



Franciscan CONNECTIONS

Fall 2017

Volume 17 | No. 3

Sisters Serving Sisters

In this issue you will read examples of how the Franciscans “sister” one another. One issue of *Connections* is not enough to illustrate all the ways in which the sisters are generous. From listening to the stories of a sister’s past life, to arranging flowers, to pouring coffee during funeral lunches, to waiting for a sister to wake up following surgery, to sitting at the bedside of one who is dying. Each one is called to respond with her own gifts.



Sister Charlotte Klein helps to arrange flowers for Jubilee in June 2017 at Mount St. Francis Center. Photo by Sister Phyllis Manternach.

Medical Companions

When sisters at MSFC have a medical appointment, **Sister Mary Lou Reich** finds a companion sister to attend to them.

“I choose from a group of 18 sisters and two lay volunteers to accompany sisters to their appointments,” said Sister Mary Lou. “The sisters like that there’s someone there to help them in case they need to make a decision or retrieve information.”

Liturgy

When **Sister Liz Hilvers** retired in 2015, **Sisters Marge Staudt, Camilla Hemann, and Kay Forkenbrock** stepped in to share the role as liturgists for the congregation. The team of three oversee seven Eucharistic liturgies a week as well as morning and evening

prayer almost every day. It’s a ministry all three are proud to do.

“To witness the deep prayer life of these women and to help make that happen is a privilege,” said Sister Marge.

“Being part of the liturgy team calls forth the gifts from the sisters,” agreed Sister Kay.

Sister Mary Arnold Staudt, who plays organ at Eucharistic liturgies and prayer times, said she enjoys serving her sisters with her gifts.

“Music is my best way of ‘serving sisters,’” she said. “I do it by providing organ accompaniments for liturgies, by presenting a ‘music appreciation class’ on varied subjects, and piano music ‘just for fun.’ It really is a privilege and a joy to serve the sisters.”

(Continued on the next page.)

Development Office

The Development Office runs efficiently with the help of **Sisters Helen Huewe** and **Nona Meyerhofer**.

Sister Nona helps keep our database up to date and helps process donations and Sister Helen helps keep relationships with donors and processes donations for deposit.

Sweet Shoppe

In the basement of Francis House is one very sweet treasure. The Sweet Shoppe, which is in its 17th year, is run by sister volunteers. Sisters bake a variety of treats to sell such as cookies, bars, pies, and fudge.

"It's a lot more than just baking cookies or selling trail mix!" said **Sister Marie Therese Kalb**. "It's inspiring to see a Francis House Sister push a Clare House resident to the Sweet Shoppe in her wheelchair and watch her joy as she chooses her 'sweet' for the day."

Kitchen

Every morning there are several sisters that stop by the Francis House kitchen to see if they can help peel vegetables like potatoes, carrots, onions or corn.

Sisters Rita Green and **Kenneth Hemann** are a few of the "peelers" who stop by daily.

"I was in food service for 68 years that I was in ministry," said Sister Kenneth. "I love doing it. It's been my life."



Sisters Bertha Kruse and Kathryn Fitzpatrick work with flowers for Jubilee. Photo by Sister Phyllis Manternach

Switchboard

Many sisters volunteer to answer phones and greet guests at both Francis House and Clare House.

"I see it as a ministry not a job to greet people when they come and hopefully am a welcoming presence to those that come," said **Sister Norma Jean Holthaus**.



Sisters Carol Hemesath (left) and Joan Hosch bag popcorn in the Sweet Shoppe. Photo by Sister Melita Meyers.

MSFC Grounds

Sister Dolores Banowetz is one sister who tends to the plants and flowers at the Motherhouse. "I have the passion to plant, pull weeds, and care for the flowers in Francis and Clare inner gardens," said Sister Dolores. "It has been a real honor for me to do this because I know many others enjoy the beauty of flowers."

Visiting Sisters at Clare House/Companion Sisters

"My chosen way of ministering is to speak/take time/sing with or play with the sisters who live at Clare House," said **Sister Joan Stoffel**.

"As a partner to two sisters at Clare House, I visit them frequently," said **Sister Marian Klostermann**. "I help the sisters with correspondence, sometimes doing e-mails for them or writing letters and addressing envelopes. Sharing through spiritual reading creates a great discussion."

Library

Sister Phyllis Manternach has been the librarian at the Dubuque Franciscan Motherhouse since 2002. Her ministry involves ordering books and magazines for display in the library as well as for personal books sisters may want to read.

Sister Mona Wingert checks in returned books and sends out overdue notices. **Sister Bev Eichler** shelves the returned books and cleans one of the library rooms. **Sister Selma Timp** takes care of the books that are lent to the MSFC by the Dubuque Public Library as well as attending to cleaning one room. **Sister Mary Lou Reisch** checks in the media items. **Sister Theresa Jungers** organizes and cleans the library conference room. **Sister Margaret Coleman** also cleans one of the rooms. **Sister Dorothy Hartz** delivers the *Telegraph Herald* to the library each morning and **Sister Bernice Schuetz** is in charge of the daily operations of the Clare House Library, with assistance from **Sister Mary Lee Cox**.

