa to eat at the only place in town that served lunch. We were lucky because, not too long before, the restaurant was not open for noon meals because of COVID-19 restrictions. It was a grand coming together!

After lunch my sister Carol invited us to her home in Elrosa where she had a “show and tell” display of her many lovely handmade quilts which she has been making for each of her grandchildren as they graduate from high school. (Carol’s husband died of COVID-19 last October, and most of us had not been able to see her at that time.) My oldest sister Jeanette, who lives across the street from Carol, invited us to her place for a delightful drink and dessert. In addition, she surprised each one of us with a very special cookbook. This past Christmas, one of Jeanette’s sons and his wife secretly created a cookbook of many of the favorite recipes her 10 children enjoyed growing up. At Christmas her children and grandchildren received a special copy.

It was a most enjoyable coming together. Zoom works but there’s nothing like face-to-face encounters with those we love.



Rural Minnesota is exhilarating

Sister Jean Schwieters

I was invited to visit my brother and sister-in-law Glenn and Anne Schwieters in Melrose on May 6-7. Just leaving the Motherhouse campus after a long time of quarantine was a blessing in itself. Heading down the road and seeing rural Minnesota was exhilarating.

We shared overdue conversation as a family. Touring the new church in Melrose with my nephew Dr. Kurt Schwieters, who was a key player in the planning of this beautiful structure, was something I looked forward to for a long time. I played Rummikub in the evening and rested well with family. In the morning, they had planned a festive breakfast and brought me home.

Every minute of my time away was wonderful. My daily prayer now includes a stronger petition for an end to this awful pandemic, so that everyone may know again the freedom of what we have known as ordinary. *(Photos by Sister Cordy Korkowski)*



From the desk of Sister Julien Dirkes:

Annual spring housekeeping has happened at Umbria and Ottertail. We are grateful to Environmental Services for doing this each year. I ask that before you close the door to either place, you take one last check to make certain you are leaving the place cleaner than it was when you entered the house.

Please, please, please take the food items that you bring with you home, since each of you are asked to bring what you or your group plans for your days. This will also allow the next persons to have room in the refrigerator for the items they bring out. Enjoy your days of relaxation and rest!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Sister Rose Mae Rausch will be celebrating her 90th Birthday on Saturday, May 22, at our evening meal. Please join in spirit and remember her in your prayers. Perhaps send a card to add to her celebration. Happy Birthday, Rose Mae!

HAPPY RETIREMENT!



On Thursday, June 3, at 11:30 a.m. Rick and Geri Dietz are invited to join the sisters for lunch to give us an opportunity to express our appreciation for their present ministry with us. You may wish to join us in spirit and/or send them a note.

JPIC Position

Leadership

Hats off with warm hearts to Associate Jeff Odendahl who served as the JPIC coordinator for 16+ years. He served as a volunteer JPIC coordinator for the last 3+ years. While he passes on the JPIC coordinator hat, he will continue to be active through social justice action on behalf of immigrants and Mother Earth. We will stay connected through our shared associate relationship.

Associate Rosanne Fischer has accepted the position as JPIC coordinator starting the week of May 17, 2021. This position will return to being a paid position—still part time. We have rewritten the job description to reflect the spirit of *Laudato Si*:

“The coordinator will work closely with the Charism Circle in the promotion of the Franciscan charism and values, presenting justice, peace and integrity of creation issues throughout the Franciscan Community of Sisters and Associates. The ministry of the JPIC office reflects the values and principles set out in the encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*. These values reflect the fundamental belief that “*We Are All Related—Mitakuye Oyasin.*”

Rosanne will begin working occasional hours over the summer and increase hours in the fall. Her contact information will be: Ext. #649. Email: RFischer@fslf.org. She will share office space at Welcoming House. We are grateful that she is joining our efforts to spread the Franciscan Charism with an eye to Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation. Please welcome Rosanne with hats off and warm hearts.

Changes for Sister Ange

Ange Mayers writes:

In June of 2010 I was appointed Vocations Co-Minister for the Franciscan Sisters. This ministry called me to form relationships with girls and young women in a variety of venues. My contacts included the Busy Students' Retreats at St. Cloud State University and the University of Wisconsin at River Falls. I was also involved in the YTM (Youth in Theology and Ministry) program at St. John's University, Collegeville. For me the YTM had four components: the two-week summer session, a January retreat, the annual National Religious Vocation Conference and the YTM presentations of ministries at our Motherhouse—which many of you were able to enjoy. Throughout these years I had occasion to give vocation talks in Catholic schools, parishes and to a group preparing for a mission trip.

