

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS | DUBUQUE, IOWA | SPRING 2019

# Footprints



# Footprints

Footprints reflects the mission, spirit, and values of the Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, Iowa.

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## Cover Photo



Photo by Sister Janet Haverkamp

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# Leadership

***“While you are proclaiming peace with your lips,  
be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.” St. Francis***

This issue of *Footprints* focuses on our third commitment area: Make Peace and Practice Nonviolence. There is no question how much we require a commitment to peace and nonviolence in our lives and our world today. Even the most seemingly peaceful person has those moments inside when anger flares. I remember decades ago getting furious when the lever wouldn't stay up to turn the tub faucet into a shower. Whether then or at a driver who cuts one off, or at a person one disagrees with, or in disagreements between factions or countries, we all need more peace. The internet is full of sessions on ‘mindfulness’ that can aid us all and deepen within us compassion, care, respect, and gratitude.

I was very blessed in attending an evening at Shalom Spirituality Center in early April. The panel was comprised of Dr. Alan Garfield of the Jewish faith, Dr. Adib Kassas of the Muslim faith and Sister Rita Goedken, OSF, representing the Christian/Franciscan beliefs. We all know or assume the differences between these religious traditions. But it was incredible how much they are alike in their commitments to God and to peace. Dr. Garfield noted how peace is not the absence of strife, but a completeness – a thread of grace issuing from God.

Sister Rita spoke of both the non-violent resistance of Jesus and the meek, humble and yet persistent way of St. Francis. Real peace is founded on belief in the dignity and inherent worth of each individual. No matter how different another is from us, they have truth to share.

Dr. Kassas observed that we have different rituals, but we all worship the same God. He observed that the Muslim directive is four-fold: be humble and attentive, be patient with what happens, reside in a state of connection with God, and spend from what God has provided for us.

As Dr. Garfield stated at the beginning of the presentation: “There is nothing easy about peace.” But from all our faith traditions, and even from our medical professionals who will tell us how much our mental and physical health depends upon peace within us, peace is what we are called to practice and promote.

--Sister Cathy (Kate) Katoski, OSF

## Our Mission

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

## Focus 2014 - 2020:

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 nonviolence.

This is who we are; this is what the global community can expect of us.

## Leadership Team

Sister Cathy (Kate) Katoski  
*President*

Sister Marie Cigrand  
*Vice President*

Sister Mary Lechtenberg  
*Vice President*

Sister Kathy Knipper  
*Vice President*





Bethany Kowal, Sisters Eileen Hauswald, Brenda Whetstone, Renae Hohensee, and Maureen Leach at a protest in Dubuque in June 2018.  
Photo by Sister Mary Lechtenberg.

## Practicing Peace and Non-Violence

by Sister Nancy Miller, OSF

Be part of a global community to "Make Peace and Nonviolence" by joining with people worldwide to sign on with The Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. This initiative is for everyone who adheres to practices of nonviolence and peacemaking.

The Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (<http://nonviolencejustpeace.net/>), a project of Pax Christi International, a Catholic peace movement, affirms that active nonviolence is at the heart of the vision and message of Jesus, the life of the Catholic Church, and the long-term vocation of healing and reconciling both people and the planet.

This effort was launched at the Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference held in Rome April 11-13, 2016 and co-sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Pax Christi International, and countless other international bodies. Lay people, theologians, members of religious congregations, and clergy across continents gathered to call on the Catholic Church to take a clear stand for active nonviolence and against all forms of violence.

In Pope Francis' message to the conference, he said, "Your thoughts on revitalizing the tools of nonviolence, and of active nonviolence in particular, will be a needed and positive contribution."

The conference participants appealed to the Catholic Church to re-commit to the centrality of Gospel nonviolence and called on the Church to:

- Continue developing Catholic social teaching on nonviolence. In particular, they called on Pope Francis to share with the world an encyclical on nonviolence and Just Peace;
- Integrate Gospel nonviolence explicitly into the life, including the sacramental life and work of the Church through dioceses, parishes, agencies, schools, universities, seminaries, religious orders, voluntary associations, and others;
- Promote nonviolent practices and strategies (e.g., nonviolent resistance, restorative justice, trauma healing, unarmed civilian protection, conflict transformation and peacebuilding strategies);

- Initiate a global conversation on nonviolence within the Church, with people of other faiths, and with the larger world to respond to the monumental crises of our time with the vision and strategies of nonviolence and Just Peace;
- No longer use or teach “just war theory”; continue advocating for the abolition of war and nuclear weapons;
- Lift up the prophetic voice of the church to challenge unjust world powers and to support and defend those nonviolent activists whose work for peace and justice put their lives at risk.

You are invited to join this powerful initiative by: learning more about the Nonviolence and Just Peace conference; studying, endorsing and spreading the appeal; studying and practicing Gospel nonviolence; and getting involved in spreading, integrating and activating Gospel nonviolence in the Church and in your local diocese, parish and local community.

Check out the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative website <http://nonviolencejustpeace.net/> for resources and sign on as an individual and/or as an organization to support a global community working at the grassroots to effect real change in our church and world.

In the meantime continue to learn and practice active nonviolence, gather with others to brainstorm ways to promote this message. Our world needs it! Numerous Eastern Iowa congregations of the Leadership of Women Religious are in collaboration by writing letters to the editor, meeting with diocesan personnel, educating our members, and practicing active nonviolent skills at our dinner tables, to offer a few examples. Energize your creative juices to spread this Gospel message of nonviolence and peacemaking wherever you live, work, pray and play.

