

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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A message from *Leadership*

Just as creation changes with each season, life happens and experiences unfold. For example, in the transition from caterpillar to butterfly, the entire caterpillar is changed so that the butterfly may emerge. Hardly a trace of the caterpillar remains as the butterfly becomes free to fly. Personal transformation is much the same.

Our words and deeds, all pieced together, form life as we respond to the needs of the time and the stirring within our hearts. How one shares the Franciscan values differs from person to person and changes over time. Where one begins and sets out on life's journey may not be the path one is on today. The beauty of life as it has never been before seems to open before us.

Living life holistically and receiving the Spirit's invitation can move us in unexpected ways on paths we might never have imagined. Living with openness to receive the goodness, challenge, and opportunities is gift.

Faithfulness to the gospel, living in right relationship, and commitment to the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare offer transformation in our lives. This is a privileged, challenging time to live our common Franciscan mission.

Those who aspire to the Franciscan way of life give witness not to a common place, nor a common task, but to the common heart of being sister and brother to all, relating to all as gift, recognizing in all creation the sacred presence, showing mercy to all, and making peace in conflicts and injustices.

By virtue of our Franciscan mission, all are called to give our hearts to God amidst our everyday activities. This issue highlights many individuals who have experienced changes in their lives as they lived their commitment to the Franciscan values. What a gift!

--Sister Kathy Knipper, 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





Sister Nancy Schreck with former member Arlene (Loesche) Branick (right) and her husband, Vincent Branick, at Sister Nancy's Jubilee in June 2019.

Faithful Franciscan Friends

Former members detail how they continue to live with Franciscan values

by Jessi Russo

It's like coming home," said former member Arlene (Loesche) Branick about returning to Mount St. Francis for the recent Jubilee celebration of her classmate Sister Nancy Schreck. "Even my husband comments how amazing it is the sisters remember me after 42 years. The connection has always been there."

Arlene is one of many women who joined the community and later realized religious life wasn't for them, but yet choose to remain connected to the community.

Arlene was a member of the congregation for six years. She was taught by sisters in the community and had two great aunts who were members.

"After high school I thought God was calling me to religious life," said Arlene. "But then when I matured a bit, I just couldn't see myself continuing in religious life."

Arlene decided to leave before final vows, which she found painful.

"I felt like I was abandoning [my classmate] Sister Nancy Schreck in some ways," she said. "But we always said – make the decision and live with it -- and eventually you come to understand where you really belong."

A few years after leaving the convent, Arlene would make her way to Africa where she taught English to young men and women in Tanzania who

were preparing for life as religious priests and sisters in the Opus Spiritus Sancti (a family of communities consisting of priests, religious and lay people also known as the Holy Spirit Community). Arlene continued her involvement with this community as a lay member, eventually serving as the international leader, with members in eight countries worldwide.

“I would say my desire to work with the poor and that mission spirit came from my time with the Dubuque Franciscans,” she said.

Mary Ann Koch

Mary Ann Koch was taught by the Dubuque Franciscans at Columbus High School in Waterloo, Iowa. Her acceptance into the congregation was a happy moment in her life.

“My self confidence was bolstered by acceptance of the community,” she said.

Mary Ann was a member of the congregation for seven years before she left the congregation.

“I think I really wanted to do something different,” said Mary Ann. “After Vatican II the spirit was changing and I kind of wanted to stretch my wings.”

Mary Ann Koch (left) demonstrates at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha. Contributed photo.

Mary Ann, who had been a teacher while with the congregation continued as an educator, has stayed connected with the congregation in a myriad of ways. She has been a Franciscan Associate for almost 20 years, has served on the Sister Water Project committee, and volunteered with Franciscan Common Venture. Most recently she served with Sister Rita Goedken at Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas, where Dubuque Franciscan Sister Terri Rodela ministers.

“The Dubuque Franciscan Sisters have been a big part of my life and influenced what I think is important, my search for social justice and a call to service,” said Mary Ann. “My life has been woven with theirs.”

Mary Ann’s service on the Sister Water Project committee has led her to become a member of Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement to help address water quality issues in the state, such as untreated manure at factory farms which leaches into area rivers.



Her formation with the congregation also inspired a love of theology from Sister Ruth Agnes.

“I enjoy theology, which I got from formation,” said Mary Ann. “Education has always been a big part of my life and when you keep reading Franciscan materials over and over, it becomes part of you.”