(Continued on the next page.)

New to Me Shop

New to Me offers gently used clothing that has been donated to the sisters. **Sisters Ginny Helderfer, Theresa Jungers, Marian Klostermann, and Dolores Ullrich** now volunteer following **Sister Marian Einck**, who volunteered for years, to sort and display the clothing.

“We are delighted to see updated fashions donated and worn by our sisters who are in need of something different to wear,” said Sister Ginny.

Sewing

“I thank God for my mother’s sewing example every day,” said **Sister Myra Weitzl** of the gift she uses to serve the sisters.

“I get everything from sewing a seam to surging, to embroidering a flower over an unwanted stain, to putting elastic in a waist line or taking some out, to washing and reassembling a veil, etc.,” she added.



Sister Kenneth Hemann with the towels she embroiders.

Sister Mary Kenneth Hemann also has the gift of sewing. She embroiders dish towels which are sold at Mount St. Francis as organized by **Sister Kathryn Fitzpatrick**. “I have done this since I retired,” she said. “And while I do it I pray at the same time: ‘Lord, I am going to give you every stitch today.’”

There are 13 sisters who help with this project.

Archives

Sister Maxine Lavell has ministered as the archivist for the congregation since 2015.

“When the time came for me to evaluate my situation as to the timing of my retirement, I had thoughts of what could/would I ‘do’ while living at Francis House. Since I had experience as an archivist for the Reno Diocese in Nevada, I was asked if I would consider being the archivist for our community. Bingo! That was it! The Spirit had

opened another door for me and I jumped at the chance.



Sister Maxine Lavell. Contributed photo.

Sacristans and Chapel Decor

A team of four sisters share the duties of preparing what is necessary for the celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy.

Sisters Rita Green, Mary Lee Cox, Mary Lou Reisch, and Teresine Glaser light candles, prepare the altar as well as the hosts and wine for communion, and make sure all the vestments are clean.

A team of sisters also prepares the physical space for Eucharistic liturgy and prayer. Sister Teresine works with **Sisters Marge Burkle and Dolores Ullrich** on decorating the chapel for Eucharistic liturgy and prayer as well as the gathering space outside of the chapel on special feast days.

Hospitality

Sister Mary Kivlahan helps provide a place of rest to sisters and/or their families/friends when visiting Mount St. Francis Center.

“I have my hospitality sign out at all times. Sisters are welcome to request rooms. I try to accommodate all requests as soon as I get them. I compare this service to the innkeeper at the time of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. It doesn’t happen often that I have to reply ‘there is no room at the inn.’ When this does happen, I refer the guest to seek a room at Shalom!”

There are truly endless ways sisters serve one another and we could never name them all. You can read lots of other examples in the 2017 Summer issue of *Footprints* which is available on our website at <http://www.osfdbq.org/news/publications/>. It is a generous thing to receive ministry of others. We pray in the famous prayer of St. Francis: it is in giving that we receive. Paragraph #16 of our Constitution states, “we open ourselves to receive the ministry of others.”

■



Wishing you a holiday season full
of deep hope and simple joys!

Sisters of St. Francis Dubuque, IA

3390 Windsor Avenue • Dubuque, IA
52001 • (563) 583-9786 • fax (563) 583-
3250 • www.osfdbq.org

Email: development@osfdbq.org
Editor: Jessi Russo

Director of Development:
Sr. Cathy Katoski, OSF

Mission Statement of the Dubuque Franciscans

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



Non-Profit Organ.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dubuque, IA
52001-1311
Permit No. 88

Donating Stock – an easy but unusual gift!

by Sister Cathy Katoski, OSF, President and Director of Development

Cash gifts are easy! And much appreciated by the Sisters of St. Francis. But a donation of marketable (publicly traded) securities to the Sisters of St. Francis is not a difficult task either. I'm actually often amazed at donations of \$500 or \$1,000 that are written by check and could have been made by use of a stock gift.

Why give stock? There is a great tax advantage for the donor. Even after the great decline in stocks in the years after 2008, many securities have now again greatly appreciated in value. Let's say, for example, that you bought stock in a company at \$15.00 a share. You find that the value has not increased to \$75.00 per share. If you sell this stock, you will pay tax on the \$60.00 of appreciation for each share sold.

Making a stock gift to a charity will enable you to avoid paying capital gains taxes on the gain on the original investment. On top of that savings, you will receive a tax deduction for the total amount of your charitable gift. So a stock gift is a double

win for you, the donor.

As a qualified charitable organization, the Sisters of St. Francis will sell the stock you gift them and avoid any tax on the appreciation.

Your stock gift will be valued at the midpoint market price on the date that a signed stock transfer is postmarked (if mailed) or on the date the stock is transferred to an account of the Sisters (if the transfer happens through a broker).

Year-end is a popular time for making a stock gift, though they can be done anytime. Review your stock portfolio and select those stocks that have appreciated the most and have been held for more than a year.

How easy is it? Contact your CPA and/or investment advisor with your directions. Give us a call so we can provide you with a name of a firm we use to receive your gift. We will then also be alerted that your gift is coming.

May you know special blessings in the upcoming holy and holiday seasons! ■