



St. Clare of Assisi

Franciscan values

Conversion:

- Turning to God and being conformed to Christ is a life-long journey

Minority:

- Living as sisters and brothers with all people, especially with those who are poor, marginalized and without voice in our world.
- Creating community
- Living without regard for status

Poverty:

- Living simply
- Caring for creation
- Working for justice

Contemplation:

- God is our deepest desire
- Prayer is a way of life, all the time and everywhere.
- Growing in spirituality and faith is important

"God is with us still."

Mother Xavier

INSTITUTIONS WITH WHICH THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS HAVE AN HISTORICAL AND CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP

- Alverno Apartments – Dubuque, IA
- Briar Cliff University – Sioux City IA
- Shalom Retreat Center – Dubuque, IA
- Stonehill Franciscan Services – Dubuque, IA



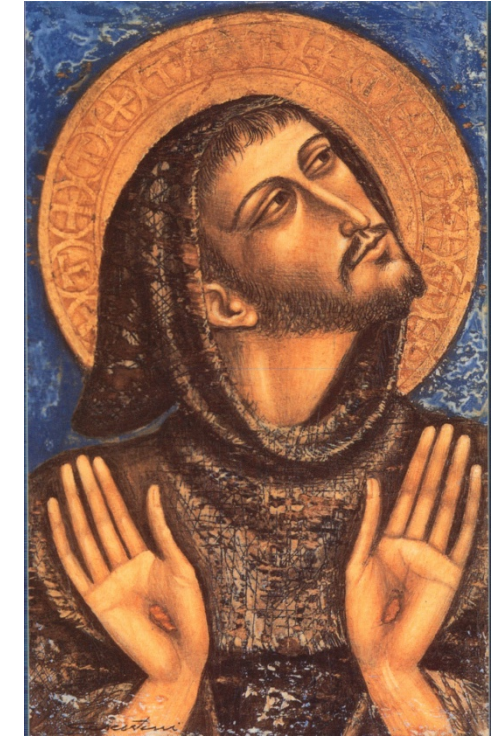
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In the Franciscan Tradition

Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, Iowa



St. Francis

Rooted in the Gospel and in the spirit of Francis and Clare, the Sisters of St. Francis live in right relationship with all creation.

Mission Statement: Sisters of St. Francis

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Sisters of St. Francis began in Herford Germany in 1864. Founded by Mother Xavier Termehr, the members of the congregation first served orphaned children, and nursed the elderly and those on the battlefield. When the fledgling community of religious was expelled from Germany under the Kulturkampf, the sisters traveled to America and founded homes for orphaned children and for the elderly in Iowa City and then in Dubuque, Iowa. Thus began a long history of relationship between the Sisters of St. Francis and the people of God.

Over time the ministry of the Sisters included four hospitals, a college, numerous schools, a retreat center, and homes for children and the elderly.

New needs have constantly called for adaptation in the sisters' ministries. Sisters serve in alternative educational programs, as chaplains and as pastoral associates. They minister in retreat houses, in diocesan centers, and in offices of social concern. They find many ways to provide food, clothing and shelter for those in need.

In addition to serving throughout the United States the sisters have served in China, Guatemala, Chile, and El Salvador. Sisters have ministered individually in several other countries.

Internationally the sisters currently serve in Honduras, St. Lucia, Canada and Southern Sudan.



Sr. Mary Jane Koenigs, Briar Cliff University.

AN EVOLVING REALITY

In the past, Catholic institutions enjoyed relatively unchallenged stability and predictability. Their continued existence was judged secure. Religious congregations lent moral support, provided the majority of staff, prepared and appointed administrators, and pledged financial support.

Today religious congregations have a diminished ability to offer personnel or finances. Competitive market forces, government regulations and sophisticated technology are challenging institutions to adapt quickly to new venues.

More importantly, philosophical change has influenced the relationship between religious congregations and the institutions they founded. The Catholic Church has called on all people to share responsibility for the provision of service and resources to those in need.

In addition, unmet needs and new priorities are emerging. It has been a primary role of members of religious congregations to respond to such needs.



Sr. Bertha Bonert, Stonehill Franciscan Services, with a resident.

No longer can religious congregations alone influence and control works of public ministry. They can however, raise up values, keep alive the founding vision, promote creative change and advocate for those who have little power and influence.

"We desire to put forward our best efforts to that portion of God's children who are as yet unprovided for."

Mother Xavier Termehr



Since 2005 the Franciscan Sisters have been committed to providing water accessibility to people in Honduras and Tanzania.

In our personal, communal, and public life, we commit to ongoing conversion as we:

- *Deepen our relationship with Mother Earth and Sister Water
- *Stand with persons who are poor
- *Make peace and practice non-violence