The Dubuque Franciscans’ mission of peace and non-violence is also important to Mary Ann. She demonstrates at the Iowa National Guard Station at the Des Moines Airport where drones are navigated around the world.

Mary Ann is happy to call many sisters her friends.

“I have formed lots of good relationships with different people in the community. There’s a special bond that is still there,” she said.

Linda Schomburg-Tacke

Linda Schomburg-Tacke became acquainted with the Dubuque Franciscans at Briar Cliff University.

“Their values and the desire for prayer and to do the right thing hit me hard as a 20 to 26 year old,” said Linda. She stayed with the congregation for six years until she met her husband while studying for her MBA.

“There was a whole Franciscan contingency at my wedding,” she said. “The sisters were part of who I was--they were part of a second ‘othering’ process for me.”

Linda’s career led her to Minneapolis where she worked for General Mills and Target. But something about working for corporate America didn’t sit right with her.

“I realized that working there was inconsistent with my Franciscan values,” she noted.

She would go on to work for the non-profit world, serving at a drug treatment center and then later as director of Big Brothers Big Sisters in Minneapolis.

Linda stays connected to the Dubuque Franciscans as a member of the Charitable Trust Board and the Socially Responsible Investments committee. In 2018 she became a Franciscan Associate.

“It’s a way to stay in touch with where the community has moved,” said Linda.

And Linda appreciates how the sisters have continued to be her community over the years.



Linda Schomburg-Tacke signs the Associate book at the commissioning of Associates in September 2018.

“I didn’t feel abandoned by them after I left, I felt supported,” she said. “And their love and support continues. When my husband died in August 2017, they were there for me in an ugly and awful time of my life. This Franciscan community continues to be an important part of who I am.”

Nancy Hemesath

Nancy Hemesath was a member of the Dubuque Franciscan Sisters for 26 years. During her first visit back to Mount St. Francis Center to see her sister, Sister Carol Hemesath, she felt nervous.

“It was a silly fear,” said Nancy. “Everybody was warm and welcoming and it was fun to see them. I think it’s a tribute to the community that they can let people be people.”

Nancy now lives in Omaha, Nebraska, and has found a community with other former members living in the same city.

“We get together regularly. We have a strong bond,” said Nancy. “We know what community means -- so whenever there’s a need -- whether it is someone in the hospital or a death in the family -- we are there for each other.”

The Dubuque Franciscans’ commitment to peace and justice is still an important commitment for Nancy, too. Most recently she has been motivated to work with her parish in Omaha on a social justice committee which uses a program called, “Generations of Faith.”

“We have a meal and some teaching and recently did one on ‘Open Wide Your Heart to the Stranger at

the Border,” she said. “There were 100 people who came.”

Nancy currently is a certified life coach with Encore Coaching and she works to help men and women create lives of meaning and joy during the third chapter of life. She has led workshops on this topic in coordination with the sisters at Shalom Spirituality Center in Dubuque.

“I just really enjoy that work,” said Nancy. “Life is good.”

Carole Grubb

Carole Grubb has the unique experience of being a member of two religious communities. She was part of the Springfield Dominican Sisters for 24 years and then the Dubuque Franciscans for three years.

“As I got know the Franciscans, I became aware that they had a vision to discern the questions ‘what does God need?’ and ‘what are my gifts?’ and ‘what does the church need?’ and I loved that,” said Carole. “The sisters were very devoted to the Word and to prayer and there was depth and simplicity in them-- so much came from the heart. With them I felt like I was home,” she added.

She worked with the sisters to discern her vocation and said she was given a lot of prayerful support, but ultimately knew she needed to leave.

“I was sure I had a vocation and I believed that God wanted me to grow with those wonderful sisters and serve, but I had an internal struggle,” she said.

In 1984 Carole said she wrote a letter to the



Nancy Hemesath speaks at the Dubuque Franciscans' 150th celebration in 2014.

congregation about her desire to become an affiliate member. At the time, the Dubuque Franciscan Associate program was not available.

Carole would go on to study for her master in social work degree in counseling at the University of Illinois. She would lose touch with the Franciscans as she lived in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and South Carolina.

After her husband died in 2011, Carole thought about where she wanted to move. She started researching the places she used to live and remembered prior conversations the Franciscans had about being good stewards with their land and securing affordable housing for the elderly.

