



# Franciscan CONNECTIONS

Summer 2017

Volume 17 | No. 2

## *A Weekend of Celebration!*

On June 24 and 25, Sisters, family and friends gathered in the Mount St. Francis chapel to celebrate the Jubilee anniversaries of the 23 sisters who commemorated 50, 60, and 70 years of vowed commitment to religious life.

**Sister Pat Farrell** gave the reflection at the Golden Jubilee celebration and said, “How do we even begin to gather and celebrate the 200 cumulative years of their living and loving? It is beyond us. It takes the presence of each person here to give testimony to the importance of this moment. It takes special music and ritual which move us to more expansive levels of experience. Certainly it takes a whole community whose systems all click into gear to prepare a celebration. And most importantly, the Eucharistic banquet we celebrate opens us to the God who shapes us and loves us, who has called and carried these Jubilarians.”

To read about the ministries of each Jubilarian, visit <http://www.osfdbq.org/jubilee>. ■



Golden Jubilarians - 50 years from reception into the congregation: Sisters Patricia Clemen, Carol Besch, Kathy Lentsch, and Nancy Meyerhofer.



Diamond Jubilarians - 60 years from reception into the congregation (front row): Sisters Mary Ann Helle, Madonna Lang, Rosemary Vaske, and Monica McMahon; (back row): Sisters Margaret Coleman, Janet Haverkamp, Myra Weill, Doris Recker, Ann Marie Dunn, Margaret Hansen, Julitta Deppe, Carol Hoverman and Phyllis Manternach.



Double Diamond Jubilarians - 70 years from reception into the congregation (front row): Sisters Edna Ginder, Alice Schaefer, and Consilia Schoenherr; (back row): Sisters Mary Assumpta Glaser, Thekla Cain, and Jeanine McDermott.

# Sisters Host Shared AmeriCorps Team

The Dubuque Franciscans partnered with the Four Mounds Foundation in Dubuque to share an AmeriCorps team in May and June.

The team of eight of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) of the North Central Region ranged in age from 18 to 24 years old.

Members of the AmeriCorps NCCC make a 10-month commitment to volunteer full time. While at Mount St. Francis they helped with a variety of tasks including removing young trees and other invasive species from the wooded areas of the prairie. They also helped with gardening, painting, and planting at the Mount.

AmeriCorps volunteer Carter Taylor said he was aware of the sisters' ministries while painting at Shalom Spirituality Center.

"It was truly an honor to help the sisters who needed help painting their living space. It made me appreciate all the work the sisters do for their community," he said.

**Sister Marie Cigrand**, who helped coordinate the partnership, said the team also learned about the sisters' charisms, which included a seminar on the sisters' natural burial process and the Sister Water Project. Both the sisters and Four Mounds staff spent time with the team to share their missions.

"We wanted to provide meaningful work for them and have them understand why they were doing it," said Chris Olson, Executive Director of Four Mounds, who initiated the partnership with the Dubuque Franciscans.

AmeriCorps volunteer Kathleen Gilligan is proud of the work the team was able to do at the Mount.

"The team covered a lot of acres on the prairie restoration project and performed other groundskeeping work," she said. "Every interaction with the sisters was nothing but positive which made serving Mount St. Francis a gratifying experience."

**Sister Karla Kloft** was the site supervisor for the team while at the Mount and she praised the team for their work.

"They were great," she said. "They were able to take initiative and do what they needed to do." ■



*AmeriCorps volunteers work in the prairie at MSFC.*

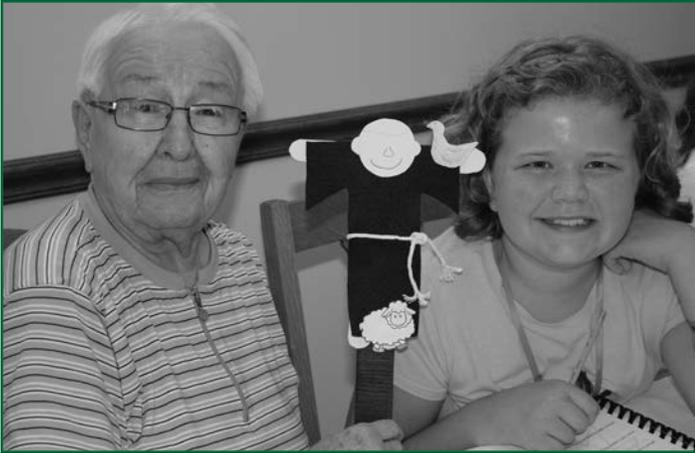


*AmeriCorps volunteers learn about the Sister Water Project from Sister Kathy Knipper at Mount St. Francis Center.*



*AmeriCorps volunteers in the prairie at MSFC in June.*

# “Best Franciscan Friends” Made at MSFC



Sister Alice Schaefer with her BFF Ellie. Photo by Mary Fischer.