In September 2018 on the International Day of Peace, Margaretha Vanaerschot, Pax Christi International's Secretary General, stopped in Clinton, Iowa, and spoke on The Catholic Nonviolent Initiative. She gave first hand accounts of real people and communities who live in war torn ravaged countries and yet choose to live out active nonviolence. She talked about the involvement of people at the grassroots who make a difference by committing to the practice of peacemaking. I was inspired by her sense of hope and passion for the efficacy of active nonviolence and recognition that people working locally make a difference. I had just participated in a local event entitled, “Stop the Hate, Show the Love Walk” commemorating its 20th



Pax Christi International Secretary General Margaretha Vanaerschot (left) with Sister Nancy Miller. Margaretha visited with the Clinton (Iowa) Franciscan Sisters during her U.S. tour to promote the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (CNI) in October 2018. Contributed photo.

anniversary. Nearly 300 people from the Clinton community, including school children through college age years, and people of diverse backgrounds came together as an expression of unity to ‘show the love’ by walking and singing together. Making peace and practicing nonviolence begins at the grassroots, starting in our homes. It is not for the weak of heart or for “wimps,” but it takes courage to integrate Gospel nonviolence into our everyday lives. Join with others in this critical movement; sign on to the Catholic Nonviolent Initiative, and together, we make a difference.

A partial listing of resources on active nonviolence are: Pace e Bene <http://www.paceebene.org/>; Metta Center for Nonviolence: <https://mettacenter.org/>; Walter Wink, “The Third Way”: <http://tinyurl.com/y5vnxp5o>; and the Franciscan Peace Center in Clinton, Iowa: <http://tinyurl.com/y2nsaqbd>.

The book “Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence” by editor Marie Dennis, is a compilation of the presentations from a conference hosted at the Vatican in 2016.

Other books are: “Jesus Christ Peacemaker: A New Theology of Peace,” by Terrence J. Rynne; and “The Nonviolence Handbook: A Guide for Practical Action,” by Michael Nagler.

Several small group discussion series are: Engage: Exploring Nonviolent Living <http://www.paceebene.org/shop/engage-exploring-nonviolent-living/> and Cultivating Nonviolence, Harvesting Peace, JustMatters Module <https://justfaith.org/cultivating-nonviolence-harvesting-peace/>. ■

# Following the Example of the Sultan and the Saint

by Sister Rita Goedken, OSF

2019 marks the 800th anniversary of a remarkable and powerful event in the life of St. Francis of Assisi. This saint is known throughout the world, but relatively few know of his courageous, faith-filled decision to cross “enemy lines” and enter peacefully into the camp of Sultan Malik al-Kamil near Damietta, Egypt.

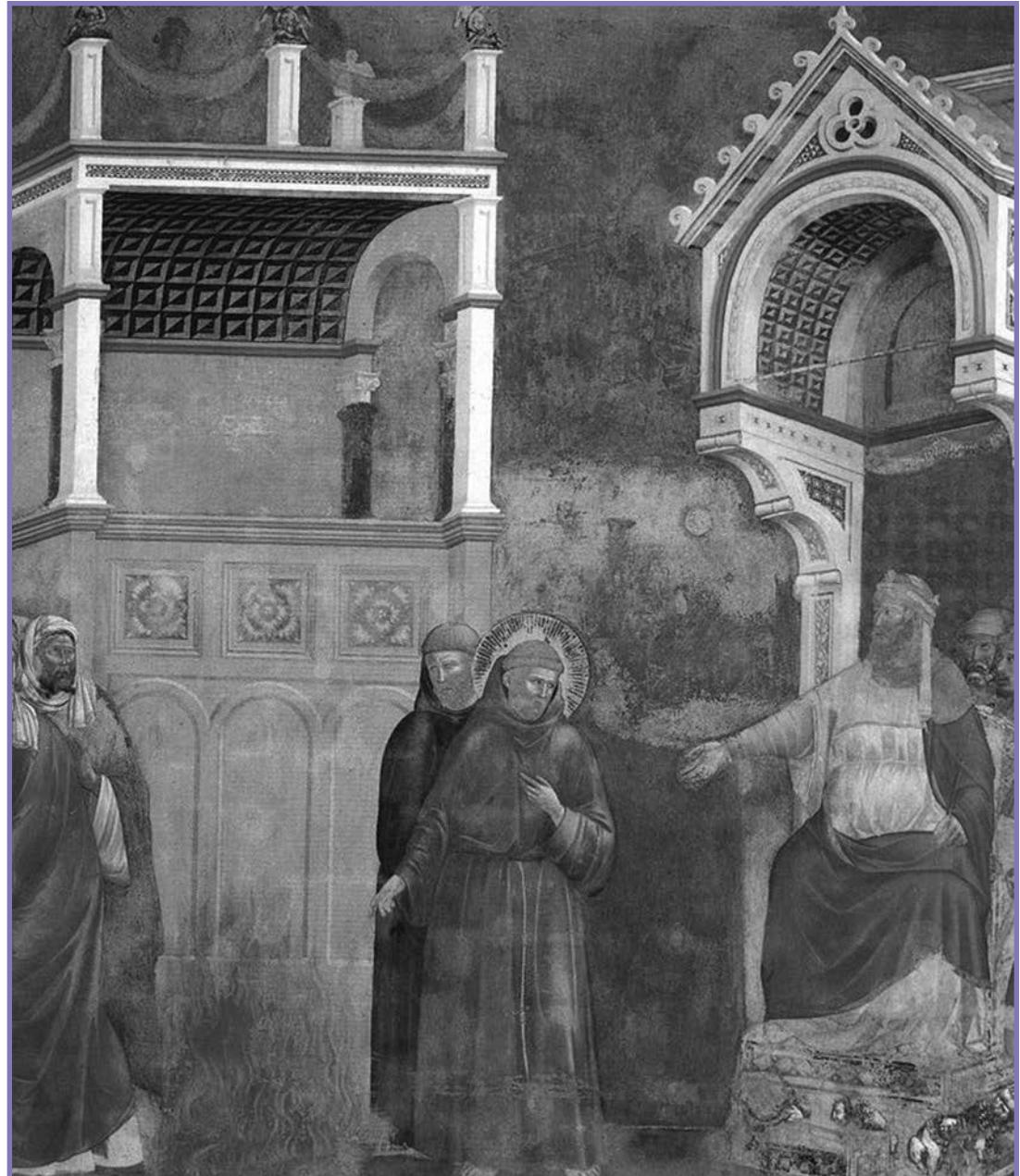
When Christian armies from across Europe embarked on the Fifth Crusade in 1219, their stated goal was to recapture the holy city of Jerusalem.