“Maybe the sisters did what they talked about,” she had thought at the time.

An internet search and a phone call to the congregation led her to the various options available and she moved to Assisi Village with Stonehill Franciscan Services in Dubuque in 2013, living just across the street from Mount St. Francis and becoming reconnected to the community.

In 2016 a sister invited Carole to the Franciscan Way of Life two-year process. Upon competition, she was asked to be Associate and immediately said yes. In her application form, Carole said she attached the letter she had written in 1984 detailing her desire to be an affiliate member and her love of the Franciscans.



Carole Grubb receives a blessing from the community at the Franciscan Commissioning in 2018.



Linda Leonard (left) with Sister Nancy Miller, Donna (Fleming) Alcocer, and Carol Harpenau at Sister Nancy's 40th Jubilee in 2018.

"It was just what I wanted in 1984, but God knew the perfect time," she said.

Today Carole volunteers in pastoral care at Stonehill Franciscan Services, which she says was influenced by her Franciscan Way of Life process that called her to have an immersion experience of service. She also stays connected to the community with her Common Heart prayer group, a book club with sisters, and attending special liturgies and

Gathering.

"God has taken me where he needed me," noted Carole. "He completed the circle."

Linda Leonard

After Linda Leonard left community, she was in need of a job.

There was a new prison opening in Omaha and Linda applied to work as a guard -- with the caveat she'd only work there for six months.

"I retired last year after 35 years," she said laughing.

Working in the prison in a variety of roles over the years was a ministry she truly enjoyed.

"The individuals were intriguing and their stories were wonderful. When I was younger I thought I could make a difference and we did make a difference in the environment of the facility and the respect for the individuals," she said.

She believes her approach to her career was impacted by her years as a Dubuque Franciscan.

"How we worked in the prison was



Former members pose for a photo with Sisters Camilla Hemann and Nancy Schreck (left) at Jubilee at Mount St. Francis Center in June 2019.

definitely influenced by the sisters in the sense that we were working for growth and value of each individual, regardless of how they ended up in the situation. We saw the goodness in each person,” said Linda.

Linda is helping to host a gathering of former members in Omaha this August. It’s become an annual tradition since 1996. She said there are women who will attend from all over the country.

They’ll share meals, tour the area, and have time for reflection.

“The spirituality that was fostered in us in community is very rich in this group. There is a deep bondedness of the group,” said Linda. “And we really are still connected to the Franciscans – they hold a dear place in all of our hearts. It’s a bond that doesn’t go away.” ■

What are some ways you continue to live out Franciscan values?

“I have always felt like a Franciscan, from elementary years with the Dubuque Franciscan Sisters at Rickardsville and through high school at Immaculate Conception Aspirancy and Leo High Holy Cross.

Our class of 22 members entered Mount St. Francis as postulants in the fall of 1967 and most have remained in touch since then. We have had three class reunions with those in the order and former members. We met in 1993, which was the Silver Jubilee year for Sisters Margaret Jungers, Mary Jane Koenigs, and Kay Gaul. Other reunions were in 2011 and in 2018 for the Golden Jubilee of Sisters Mary Jane and Kay (see photo). At the time of that celebration, Sister Margaret Jungers, Dorothy Roling, and Claudia Windal had passed on to heaven, but we still managed to round up 13 of the 19 living class members!

Now as a lay person, spouse, parent, and community member, I have strived to live out Franciscan values. Teaching, serving on Catholic School Advisory Council, and playing guitar and singing in church choir have been some of my avenues of service. I try to live simply and as a minimalist, following the example of Saints Francis and Clare. I have tried to live out the value of hospitality by befriending Indian international students at the college in our town.

The Dubuque Franciscans have cast a wide net of influence through active members, but also through former members who have reflected Franciscan values in today’s world!”

~Mary Duster Parker

“From my first day of school at St. Boniface in Ionia, Iowa, I have fond memories of the Sisters of St. Francis. That was followed by the last two years at Immaculate Conception Aspirancy where I met several young women who would eventually become classmates at Mount St. Francis. I have continued to be inspired by many of my classmates as their lives led each to different accomplishments and adventures. After 39 years working in Catholic education, my Franciscan connection has led me to retire to northwestern Minnesota where I feel immersed in nature and blessed to wake up each day to a view of God’s gift of water.”