Sister Bev Eichler with her BFF Gabrielle. Photo by Mary Fischer.

**H**uddled together in pairs in the Mount St. Francis Center (MSFC) Dining Room were sisters and their “BFF”: Best Franciscan Friends.

As part of the “Best Franciscan Friends” camp, 4th and 5th grade students spent June 7-9 at MSFC learning about the sisters and St. Francis.

“I think camp provides a great opportunity for kids to be exposed to sisters and Franciscan values,” said Charism Team member Julie Tebbe, who oversaw the camp.

Campers had “BFF time” where they met and talked with their assigned sister and participated in activities together.

“To watch them sharing stories was most meaningful. The kids looked forward to that every day of camp,” said Julie. ■

## Four Insider Tips from a Will Planning Attorney

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

**P**roper planning includes involving the right people. Here’s why an attorney is a vital partner in your will planning process.

**1. I already have a will, so I’m all set, right?** Not necessarily. Unlike antiques and wine, a will doesn’t improve with age. Many things in your life might have changed since you first created your will—a divorce or remarriage, a new child or grandchild, revised tax laws, a move to another state or acquiring valuable new assets. An estate planning attorney can help you determine if it’s time to breathe new life into your outdated will and can make recommendations for updating it based on your current circumstances.

**2. The internet can help me write my will for free. Why should I pay for the services of an estate planning attorney?** Do-it-yourself will kits may be widely available online, but there are no safeguards to ensure that they’re accurate and that the generated documents are implemented correctly. There’s more to writing a will than just filling in the blanks. A qualified estate planning attorney can help you protect your assets, minimize taxes and find the best

ways to provide for your loved ones and the organizations that you support.

**3. I just finished writing and updating my will. Planning done?** Not so fast. Your will doesn’t cover everything in your estate. The beneficiary designation forms for your retirement plan and life insurance policies dictate who will receive these assets. Keep your beneficiaries up to date so that your assets end up with your intended recipients. As part of the will planning process, your attorney will review these accounts to ensure that they coordinate with your overall plans.

**4. The Dubuque Franciscans are important to me. How can I continue to support this work after my lifetime?** Including the Dubuque Franciscans in your plans is a thoughtful way to invest in the future of our mission. It’s also your opportunity to give voice to the values by which you live your life. There are many ways to remember the Dubuque Franciscans in your will or other financial plans. Your attorney can help you find the gift that best meets your family’s needs and charitable goals. ■

**Save the Date!**  
**Sister Water Project  
Celebration**

In honor of 10 years of water projects completed since 2007

October 21, 2017  
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
American Trust Rivers Edge  
Plaza Pavilion  
400 E. 3rd St.  
Dubuque, IA

**Sisters of St. Francis  
Dubuque, IA**

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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.*



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**Sisters Grateful for  
Tricycle Donation**



Last year All Ability Cycles, LLC brought their bikes to Mount St. Francis for one afternoon for our sisters to ride. A very generous donor saw the coverage of that event and purchased a Van Raam Fun2Go cycle for the sisters to own. It was delivered to the sisters this spring and they have been taking turns riding it at the Mount. ■

*Sister Catherine Weisensel with MSFC  
Employee Trista Tabor.*

**Sister Ruth Schock Named 2017  
Franciscan Federation Honoree**

Sister Ruth Schock, OSF was named a 2017 Franciscan Federation Honoree at the annual meeting in Buffalo, New York June 16-19.

Sister Ruth, and 30 other sisters and brothers of member congregations were honored for “embodying the values of being incarnational, personal, communal, transformative, engaging the heart and developing servant-leaders” like St. Bonaventure.

“I feel very honored to have been chosen for the award this year,” said Sister Ruth. “Our community has a long history of exceptional educators, from whom I've learned so much. Without their mentoring and modeling, I would not be the educator I am today. So many of our sisters have congratulated me on receiving this award. This affirmation and support is what makes the award so meaningful to me. I am proud to be a Franciscan educator.”

Sister Ruth was recognized for her ministry in education. She has been an Associate Professor of Education at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa for 20 years. ■



*Sister Ruth Schock*