Francis knew something about war, for he himself, as a young man before his conversion, had fought in the battle of Collestrada, hoping to win glory. He not only saw the killing and maiming that violence inflicts, he also suffered the trauma of imprisonment.

God's grace worked in Francis, leading him out of his desire for glory, urging him to separate from the wealth and the social connections that called young men to war, inspiring him to leave violence behind, and calling him to be a peacemaker and to share the Gospel of Jesus.

Over the years, Francis began every sermon he preached with, “The Lord give you peace!” It was a greeting God had revealed to him. He taught his followers to love their enemies as Jesus taught, perhaps the most difficult lesson of all.

After the Crusader armies had arrived in Egypt,



*"St. Francis before the Sultan," by Giotto di Bondone (1267-1337).*

Francis and a few companions also sailed for Egypt and arrived at the Crusaders' camp. The Crusaders were fighting the Muslim armies at a time when, sadly, Muslims were demonized. Dismay and profound sadness filled Francis' heart as he saw the ugliness and extent of the suffering, death, and destruction caused by both sides of the conflict. Francis urged the Crusaders not to engage in battle for Damietta. The Sultan, in a willingness to make peace, offered to return Jerusalem to the Christians, and to rebuild the shattered walls of the city. As the leaders of the Crusade considered his offer, Francis asked permission to leave the Crusaders' camp to meet with the Sultan.

It was considered an outrageous idea, but he persisted in his request and was finally granted it.

**“God’s grace worked in Francis, leading him out of his desire for glory, urging him to separate from the wealth and the social connections that called young men to war, inspiring him to leave violence behind, and calling him to be a peacemaker and to share the Gospel of Jesus.”**

What did St. Francis hope to do by meeting with the Sultan? Certainly he would have given his customary greeting of peace. To the Muslim guards who forcefully stopped him, he declared, “We are ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Amazingly, Sultan Malik al-Kamil agreed to see Francis, who stayed in the Muslim camp for several days, sharing the Gospel, engaging in dialogue, and experiencing Muslim hospitality. Francis had not come to argue, to level insults, nor to criticize the Muslim leader or his beliefs. He had come as a man of peace who deeply desired to share the saving love of God revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It seems that the Sultan, a learned man, recognized this visitor as a holy man and engaged him in dialogue.

Francis, for his part, observed how the Sultan prayed five times a day, how the people were called publicly to raise their voices

in praise of God the Merciful One. Francis must have been impressed with the Muslims’ Ninety-Nine Most Beautiful Names for God, for he seems later to have incorporated many of those beautiful names in his “Praises of God,” written on Mount LaVerna. After several days in the Muslim camp, Francis was given safe escort back to the Crusaders’ camp by Sultan Malik el-Kamil’s men. He soon returned to Italy.

Separated by culture, faith, and language, St. Francis and Sultan Malik al-Kamil engaged in peaceful dialogue even in the midst of war. What a shining example this is for our time when world conflicts rage or when groups of people are maligned. The respect, tolerance, and openness which Francis and the Sultan showed each other are a wonderful model. These two men encourage us even now to follow their example: to always respect the other. ■

*“Confirmation of the Rule,” by Giotto di Bondone (1267-1337).*



mindfulness

oneness abundance thank you forgive  
healing HOPE SOUL blessings faith LOVE bliss  
NOW zen PURPOSE connect gratitude  
intention TRUTH divine  
PEACE family ACCEPT  
kindness JOY guidance

## Mindfulness as a Practice of Peace

by Sister Reyna Helen Badillo, OSF

In a training session I took online about mindfulness, Jack Kornfield told us the story of the biologist Jorge B. Schaller, who studied the life of gorillas in Africa. While Schaller did a scientific presentation about the gorillas, another scientist asked him how he was able to get so much information about them? The scientist continued: "We went for years to study the gorillas, and we did not get the information you have." Schaller then answered him, "Very simple. I didn't carry a gun." When the gorillas saw how sincere Schaller was and that he did not pose a threat, they welcomed him to study them.

Peace starts when we are able to understand others in a "very simple" way and mindfulness helps us with it. When we take time to silence ourselves, we become aware of our own thoughts, feelings, and motivations. This awareness helps us to be present to others without carrying the "gun" of our own ideas, opinions, perceptions or the ideas of others; instead, we became more open to understand, respect and have a sense of compassion for the human being that is in front of us.