~Ann Flick



Front row left to right: Ann Flick, Sister Kay Gaul, Sister Mary Jane Koenigs, and Mary (Duster) Parker. Back row left to right: Janet (Obereuter) Kellum, Phyllis (Koppes) Ludwig, Lucy (Simon) Sutherland, Shirley (Ellerbach) Waggoner, Ann (Gross) Kuiper, Mary Ann Dorcey, Sue (Kluesner) Hickey, Evey Aiuppa, and Diane (Hungerford) Gengler.

Sisters Sign Conservation Easement to Protect 68 Acres of Land



Sisters Kate Katoski (left) and Marie Cigrand (center) sign the conservation easement, while Erin Van Waus of INHF looks on.

On Friday, May 17, the Dubuque Franciscans signed the establishment of a conservation easement of 68 acres of their property with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF).

Under the agreement between the Dubuque Franciscans and the INHF, the Sisters will continue to own the 55 acres of prairie and 13 acres of woods of the north portion of their property (bordering on Roosevelt Road).

“Since 1879 we have shared a unique relationship with this parcel of land on the north end of Dubuque,” said Sister Kate Katoski. “We were called to cherish and care for the gift of land entrusted to us, and as part of our legacy, we are now called to leave it for future generations.”

The easement designation, which was signed during a prayer service, limits future development for residential, commercial or industrial purposes, even if the property were to change hands.

“On behalf of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, I accept the perpetual responsibility of monitoring the use of this land and ensuring that the protective measures written in your

conservation easement are upheld,” said Erin Van Waus of INHF in her remarks at the prayer service. “The conservation easement you are signing permanently protects the land forever – for future generations – for all creation – for water quality. This is who you are and this is who we are – a perfect partnership. INHF is honored to be entrusted with the responsibilities of this conservation easement. The people of INHF will be forever grateful for the protection you have placed on your land.”

Sister Marie Cigrand hopes others consider preserving land.

“I would just encourage anybody and everybody--if they have land--to preserve it for future generations, especially prairies, because so much of our land is being used now for buildings, cropland, and so on,” said Sister Marie.

“It’s rewarding to work professionally now with women of faith whose land ethic is so beautiful, wise and an expression of the right relationship with God, the world, one another, and future generations,” said Erin. ■

Conservation Easement History

The North Prairie and The Woods

1998

Enrolled 80 acres in CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) and planted the land in prairie and wild flowers.

1998

Published our "Covenant with Creation."

September 2016

Composed our "Land Ethic."

October 20, 2017 - Gathering

As part of the "Long Range Planning Updates" a panel presentation informed the sisters about the option of creating a "conservation easement" with a portion of our property currently in prairie. Erin Van Waus and Anita O'Gara presented for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Brian Preston for the Dubuque County Conservation Board. A Q&A period followed. Responses from the sisters were generally positive about this option as part of future planning.

April 2018 - Gathering

The congregation approved a proposal that the Leadership Team move toward establishing a conservation easement on the north 55 acres of prairie and 13 acres of woods that border Roosevelt Road.

Summer and Fall of 2018

Conversations were held with Chris Hiher and Olivia Rauen of the Natural Resources Conservation Services to develop plans to improve both the prairie and the woods. These plans, which call for actions over a three-year period, will be implemented

beginning the summer and fall of 2019.

October 29, 2018

Erin Van Waus and Anita O'Gara of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation met with the Prairie Subcommittee to explain the process and options for drafting a conservation easement on the north 68 acres. Erin agreed to draft a statement early in 2019 and send it to us for editing.

April 2019

- Draft of easement was received from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.
- Minor changes were made to the draft of the easement.
- Both civil and canonical lawyers were consulted.
- An abstract and title opinion were received.
- Final wording of the conservation easement was approved by the Leadership Team.

Covenant With Creation - 1998

WE BELIEVE that Clare and Francis, in their love and reverence for Jesus the Incarnate One, were led to experience all the created as holy and family, the dwelling place of Christ.