In 2012 Geri Dietz, Associate Minister, and I gave presentations at each St. Cloud diocesan deanery to arrange an ongoing collaboration with pastors and church leaders. For several years I was a facilitator for Companions on a Journey at the College of St. Benedict. Throughout the beginning years I companioned young women in discerning religious life. During these 10 years I came to treasure the relationships with all age groups when sharing my Franciscan spirit and engaging in the work of building up the community of faith. I have been richly blessed!

I look forward to continuing Girls Camp, as well as helping with companioning events. I am thankful for having had this opportunity and grateful for those who faithfully accompanied me, especially co-vocation ministers Sisters Carmen Barsody and Michelle L'Allier. At this time, I see myself at a bend in the road and have asked to resign from being Vocations Co-Minister. Thank you, sisters, for your support and prayers during these past 11 years.

Leadership adds:

After completing her contract at the parish of Ocampo, Mexico, Sister Isabelle Berrones now lives in Saltillo, Mexico. There she has been in touch with some graduates of our school in San Rafael and other young women. Some are continuing their education, some determining life's path for themselves. We have asked Isa, and she has agreed, to be a member of our community's Companioning Ministry along with Sisters Michelle L'Allier and Carmen Barsody. We see that Isa's presence there will keep us informed of the desires of young Mexican women, as well as being a strong addition to our Companioning Team. Thank you, Isa, for your presence in this new place of ministry.



Controlled burn at Umbria

Sister Maurita Bernet



On April 25, my friend Jean Carpenter and I were enjoying a calm and beautiful spring morning at Umbria when a couple trucks and ATVs arrived on the property. “Prairie Restorations, Princeton, Minnesota,” was painted on the vehicles.

They said they have a contract to burn one of the three prairie grass fields, rotating each year. What a spectacle: some guys on foot spreading the fire or spraying water to control it, while the ATVs buzzed around controlling the flames.

Brother Wind collaborated beautifully, tending the fire gently toward the river and away from the buildings. We could hear the fire crackling throughout the few hours of this free show. Impressive!

Victory gardens are back!

Elise Carey, St. Clare Library

Do any of you remember, or remember hearing about, Victory Gardens? Well, they’ve made a bit of a comeback in this last year with the pandemic. This time last year seed companies were all but sold out of most seeds. Greenhouses were sold out of many fruit and vegetable plants. Many people had nowhere to go and all the time in the world to get there. So, people gardened to supplement their food supplies, to have a purpose and boost morale—much like the Victory Gardens after WWI and WWII.



Just over a month ago, two master gardeners from Stearns County Master Gardeners borrowed seeds from our Seed Library to plant in a Victory Garden that will be open to the public to visit and share in the harvest. Beans, peas and tomatoes were among the seeds checked out.

I’ll keep you posted on the details up to and including the harvest. What a blessing to be a part of this. I’m grateful they looked to the St. Clare Seed Library for heirloom seeds. Who knows...we might have some great, great, great "grandseeds" of those planted in the wartime Victory Gardens.

Engaging Franciscan Spirituality completes third cohort

Rick Dietz, Franciscan Life Center

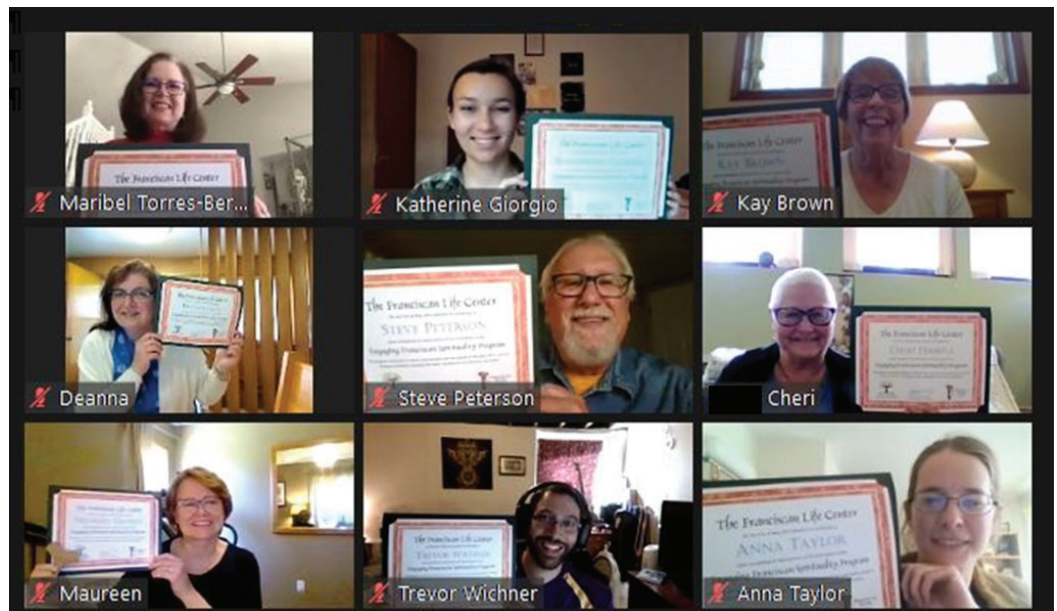
The Franciscan Outreach Committee is happy to announce that the Engaging Franciscan Spirituality program has completed its third cohort. Nine individuals have finished their two-year journey learning about the life and spirituality of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi, and then using this knowledge to engage with the Franciscan charism and values. One participant wrote, “The concept of the trinity, peacemaking and compassion, the care of creation, contemplation, conversion, and the Franciscan moral vision was inspiring.” Another member said, “It was an amazing life altering experience for me. I have grown in my spiritual life.”