St. Francis, in fact, taught us this--how to see that each person has dignity. Francis' encounter with the sultan is a good example of mindfulness, compassion, communication and respect for the other person. Francis was attentive, compassionate, and respectful to the sultan's ideas. He left sad but in peace because it was a good dialogue. Francis showed to us that it is possible to encounter "the other." St. Francis was sensible and could understand the human person after hours, days, years of silent contemplation. The practice of mindfulness in combination with contemplative prayer helps us to

stop before we react; helps us to think that other solutions can be made, other dialogues can be had, other possibilities can exist, other actions can be taken. And if still we don't resolve the situation, we can live in peace knowing that it is OK to have differences.

As we look for peace and justice for all, it is important to understand that everybody has the right to think different than me: the family that has a different culture, the person that is from another generation or even the person who I live with, when his or her customs are not matched with my own. Certainly as humans we get mad and angry when people don't do what we want them to do or they say something we don't like. However, if instead of being angry, we pause and take a breath, we can stop to perceive that what "annoys me" is something from my own thinking. Or perhaps, realizing that the other person is dealing with something happening in his or her life or maybe the person is reacting that way due to his or her background. Yet, whatever the reason, if we stop and breathe, maybe we will be able to see that even if I am very different from another person, I still can show respect, be compassionate, and understand that the person in front of me is another human being with feelings.

To send letters to the government, participate in marches, or write to the newspapers are all good ways to promote peace and justice. Each of us is called to do this in our own way. However, if we can start with the most simple way, with just a pause and a deep breath, we can work toward understanding "the other." ■

# What are some ways you support the commitment of practicing peace and non-violence?

*“While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.’ These words by St. Francis inspire my desire to make peace and practice nonviolence. Often I send my students out of the classroom with a good wish, or the greeting of ‘peace be with you.’ When I am driving and someone causes a reaction to be anger, I offer a word of blessing or hope that they arrive at their destination safely. And a great read this year is Pope Francis’ 2019 World Day of Peace message. I am inspired and challenged with the following statement regarding creative peacemakers: ‘Today more than ever, our societies need ‘artisans of peace’ who can be messengers and authentic witnesses of God the Father, who wills the good and happiness of the human family.”*

--Sister Kay Gaul

*“Since I joined the non-violence commitment area a few years ago, I have learned much about the great need for this practice to become a natural part of our lives. I started first with myself! I became aware of the violence I was doing to myself and that of others to me. This was necessary before I could reach out to other areas, to other people, to others’ needs.*

*For many years I lived in a city where violence was everywhere in the form of accidents, domestic violence, murders, etc. Even on the campus where I worked, I could see small acts of violence that were not even in the conscience of others. I used my peaceful presence, and opened doors to give the gift of tranquility where I could. I reached several students whose lives were being disrupted by divorce, by violence in the home, by fractured relationships, and teacher/student misunderstandings. My schedule and my physical challenges kept me from reaching further into the community, but I felt good about the times I could listen, act and react, pray with, and console.”*

--Sister Sally Mitchell

*“I was introduced to nonviolent protest when I was a sophomore at Immaculate Conception Academy in 1948. The CSMC, our student organization president was Janie Alexander, an African American student from Kalamazoo, Michigan. Diamonds Restaurant on Main Street in Dubuque refused to serve African Americans. Janie led a protest demonstration (of which I was a member) on the sidewalk outside of Diamonds and opened it to all people.*

*Today as a member of the Dubuque Peace Community, we continue the practice of protesting war and violence in Washington Park across from the Federal Building every Monday afternoon at 4 p.m. A passerby asked once, ‘What good do you think you’re doing here for peace?’ My response was, ‘I don’t know but I do know that it’s a statement for peace and an disapproval of war. It’s what I can do.”*

*As a member of ICCI and Nebraskans for Peace and Network organizations, I am alerted to policies and bills before Congress that need approval or need to be changed. With this knowledge I make phone contacts or send emails to our legislators.*

*With these actions, prayer is undoubtedly the most important ingredient.”*

--Sister Marian Klostermann

# Bishop Garrigan Students Give Service in Mississippi

by Franciscan Associate Jake Rosenmeyer



Dubuque Franciscan Associate Jake Rosenmeyer (back left) with Sister Nancy Schreck and the team from Bishop Garrigan High School.  
Contributed photo.

From February 6 to February 11, 10 students and three adults from Bishop Garrigan Schools in Algona, Iowa, traveled to Okolona and Morton Mississippi. The project was done in conjunction with Dubuque Franciscan Sisters Nancy Schreck, Eileen Hauswald, Pat Clemen, and Brenda Whetstone.

The project came about through a relationship that has been built over the past few years with the Sisters of Saint Francis and the school. For the past four years, Garrigan students in third through twelfth grades have packaged macaroni and cheese meals for the underprivileged people of Mississippi. As a result, almost 70,000 meals have been sent to Okolona and Morton. Since the meals have been sent, students at Bishop Garrigan asked if there was an opportunity to visit Mississippi to see where the meals go.

While students and teachers were in Mississippi, they were able to witness first hand

some of the injustices and wealth disparity that exists in our country. They participated in meal distribution where they were able to talk and witness their faith with the people they were meeting. Teachers were able to discuss various local issues with community leaders and the Sisters. All people participating in the trip were able to witness what the sisters do, and who they work with.