*Awed by the generosity of the Most High,
They were moved to praise.*

They nourished this loving relationship by

- *serving all with reverence, especially those who are poor*
- *seeking always to strengthen communion*
- *mending broken relationships*
- *restoring lost dignity.*

With Clare and Francis, walking in the footsteps of Jesus, we believe in the Franciscan worldview:

- *all life is gift*
- *all life is interrelated and has intrinsic value*
- *we are sisters and brothers with all in creation*
- *we are called to sustain one another*
- *we are called to seek the common good for all in creation.*

This worldview calls us to on-going conversion:

*from dominating, devaluing and possessing
to serving, reverencing and sharing.*

Whenever possible we will educate and make choices based on:

- *intrinsic value of all life*
- *interconnectedness*
- *sisterhood/brotherhood with all creation*
- *serving, reverencing, and sharing*
- *sustaining the whole ecological community*

For the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, IA



Briar Cliff University President Rachelle Karstens receives the blessing of the Dubuque Franciscan Sisters at Mass on April 22, 2019.

BCU President Receives Blessing from DBQ Franciscans Before Inauguration

As part of her inauguration as president of Briar Cliff University, Rachelle Karstens visited Mount St. Francis on Monday, April 22.

During her time at Mount St. Francis Center, Rachelle gave the sisters a presentation about the state of the university and discussed the events of her inauguration week which carried the theme of, “Igniting Faith, Inspiring Service, and Empowering Learning.”

“We are honored and humbled to carry out the mission you created,” said Rachelle in her remarks to the sisters.

While in Dubuque, Rachelle announced that the Sisters of St. Francis were named part of the inaugural St. Clare Legacy Society which recognizes benefactors of Briar Cliff University with lifetime giving of \$5 million.

“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,” said Rachelle.

Rachelle also attended Mass with the sisters where she was blessed by the community.

On Friday, April 26, Rachelle was inaugurated as the 11th President of Briar Cliff University.

“It’s just a great place to be,” said Rachelle after the event. “It really is that caring community that the Sisters of Saint Francis envisioned 89 years ago.”

“When she served as interim president of Briar Cliff University, Rachelle demonstrated her leadership and a number of other fine qualities that made her a good fit for the position on a permanent basis,” said Sister Kate Katoski. “She is a person of faith who brings a passion for education and excellence to the position, and she is well-respected on campus for the work she has already done in previous leadership roles.” ■

Franciscan Handmaid Sister Takes Vows at ‘Adopted Community’ of Dubuque Franciscan Sisters

by Sister Dorothy Schwendinger

The Vietnam Sisters designed the palm bouquets, Brother Friday (Nigerian) and Brother Kodo (Togo) readied their African drums, the Handmaid Sisters arrived from New York, Father Bob Beck donned his vestments, the students from Cameroon, Haiti, Kenya, Vietnam, and Tanzania rushed from

classes at Divine Word College, the faint flavors of a festive dinner drifted from the kitchen and the assembly burst forth in the song “Our God Reigns.” All was in readiness for what was surely an historical first. A novice from Nigeria was about to make her first profession of religious vows into the Handmaid Sisters of New York. But the ceremony would happen right here at Mount St. Francis in Dubuque on April 15, 2019.

Catherine Ebuloluwa Bilewomo was accepted into religious vows by Sister Gertrude Ihenacho, FHM, current president of the Handmaids. Sister Catherine (Kate) had just completed her one-year canonical novitiate under the guidance of Sisters Nancy Schreck of Mississippi and Dorothy Schwendinger of Dubuque. Because there is a strong covenant relationship between the Dubuque Franciscans and the New York Handmaids and because Kate’s bonding with the Dubuque congregation was so evident, the Handmaids



Sister Dorothy Schwendinger (right) hands Sister Catherine Ebuloluwa Bilewomo a candle during Sister Catherine’s vow ceremony in Francis Chapel at Mount St. Francis on April 15, 2019. Photo by Sister Phyllis Manternach, OSF.

requested that Kate’s adopted community might host the ceremony. And so in the presence of over 100 Franciscans and with friends from the African Diaspora (students at Divine Word College from Epworth, Iowa) the Eucharistic celebration began.

During the liturgy, Catherine received the veil, a copy of the Scriptures, the Franciscan Cross, the Rule of St. Francis, and the Constitutions of the Franciscan Handmaid Sisters of Mary of New York. She pledged to live a life as a Franciscan woman religious.

“This commitment Catherine makes to God, her community, and the people of God. Both congregations support her in this resolve,” said Sister Dorothy Schwendinger at the vow ceremony.

