



Franciscan CONNECTIONS

Summer 2018

Volume 18 | No. 2

A Honey of a Year

In the Spring of 2017, Sister Karla Kloft and Sister Theresa Jungers became “bee stewards.” After taking a six-week course at Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) to learn the basics of bees and beekeeping, Sister Karla purchased one hive containing 10,000 bees. Estimates are that a hive grows to five times its original size, eventually housing 50,000 bees.

Karla originally became interested in bees as she observed how few honey bees were visible in the large garden she tends at Mount St. Francis Center. According to the National Resources Defense Council, 42% of bee colonies collapsed in the United States alone in 2015. This is a problem because nearly one-third of the human diet comes from insect-pollinated plants. More than 100 types of crops are pollinated by



Sisters Karla Kloft (left) and Theresa Jungers check on the hive of bees at Mount St. Francis Center in July 2017.



bees in the US. This includes fruits, vegetables, coffee, chocolate, coconuts and even the clover and alfalfa that feed our cows. The honeybee is responsible for 80% of the pollination, which means our food supply has become at risk, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Sister Karla and Sister Theresa check on the bees every 7-10 days to make sure the queen is doing well and that she’s laying eggs. They also ensure that mites aren’t a threat to the bees. In the winter, the hive is well wrapped for insulation. The bees, however do most of the work of keeping their hive in the low 80 degree range, even in 0 degree temperatures.

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Sisters Theresa Jungers and Karla Kloft with the 86 lbs. of honey collected in 2018. Photo by Kathy Rennison.

A Honey of a Year contined

As Sister Theresa and Sister Karla, and all the sisters at Mount St. Francis Center, learned about the life of bees, they have found them to be very inspiring. Like few other species, bees have very differentiated responsibilities. The queen; the females fly to find the pollen (forage), nurse the queen, and defend the hive; and the drones (the males) go on flights to find queens to impregnate and loaf. In the fall the drones are kicked out.

Bees are a super organism – no one complains, everyone does their job for the betterment of the whole hive – they just do it. They really live in community!

Multiple groups of children have visited Mount St. Francis to learn about the bees and see them in all their glory.

This past spring, a second hive was purchased. The bees in the second hive are still working hard to build up their hive and produce honey to feed themselves as they work, with sufficient supply to take them through the winter.

In early September of 2017 eight frames of honey yielded 12 pounds of honey. This was split into small jars, one for each neighborhood kitchen at Francis House and Clare House, the two living facilities at Mount St. Francis Center.

Sister Karla shows Sisters Lene Rubly (left) and Mary Colleen Hoversten the bees when they arrived in April 2017. Photo by Sister Phyllis Manternach.



Sister Karla Kloft uses an extractor to spin the honey out of the frames at Clare House on July 30, 2018.

But the real story this summer is the work of the bees in the first hive. They have been so productive that a third “honey super” was added. It soon became clear that it was already time to harvest the honey. On Monday, July 30, honey was extracted from 30 frames. Once strained, the bees in hive one had already produced 86 pounds of honey for 2018. And there may be more by September. After that we will let them build up their supply to feed themselves through the winter. ■



Sister Karla Kloft visits with a Surfin' the C's Camper during her presentation about the bees.

Sr. Reyna Badillo Professes First Vows as DBQ Franciscan Sister

Sister Reyna Helen Badillo professed her first vows as a Dubuque Franciscan Sister on Friday, June 22, at Mount St. Francis Center.

During the profession, Sister Reyna vowed in the presence of Sister Kate Katoski, president of the congregation, to the members congregation, and to God, that for the next two years she will, “live poverty, chastity, and obedience according to the Rule and Constitutions of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family.”

Sister Reyna first learned about the congregation in Mississippi where she met Dubuque Franciscan Sisters ministering in the state. “I always wanted to serve the people of God,” said Sister Reyna. “When I saw the Dubuque Franciscan Sisters, I witnessed that they do what they say and how they treat everybody with dignity!”

Sister Reyna has spent time getting to know the congregation and completed a 9-month study program at the Common Franciscan Novitiate in St. Louis. This program focused on the history and charism of the Franciscan tradition and an understanding of vows and religious life.

After two years, Sister Reyna will discern further commitment. “The future has a lot of challenges, the



Sister Reyna Badillo (center) with Sisters Liz Donahue (left) and Terri Rodela after her first vows ceremony on June 22, 2018.

unknown is scary and exciting!” said Sister Reyna. “I’m asking myself, ‘where will I serve?’ ‘what will I do?’ ‘what is the best way to live the Gospel? But I have one certainty and it is that God still will be with us.”

Sister Kate Katoski said the community is inspired by Sister Reyna’s faith and commitment. They have promised Sister Reyna their prayers, love, and support as they journey with her.

“We are thankful for God’s call to courageous women like Sister Reyna to religious life!” added Sister Kate.

The Spirituality of Giving and Receiving

By Sister Cathy (Kate) Katoski, OSF

Recently I ran across an address by Paul Schervish titled “Receiving and Giving as Spiritual Exercise.” The sub-title of the address was, “The Spirituality of Care in Soul, Relationship, and Community.”

Paul used three sources to speak of how central giving and receiving is to a developed spiritual life—a life in God, a life in the Divine, a life lived in community, a life lived in a healthy society. Dr. Schervish uses three examples from the masters of the spiritual life. First is “The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola.” Dr. Schervish points out that the dialectic of receiving and giving is the most pronounced dynamic of “The Spiritual Exercises.”

His second example is from Pema Chödrön, a Buddhist nun. Chödrön lays out how daily life may become a path of compassion and lightness for both others and for ourselves. One facet of Chödrön’s teaching is on “tonglen” – a spiritual exercise of receiving and giving. (You might search the internet for more about tonglen.)

The source we are most familiar with, of course, is the Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis says it best for us – “it is in giving that we

receive!”

All of this, and my experience in Development – especially in too many people’s reaction to the ministry of development – leads me to reflect on how we all need to deepen our spiritual exercise of both giving and receiving. We all know the scripture call to give and to give generously.

But the other side of that coin is to receive. Possibly few of us are good at receiving. No wonder we don’t understand well enough the generosity of those friends, family, and colleagues who wish to support us in our life and ministry – whether it be by their care, their prayers, or their financial contributions.

It is that practice of both receiving and giving that is core to our life in society, and certainly to our life in community. Even God is a receiver. The Divine receives our need and gives us the grace to endure.

As we pray the Peace Prayer: “It is in giving that we receive” remember that it may only be that in being able to receive, that we really understand giving. ■



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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 Celebrate 40, 50, 60 and 70 Year Jubilees

The Dubuque Franciscan Sisters honored their Ruby (40 years), Golden (50 years), Diamond (60 years), and Double Diamond Jubilarians (70 years) at celebrations on June 23 and 24, 2018, at Mount St. Francis Center.



Double Diamond Jubilarians: (front row L to R) Sisters Imogene Klein, Barbara Schaefer, and Denise Streng; (back row L to R) Sisters Dolores Banowetz and Edwardine Freking.



Diamond Jubilarians: (front row L to R) Sisters Nancy Frommelt, Mildred Leuenberger, Liz Hilvers, and Mary Colleen Hoversten; (back row L to R) Sisters Carol Ann Hauber, Janet Taphorn, Dorothy Schwendinger, Elaine Gehling, and Marilyn Freking.



Golden Jubilarians: Sisters Kay Gaul (left) and Mary Jane Koenigs.



Ruby Jubilarians: Sisters Ruth Schock (left) and Nancy Miller.