Through the trip, many of the students came back with a new appreciation for what they have, and a new understanding of what others lack. The students were all deeply moved by the generosity and kindness of the people they were serving. The students were also motivated to continue the meal packaging event, and eager to see future groups get the opportunity to go to Mississippi. It was very heart warming for everyone involved to experience another culture and group of people. We are already planning for next year! ■

# Employee Appreciation

The annual Mount St. Francis Employee Appreciation and Recognition dinner was held Tuesday, March 26, at Shalom Spirituality Center. Special recognition was given to employees who

## 40 Years



Lynn King

## 25 Years



Tina Oberfoell

## 20 Years



Denise Krug and Nina Siegworth  
Not pictured: Vivian Fluhr

## 15 Years



Robyn Miller, Julie Becker, Dee Sanner, Ron Weitz, Jessica Pickel, and Jennifer Knapp.

## 10 Years



Jamie Patterson and Diane Denlinger  
Not pictured: Jacob Grassel and Kathy Neuses.

## 5 Years



Back row: Gustavo Oropeza, Michelle Hammel, Jody Stanley, Heather Tussey, Sister Kathy Knipper, Shelli Schmitt, Kim Reed, Laura Snaith, and Curtis DeWulf.  
Front row: Sister Mary Lechtenberg, Linda Hocking, Valorie Levai, Aroisinna Langrine, Wecan Kobil, Sister Bertha Bonert, and Susan Black. Not pictured: Danielle Abresch, Danielle Atchison, Jimmy Becker, Trudy Bradbery, Kristin Kluesner, Olivia Oppelt, Daniel Schmitt, and Jessica Sibok.

# Operation SKIP: Sisters and Kids in Partnership

by Jessi Russo



*Sisters Theresa Jungers, Marge Staudt, Rita Green, and Camilla Hemann with the 4th and 5th graders from Bellevue Marquette.*

In the parish conference room at Bellevue (Iowa) Marquette School, Sister Theresa Jungers asks the students what they know about sisters?

A young girl raises her hand and states simply, "You try not to sin."

This elicits laughs from the sisters who visited the school as part of Operation SKIP: Sisters and Kids in Partnership. Sisters Camilla Hemann, Rita Green, Marge Staudt and Theresa Jungers presented to the 4th and 5th grade students at Bellevue Marquette and the kindergarten through 6th grade classes at Sacred Heart School in Maquoketa, Iowa, on March 11, during National Catholic Sisters Week (March 8-14). Operation SKIP was created by Charism Team Member Julie Tebbe as a way for kids to learn about the Dubuque Franciscan Sisters and take part in a service project together.

"The sisters have a lot to share with kids and by telling their vocation stories, it opens up conversations to the students about their own call in life," said Julie. "Operation SKIP allows the students to learn about the lives of service that the sisters have, and then share in a service project."

During their presentations to both schools, Sisters Camilla, Rita, Marge and Theresa spoke about their lives growing up as children, many on farms in Iowa, and how God's call wasn't always loud and clear for them.

"I thought I'd get married and have a family," said Sister Camilla. "But God said, 'I have another plan for you.'"

Sister Marge shared that she met the Dubuque Franciscans when she took piano lessons with them and the possibility of being a sister stayed with her in her mind and heart for many years.

"God called me to be a sister," said Sister Marge to the students, "but what does God want you to do with your one wonderful life?"

After sharing their vocation stories, the sisters talked about the mission of the Dubuque Franciscans and giving service in the name of God. The sisters and students then worked together on a craft project that was donated to local nursing homes in the area as well as to Clare House at Mount St. Francis.

For Sister Rita Green, Operation SKIP was particularly special. It allowed her to return to Sacred Heart School where she was principal for 17 years.

"I was delighted to be back in my 'old great school again,' she said. ■

# Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking Announces Hotel Training; Inspires Iowa Lawmakers

On January 11, 2019 -- the National Day of Awareness about Human Trafficking - the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery kicked off its local campaign to train staff of the Dubuque area hotel and motel industry to recognize the signs of human trafficking. At a press conference at the Grand Harbor Resort in Dubuque, the group presented a certificate to the hotel for being the first to complete the training.

This initiative is being completed in conjunction with the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery, and the Coalition on Human Trafficking of Omaha, Nebraska.

"Our goal is to help employees realize, recognize and respond appropriately when they see signs of trafficking," said Sister Mira Mosle, BVM, of the Tri-State Coalition.

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds introduced this campaign to the state in 2017, and Dubuque Mayor Roy Buol and Travel Dubuque President Keith Rahe have endorsed the initiative.

"We encourage you and your employees to participate in this free education," they wrote in a letter to managers of Dubuque lodgings. "The training is important because sex traffickers often use hotels and motels to exploit their victims, most often young girls and women."

Personnel of more than 100 lodgings in Iowa have already been trained. The main authors of the program are retired state and federal law enforcement personnel who have investigated and prosecuted sex trafficking cases in Iowa and Nebraska.

"Because human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal activity in the world, the coalition does its small part by focusing on education and by raising awareness of this activity," said Dubuque Franciscan Sister Mary Lechtenberg.



The subcommittee of the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking, which includes Sister Mary Lechtenberg, OSF, (left) meets with Iowa Representatives Chuck Isenhart and Lindsay James (back center).

This initiative by the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery, which includes Dubuque Franciscan Sisters Mary Lechtenberg and Lou Ann Killburg and Associates Lisa Schmidt and Deb Albert, inspired Iowa State Representatives Chuck Isenhart and Lindsay James to introduce a bill (HF 455) to the state floor that would make it mandatory for hotels doing business with government officials to train their staff on how to spot signs of human trafficking and report suspicious activity.