“The Covenant between the OSF congregation and the FHM congregation is strong and alive in this moment,” said Sister Kate. ■

Prayer for Immigrant Children Held at Mount St. Francis Center on National Day of Action

Dubuque Area Catholic Sisters held a prayer service for Immigrant Children on Thursday, July 18 at Mount St. Francis Center. The prayer service was held in solidarity with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and other Catholic organizations and religious congregations who sponsored a national day of action in Washington, DC on July 18 as a call to end the mistreatment of immigrant children and families.

“Images of immigrant children detained in cages,

separated from family members, and living in unsanitary conditions in detention centers have been featured in the news recently,” said Sister Nancy Miller, OSF, Social Justice Coordinator for the BVM Sisters and Dubuque Franciscan Sisters. “We have seen the suffering of our immigrant brothers and sisters, especially children, and we wanted to invite others to join us in praying to end their inhumane treatment.” ■



In the center of the chapel was a cage with photographs of children who have died while in US detention centers.



Sister Carol Besch, OSF with Father Greg Bahl (left) and Father Paul Ouderkirk (right).



Sister Marie Cigrand, OSF speaks at the prayer service.

The Dubuque Franciscans' Ministry Fund

By Sister Cathy (Kate) Katoski, OSF

One option on our donation envelope is the "Ministry Fund." The "Ministry Fund" was established on Foundress Day, December 3, 1987, from an anonymous donation of one million dollars, with the request that it be used to serve people who are poor. The fund has grown to \$18 million through donations from supporters making contributions through the Development Office, congregational contributions, and earnings from investments.

Several types of grants are supported by the Ministry Fund, with priority given to salaries for the Sisters of St. Francis who are working among those who are poor and projects which are connected to a member of this Congregation.

In 2018, \$554,000 was awarded to various Ministry Fund Grants. There are Salary Grants, Direct Assistance Grants, Collaborative Ministry Grants, and Leadership Designated Grants.

The salary grants paid salaries to 14 sisters in Honduras, St. Lucia, Mississippi, Texas, and in Iowa at Dubuque, Sioux City, and Waterloo. Direct Assistance grants were made to projects connected to

14 sisters and Franciscan Associates. Six Collaborative Ministry Grants were awarded. These are grants connected to projects of other religious congregations and organizations.

Leadership Designated Grant are funds managed by the leadership team often for response to critical needs beyond the congregation, often for areas of major disasters or critical needs.

The Ministry Fund also supports a portion of the expenses of the long-term Franciscan Common Venture volunteers with stipends, room/board, insurance, and transportation.

The number of our sisters in salaried full-time active ministry declines as we age. Currently less than one-quarter of our sisters fit in this category. Your donations to the Ministry Fund enable us to continue these vital ministries with persons who are in poverty situations and projects that work for systemic change around poverty issues.

Always, we are most grateful for your ongoing support of our life and ministry! We promise you a remembrance in our prayers! ■

Sister Ruth Schock Receives Spiritus Franciscanus Award at Briar Cliff University

At Briar Cliff University's Honors Convocation ceremony on May 2, 2019, Sister Ruth Schock was honored with the Spiritus Franciscanus Award.

The award is presented to the faculty, staff, administrator, or student who imitates and reflects the values and lives of Saint Francis and Saint Clare.

"We can only imagine the hundreds, if not thousands, of people on and off Briar Cliff's Campus who have been and will continue to be impacted by the amazing programs that would not have started without her thinking and determination to see them through," said the announcement at the ceremony.

Sister Ruth, who is Associate Professor of Education at Briar Cliff University, said of the honor, "I am very touched by receiving this award and grateful to have been able to make a difference in my years of service." ■



Sister Ruth Schock (center) with her colleagues. Contributed photo.

In Remembrance

Sister Dolores Ullrich January 24, 1936 - April 17, 2019



Dolores was born to Engelbert and Ella (Conley) Ullrich on a farm near Oto, Iowa on January 24, 1936.

Her first 13 years were spent on the farm. As an eighth grader she moved to a farm near Salix, Iowa, with her family which included five sisters and two brothers. It was there that Dolores completed her grade school education and then attended St. Joseph's High School graduating in 1954. The following years she attended Briar Cliff College where she received a teaching certificate. She then moved to Chicago and

taught 4th grade for three years at St. Mary of the Woods.

During these years Dolores felt a "gentle pull" toward joining the Franciscan Sister Community while working and watching the Sisters she lived with. She said she was drawn by the life of service and commitment that she saw in the Sisters. Dolores entered the convent on September 3, 1959 and the following year, on August 10, 1960, she was received with the name Sister Mary Michon.