The cohort met once a month for two years on Saturday mornings for a total of 21 sessions. Each session included a presentation on a certain aspect of Franciscan spirituality and small and large group discussion. Another participant wrote, “This was a positive and loving view of God. I saw a continuous image of a loving God . . . life with God is not a distant concept, it’s here and now. We go back to God over and over. [The program] was very transforming.”

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program pivoted and used Zoom for its meetings.

We congratulate the participants for completing the program and receiving their certificates! During the final session, one person said, “The people and the process [of the program] has changed my life and I will forever be grateful.”

Sister Jan Kilian remarked, “We’ve grown from simply sharing the history of Francis and his followers into making decisions and living in right relationship with Jesus and all of creation.”



*Engaging Franciscan Spirituality Cohort 3 members with their certificates: **Top L-R:** Maribel Torres-Bertram, Katherine Giorgio, Kay Brown; **Middle L-R:** Deanna Haeg, Steve Peterson, Cheri Hample; **Lower L-R:** Maureen Gertken, Trevor Wichner, Anna Taylor.*

Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato Si*, (#142) gives this reflection: “If everything is related, then the health of a society’s institutions has consequences for the environment and the quality of human life.” Francis then quotes Pope Benedict from his 2009 letter: “Every violation of solidarity and civic friendship harms the environment.” Father Dan Horan puts our responsibility toward the environment, not according to the Dominion model—creation is to serve us. Not even the Stewardship model—as intelligent creatures we are to care for creation. Father Dan describes the Franciscan interpretation. The Kinship model identifies all of creation as in relationship. If we are all related, we are therefore bound to act for the welfare of all.

Briefly

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Sister Ruth Lentner's sister, Shirley, and her husband, Gary, as they discern some challenging decisions they need to make.

Bob Watts, who will be going to the doctor to see what can be done with the cancer on his head. He is a brother of Sister Kay Watts.

Sister Rose Margaret Schneider's neice, who was diagnosed last week with serious breast cancer.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Please make the following changes to the Sisters section of your directory:

Sister Mary Dumonceaux - has moved to 1005 N Stewart Rd Lot 321, Mission, TX 78572. Her cell phone number will be (320)232-0924. She will be in B41a.

Sister Therese Furnstahl - has moved to 2nd Floor Clare Residence. Her mailing address and phone number will remain the same. She will join B6.

Sister Olga Neft - has moved to 2nd Floor Clare Residence. Her mailing address and phone number will remain the same. She will join B6.

Sister Trudy Schommer - has moved to 2nd Floor Clare Residence. Her mailing address and phone number will remain the same. She will join B6.

Sister Juanita Mauer - has moved to 2nd Floor Clare Residence. Her mailing address and phone number will remain the same. She will join B6.

Please make the following changes to the Associates section of your directory:

Barb Oemcke - change address to 3541 S Via De La Urraca, Green Valley, AZ 85622. Her phone remains the same.

Mary Donnell - change e-mail address to marydonnell58@gmail.com.

Siobhan Cove - add as new Associate Applicant. Address: 621 Arlington Ave, Berkeley, CA 94707. Cell phone: (510)708-5022. E-mail: siobhancove@gmail.com. Birthday: 01/12. Companions: Sister Ade Kroll & Sister Rose Margaret Schneider.

Deb Kalahar - change phone number to cell number (480)433-6806.

Patricia Susens - remove from the directory as an Associate.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

May 28 is the one-year death anniversary of Sister Cleone Renner. Please remember her family and friends in your prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 3.....Lunch with Rick and Geri Dietz, 11 a.m.

Community News

is published biweekly by the Community Relations Department of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota, for its members. News items and suggestions for this publication are welcome from community members. Send to:

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