"Addressing this human slavery in Iowa is a priority, so we can show we are serious by using our power to spend public money in a way that supports our values," said Chuck. "We have seen progress by concerned parties in the trucking services industries. I think we can fairly ask leaders in hospitality services to join the effort in a concerted way."

In order to continue qualifying to serve state and local governments and public employees, hotels and motels would have to complete the requirement by January 2022. The certification would have to be updated every two years for new employees.

The State of Iowa would maintain a public database of qualified facilities, and lodgers would be able to display signs and otherwise advertise a seal of certification. ■



From left to right: Sisters Janet May, Pat Doody, Renee Hohensee, Ruth Schock, Kate Katoski, Marge Staudt, Shirley Fineran, Marie Cigrand and Briar Cliff University Assistant Professor of Theology and Department Chair Paul Korchin. Contributed photo.

## DBQ Franciscans Gift BCU with \$2 Million Endowment for Theology Department

A strong heritage of Catholic Franciscan education will continue to thrive at Briar Cliff University.

On January 24, Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa, announced a \$2 million endowment by the Sisters of St. Francis establishing the Sisters of St. Francis Endowed Chair in Theology. The legacy gift is one of the largest in the University's history and the first time an endowed chair has been gifted to Briar Cliff.

The endowment will support Briar Cliff in the recruitment and retention of faculty, enrich the University's theology program through scholarship and teaching, provide funding for professional development and spiritual projects, and infuse Catholic Franciscan values throughout Briar Cliff and into the community.

"Briar Cliff University is here today because of the vision of the Sisters of St. Francis nearly 89 years ago. Their influence is at the core of our Catholic Franciscan tradition of service, caring, and openness to all," said Briar Cliff University President Rachelle Karstens. "We are blessed, appreciative, and very humbled by the Sisters of St. Francis' continued devotion and commitment to educating our current and future students through this endowment and their extraordinary service to Briar Cliff throughout our history."

The Sisters of St. Francis believe in producing the next generation of Catholic Franciscan inspired leaders said Sister Kate Katoski.

"We were honored to be able to make this

significant donation. Thanks to the simple, shared Franciscan life of our sisters over our 155 year history, the wise planning of our leaders, and the generosity of those who have gifted us, we are able to leave this legacy gift to Briar Cliff, trusting that it will instill in the Briar Cliff community and the wider public our Franciscan theology and values for decades to come."

Briar Cliff was founded in 1929 by Mother Mary Dominica Wieneke, Major Superior of the Dubuque Franciscans, with the approval of the Most Reverend Edmond Heelan, Bishop of the Sioux City Diocese. When the University opened its doors in 1930, it was served by 12 Franciscan sisters. By 1960, 37 Franciscan sisters were present on campus. Today, the congregation has over 200 members, many who have served in various roles at Briar Cliff, including five sisters who currently serve as faculty and staff at BCU.

The Sisters of St. Francis were the first members of Briar Cliff's Mother Dominica Society which recognizes benefactors with a lifetime giving of \$1 million and the inaugural members of Briar Cliff's St. Clare Legacy Society which recognizes benefactors with a lifetime giving of \$5 million. To date, the Sisters of St. Francis have gifted \$6 million to Briar Cliff since the University's inception in 1930.

"The impact of the Sisters of St. Francis' tireless work and deep devotion to educating our future leaders inspires us all. Their legacy gift will continue to enrich the lives of our students and community for many years to come," added Rachelle. ■

# Statement of Accountability

Since our Development Office was established in 1996 we have insisted that “*gratitude*” was the foundation of all we did there to stay in touch with our families, friends, former students, colleagues and benefactors.

We hear so often of the gratitude you have for the ministry of the Dubuque Franciscans, today and over the past decades in your life.

We trust that you know how very grateful the Dubuque Franciscans are for your support of our lives and ministries.

We promise you a remembrance in our prayers!

*Sister Cathy (Kate) Katoski, OSF*

Last year factors beyond our control prevented us from producing and mailing an Annual Report listing the names of all donors for the year. We have considered listing the report on our website, but are aware that many people don’t want their name or connections added to the web. Thus we have chosen to be transparent in this fashion as to our 2018 sources and uses of funds in our Development Office.

## DONOR DESIGNATION OF GIFT INCOME

For the needs of retired sisters	\$ 100,998.09
For ministry among poor people	\$ 6,664.30
For wherever our need is greatest	\$ 336,104.54
Birdies for Charity	\$ 18,806.02
Estate Gifts	\$ 501,477.32
Sister Water Project	\$ 290,143.95
	<hr/>
	\$1,254,194.22



## HOW YOUR GIFTS WERE DISTRIBUTED

*By the Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque*

Ministry Fund	\$ 100,785.03
Operations	\$ 334,004.38
Birdies purchases	\$ 18,806.02
Sister Water Projects	\$ 290,143.95
Investments	\$ 510,454.84
	<hr/>
	\$1,254,194.22

# BCU Alumni Honor Sister Annette George



Mary Schrad (second from left) with Sister Annette's family and BCU President Rachelle Karstens (third from right). Contributed photo.

**A**t an Alumni Weekend at Briar Cliff University in January, former members of the late Sister Annette George's basketball team returned to the court to present a scholarship named in honor of

"We wanted to celebrate all of the values and life skills that we gained here at Briar Cliff while being a student-athlete. We came up with this endowed scholarship that will continue to grow. We raised enough money that we could endow that and that we can continue this tradition year after," said Briar Cliff University Alumni Mary Schrad.

For the first year, The Sister Annette George Legacy Scholarship Award will go to a women's basketball student athlete from Briar Cliff University.