Dolores thought she would be a fourth grade teacher all of her life but other plans sent her to teach at Gehlen High School in Le Mars, Iowa. She was there for 13 years. While at LeMars, plans for the new Stonehill Care Center in Dubuque were being developed. Dolores was

asked to take the position of administrator. After prayerful consideration, she enrolled in North Texas State University to study long-term care administration. Dolores started her new position at Stonehill Care Center in July of 1978, serving there for 21 years. She moved to Mount St. Francis in 2011.

Sister is survived by her sisters: Julie (Duane) Calvert, LaVonne (Richard) Hill, Jean (Dale) Gutenkauf, and Elaine Dishman; her brothers, Bert (Glenda) Ullrich and Thomas (Roxie) Ullrich; nieces and nephews, and her Franciscan sisters with whom she shared over 58 years of her life. ■

Sister Margaret Galm June 24, 1923 - May 5, 2019



On June 24, 1923, Margaret was born to John and Amalie (Schafer) Galm. She was the oldest of seven

children, which included her brothers Herman, Edwin, Paul, Bernard, John, and her sister, Ruth.

In the fall of 1929, Margaret entered first grade in the Moneta Consolidated School at Moneta, Iowa. Her school "bus" was a horse drawn cart. Beginning with her sophomore year of school through her senior year, Margaret attended and graduated from St. Mary's Academy in Alton, Iowa.

Margaret remembers both parents often working in the forest after her school day. Her parents always considered care of the

environment: the grove, orchard, garden, lawn, and trees in their yard as extremely important, and they took great pride in their maintenance. As children, they often assisted in that care as well. Weeds had no place in the fields or garden. Margaret remembered the times the children pulled "shoo fly weeds" from the corn rows in summer before the seeds dried up and dropped.

While going to school at the academy, Margaret got acquainted with the Dubuque Franciscans, and it was then that the seeds of a vocation were planted within her. Margaret entered the Franciscan community on August 24, 1941. The following year on August 12, she was received into the community and given the name, Sister Mary Armand. As an educator she was sent to St. Benedict; St. John, Bancroft; St.

Michael, Sioux City; St. Mary, North Washington; St. Joseph and the Spalding System both in Granville, Sacred Heart, Pocahontas; and Sts. Peter and Paul, West Bend. All these missions were in Iowa. Sister Margaret also taught at St. Joseph in Crescent City, California.

In 1995 Sister Margaret moved to Dubuque to live at Mount St. Francis. She moved to Holy Family Hall for a short time in 2010 and then to Clare House in 2011.

Sister is survived by her sister, Ruth Tewes; brother Bernard Galm; sister-in-laws, Delores Ransom and Joyce Thomsen; nieces and nephews, and her Franciscan sisters with whom she shared over 76 years of her life. ■

In Remembrance

Sister Lois Tilkes April 20, 1937 - May 8, 2019



On April 20, 1937, Lois was born to John and Leone (Diederich) Tilkes. Lois was the third child of seven which included Nick,

Lawrence, Jeannette, Grace, Carolyn, and Madelyn. Her family lived on a farm in North Washington, Iowa. They lived a simple lifestyle, but they felt that the family was rich in many ways. On one occasion when her siblings were complaining about not having something they wanted, Lois said to them, "You can't have everything." She remembers her grandmother smiling knowingly.

Lois attended elementary and

high school at North Washington where she was taught by Dubuque Franciscan Sisters. The children walked to school, and they were encouraged to make a "visit" when they passed by the church. Her mother believed that the family would be blessed each day if one of them attended Mass.

In 1955, Lois entered Mount St. Francis with two other classmates from North Washington. On August 11, 1956, Lois received the name Sister Mary Leola, and on that day her grandmother leaned over and whispered to her, "Now you have everything." She was known as Sister Mary Leola until 1968 when she returned to her baptismal name Lois.

Sister Lois served others as a homemaker in Iowa at St. Mary's, Waterloo; St. Joseph, Garnavillo; the

Spalding System in Hospers; and St. Francis Xavier in Dyersville. While in Dubuque, she was a homemaker at Holy Trinity, Holy Ghost, Immaculate Conception Academy, Mary of the Angels, and Mount St. Francis.