## Dubuque Franciscans Offer Two Summer Camps for Girls

The Dubuque Franciscan Sisters are offering two summer camps for girls in June 2019 at Mount St. Francis Center, 3390 Windsor Ave., in Dubuque.

**Surfing the C's**  
(Compassionate, Confident, Courageous, Christian!) is a two-night leadership camp available to girls who will finish 6th, 7th, or 8th grade at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. The camp begins at 7 p.m., Friday, June 7, and finishes at 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 9.

Spiritual and creative activities will be offered around the four C's. The cost for Surfing the C's is \$65, which includes all meals, housing, activities and a T-shirt.

**Best Franciscan Friends (BFF) Camp** is a day camp for girls who have finished 4th or 5th grade at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. The camp begins on Wednesday, June 12, and finishes Friday,



Sister Brenda Whetstone with BFF Campers in 2018.

June 14. Girls will participate in activities with the sisters including creating crafts, playing outdoor games, and much more. The cost for BFF Camp is \$50 and includes all meals, activities and a T-shirt.

For more information or to register, visit [www.osfdbq.org](http://osfdbq.org) or contact Julie Tebbe at (563) 583-9786 or [tebbej@osfdbq.org](mailto:tebbej@osfdbq.org). ■

# In Remembrance

## Sister Antonita Soppe March 28, 1914 - January 24, 2019



**M**odesta Soppe was born in Worthington, Iowa, on March 28, 1914, the third of 15 children born to Anton and Caroline (Lehmann) Soppe. She started her education at St. Paul's Catholic School in Worthington, but after third grade her family moved to Dyersville where she attended St. Francis Xavier School.

With so many sisters and brothers

## Sister Eileen Schoenherr March 14, 1927 - January 26, 2019



**O**n March 14, 1927, Eileen Irene was born on a farm four miles north of Mapleton, Iowa to her parents, Mike and Elizabeth (Zeiman) Schoenherr. Eileen was the seventh child of 10 in the family of two brothers, Aloysius and Paul, and seven sisters, Theresa, Consilia, Rita, Bernice, Clara, Stella, and Nora.

Eileen entered Mount St. Francis on August 25, 1945. The following year on August 12, she

younger than she was, Modesta had experience taking care of children. Modesta took care of her youngest sister, Agnetis, for three years before entering Mount St. Francis on September 17, 1933. Agnetis later followed her older sister to the convent.

On August 12, 1934, Modesta was received into the Franciscan community and given the name, Sister Mary Antonita. Following her first profession on August 12, 1936, she was sent to teach at Holy Ghost in Dubuque. She returned to Holy Ghost later in her teaching career as well. She taught at Sacred Heart in

was given the name Sister Mary Baptista. Her first assignment was to be homemaker for 12 Sisters and 11 boarders at Immaculate Conception Academy in Dubuque for five years. Subsequently Eileen moved to Sioux City where she was a homemaker at St. Anthony's Orphanage. In 1957, she moved back to Dubuque to minister at St. Mary's Home where she served as housemother for the children's units until St. Mary's closed and Catholic Charities took it over as an outreach program. Sister Eileen worked in that program until 1970 when she went to work for Catholic Charities in Waterloo, Iowa. In 1972 Eileen became the first Pastoral Associate in the

Melrose Park and Corpus Christi in Chicago before going to St. Mary in Danbury, Iowa. Other schools where she taught included St. Mary, Pomeroy, Iowa; St. Anne, Hazel Crest, Illinois; Visitation, Stacyville, Iowa; and Columbus, Waterloo, Iowa. In her later years, she ministered at St. Pius X in Des Moines. Sister retired to Mount St. Francis in 1976.

Sister is survived by her sister-in-law Rita Soppe; nieces and nephews, and her Franciscan sisters with whom she shared over 84 years of her life. ■

Archdiocese of Dubuque ministering in Waterloo. Eileen moved to St. Pius X Parish in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1984 where she ministered in a variety of capacities, such as feeding the homeless, teaching adults how to prepare a budget, and working for Habitat for Humanity. She also served on 24 committees during her ministry, and she loved them all. Sister Eileen retired to Mount St. Francis in 2000 and moved to Clare House in 2007.

Sister is survived by her sisters Nora Flanigan and Sister Consilia Schoenherr, OSF, nieces and nephews, and her Franciscan sisters with whom she shared over 72 years of her life. ■

## Rest in Peace

**Katherine (Kay) Kelley  
Ginny O'Connell**  
*Sisters of Sister Mary Lou Reisch*

**Jerome Hansen**  
*Brother of Sister Margaret Hansen*

**Caryn Sivanich**  
*Sister of Sister Darleen Chmielewski*

**Florence Nosbisch**  
*Mother of Sister Frances Nosbisch*

**Monica Halbach**  
*Sister-in-law of Sister Edith Halbach*

**Doris Goedken**  
*Sister-in-law of Sister Rita Goedken*

**Genevieve Klein**  
*Sister-in-law of Sister Sister Imogene Klein*

**Leona Harris**  
*Sister-in-law of Sister Madonna Friedman*

**Francis Roscoe Tielkemeier**  
*Father of Franciscan Associate Nancy Guthrie*

**John Albert**  
*Father of Franciscan Associate Deb Albert*

**Kenneth Koenigs**  
*Brother of Sister Mary Jane Koenigs*

**James Auchstetter**  
*Brother-in-Law of Sisters Angeline and Edwardine Freking*

**Angela Watts**  
*Sister of Sister Millie Leuenberger*

## DBQ Franciscans Accept Two New Candidates in Honduras



Sister Carol Hawkins, Sister Nancy Meyerhofer, Katy Meylin Orellana Deres, Perla Primavera Martinez Avalos, and Sister Mary Beth Goldsmith in Honduras.

In January the Dubuque Franciscan Sisters accepted two women in Honduras as candidates in ongoing discernment toward membership with the congregation.

The candidates are Katy Meylin Orellana Deres from El Salvador and Perla Primavera Martinez Avalos from Mexico. Both women will share community life and participate in ministry with our sisters in Gracias, Lempira, Honduras under the direction of Sister Pat Farrell.

"We are most grateful for the generous spirit of Sisters Erika Calderon, Nancy Meyerhofer, Carol Hawkins, Mary Beth Goldsmith and Pat Farrell who will journey with these women in life and ministry," said Sister Cathy (Kate) Katoski. "We promise them our prayerful support."

## LCWR Gathers for Regional Conference in Dubuque March 12-15



Sister Kathy Knipper, OSF (right) with Sister Jamie Phelps, OP, (center), Sister Marilyn Huegerich, OSF (left) and Sister Marcia Eckerman, CHM (center back).

The Dubuque Franciscans' Leadership Team participated in a regional gathering of Region X of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) on March 12-15 in Dubuque. Sister Jamie Phelps, OP, an Adrian Dominican Sister theologian and lecturer, offered input and facilitated the meeting. The nearly 50 sisters in attendance focused on breaking down obstacles and celebrating differences to further their commitment to the 2016 LCWR Assembly Resolution on racism. Sister Kathy Knipper, OSF was part of planning committee with Clinton Franciscan Sister Marilyn Huegerich, OSF, and Congregation of the Humility of Mary Sister Marcia Eckerman, CHM. ■

## Sister Water Project Featured in Global Sisters Report and National Catholic Reporter



The Sister Water Project, which is the Dubuque Franciscans' initiative to bring safe water to villagers in Tanzania and Honduras, was featured in a story by Global Sisters Report in February 2019. Global Sisters Report is a project of the National Catholic Reporter featuring news about Catholic sisters and the critical issues facing the people they serve. The story was also published in the print edition of National Catholic Reporter in the April 5 edition. To read the story, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y63q555v>.

# Sisters Join Stonehill Residents and Staff to Bless New Windows in San Damiano Chapel

On February 8, the Dubuque Franciscan Sisters joined the residents and staff of Stonehill Franciscan Services in blessing their new stained glass windows in San Damiano Chapel. The windows, which feature St. Francis and Jesus, were designed and installed by Glass Heritage, LLC of Davenport, Iowa. "May these windows be for us a gathering place for prayer in times of sorrow and trial, in times of great rejoicing and blessing. May all who look upon these windows be blessed by You, our God. May they give your glory and honor and be a blessing for us. Amen," said Sister Mary Lechtenberg at the event. The Dubuque Franciscan Sisters are the original founders of Stonehill Franciscan Services. ■



*Sisters Michelle Balek, Marie Therese Kalb, Camilla Hemann, Kay Forkenbrock, Marge Staudt and Eileen Miller sang during the prayer service.*



*Sister Mary Lechtenberg led at the prayer service.*



*Sister Carolyn Thirtle, who volunteers at Stonehill, reads at the prayer service.*

# Footprints



Sisters of St. Francis  
3390 Windsor Avenue  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-1311

Non-Profit Organ.  
U.S. Postage  
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Dubuque, IA  
52001-1311  
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## Franciscan Common Venture Seeks Volunteers

The Franciscan Common Venture program is seeking volunteers for its service sites.

The 2019 Common Venture sites include Dubuque, Waterloo, Sioux City, in Iowa; Winnebago, Nebraska; South Bend, Indiana; Busby, Montana; and Morton and Okolona, Mississippi. Volunteer opportunities range from working in a community garden to tutoring children.

There are also one-day service opportunities available in Sioux City, Waterloo, and at Convivium Urban Farmstead in Dubuque.

Franciscan Common Venture is a volunteer program that provides the opportunity for men and women 20 years and older to contribute their time, talents, and commitment in service among people who are poor. Volunteers are asked to contribute a stipend to help cover food and housing costs and are also responsible for their own costs traveling to and from the volunteer sites.

For more information about the service opportunities and sites and also how to apply, visit [www.osfdbq.org/commonventure](http://www.osfdbq.org/commonventure). Contact Common Venture Coordinator Sister Michelle Balek, OSF, at [balekm@osfdbq.org](mailto:balekm@osfdbq.org) or (563) 583-9786.



*Sister Erika Calderon helps tutor a little boy in Morton, Mississippi. Photo by Sister Rita Goedken.*

## Calendar of Events

### APRIL 27

Goats On The Go presentation, 10 a.m., Canticle of Creation Center, 3390 Windsor Ave., Dubuque. The morning will start with a presentation on this eco-friendly alternative way of eradicating invasive species. Weather permitting this will be followed by a "meet and greet" with the goats! Free will offering.

### MAY 7

"Taking Steps to Reduce Indoor Pollution: Creating a Healthy Home Environment," 6:30 p.m. Canticle of Creation Center, 3390 Windsor Ave., Dubuque. Free will offering.

### MAY 21

"Every Day is Earth Day Movie Night: Decoding the Driftless," 6:30 p.m. Canticle of Creation Center, 3390 Windsor Ave. Free will offering.

### JUNE 22-23

Jubilee Celebrations