The last mission for Sister Lois was at the North American Martyrs Retreat House in Cedar Falls, IA where she was the food service director for 29 years. In 2010 Lois came back to Mount St. Francis, and in 2013 Sister retired to Clare House.

Sister is survived by her sisters: Jeannette Hillegas and Grace Pittman; her brother, Nick (Jean) Tilkes; her sister-in-law Florence Tilkes; her brother-in-law Richard Lansing; nieces and nephews, and her Franciscan sisters with whom she shared over 62 years of her life. ■

Sister Joan Stoffel June 29, 1933 - May 28, 2019



Joan was born on June 29, 1933, the second daughter of Alex and Mary (Neubrand) Stoffel. The family of four

girls and two boys lived on a farm near LeMars, Iowa. Joan attended grade school at St. Joseph, LeMars and St. Catherine, Oyens. From her first day of school she knew that she wanted to be a Sister and teacher. She attended high school at St. Mary, Remsen. Following graduation, she entered Mount St. Francis, joining the Franciscan sisters who had taught her at Oyens and Remsen.

At her reception August 12, 1952, she was given the name, Sister Mary Alexander, after her father. Following her profession on August 10, 1954, she was assigned

to Sacred Heart, Dubuque as a music teacher and a part-time classroom teacher. Sister also taught elementary school in Ionia, Meyer, and Webster City before she received a B.A. from Briar Cliff College, with a major in English and a minor in music education. In 1972, she completed a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Loras College. She became a principal/teacher at St. Joseph, Garnavillo, St. Athanasius, Jesup, St. Benedict, Wesley, Arcadia-Vail, and St. John Brefeuf, Niles, Illinois.

Joan taught in the Education Department at Briar Cliff College and then completed a Master's Degree in Computer Applications in Education at Clarke College. In 1986 she enrolled in the University of Minnesota to study curriculum systems. She then taught at St. Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota for four years. From

1993-2004 she served in the Sioux City diocesan Office of Education as Curriculum Director and Superintendent of Schools.

In semi-retirement, she was an adjunct instructor in developmental courses at Briar Cliff College. During that time she was also a volunteer organist at Holy Spirit Nursing Home and St. Boniface Church. Declining health forced her to retire to Mount St. Francis in 2006 where she used her computer skills to assist sisters in the computer lab. She moved to Clare House in 2014. Even while facing many health challenges, her upbeat spirit prevailed.

Sister is survived by her sisters: Mary (Richard) Roder and Margaret (George) Landgraf; her brothers: Earl (Lucy) Stoffel and Robert (Sharon) Stoffel; nieces and nephews, and her Franciscan sisters with whom she shared over 66 years of her life. ■

In Remembrance

Sister Marie Bohr August 4, 1928 - June 1, 2019



Born on the family's farm near Ossian, Iowa, Marie was the youngest of eight sons and six daughters born to Herman and

Agnes (Hemesath) Bohr. (A brother, Hugo, died before she was born.) As Marie was growing up, many of her siblings married or left home to pursue work possibilities, but she enjoyed the opportunity to visit them in their new homes. Her brothers, Jerome and Richard, were away in seminary while Marie was in school.

The depression years were difficult for the family, but these were nothing compared to the sorrow of the deaths of Marie's brother, Tony, in 1941 and Father Jerome in 1944.

After graduating from high school, Marie worked as a nurse's

aide in Waverly, IA and later in New Hampton, IA where she rented an apartment, learned to drive, and bought a car. She enjoyed her independence, but the call to religious life was stronger. On August 25, 1950 she entered Mount St. Francis to the joy of her Franciscan teachers and her Bohr and Hemesath Sister relatives. She was received the next year and given the name Sr. Mary Antoine. Many years later when the community members had the choice to return to their baptismal name, Marie chose the latter.

Sister Marie taught students in the elementary grades for 20 years: in Iowa at Granville, New Vienna, Earlville, St. Mary and Holy Trinity in Dubuque and at Corpus Christi, Chicago, and North Riverside, both in Illinois.

In 1976 she fulfilled a long-held dream of studying nursing and receiving her LPN license. She ministered as a nurse at St. Mary

Hospital, Emporia, Kansas, and in Dubuque at Xavier Hospital and at Stonehill Care Center. She wrote of the experience, "It has been and continues to be a rewarding but challenging experience – sharing life with the elderly and becoming in some small way a part of the wisdom that is theirs!"

Sister is survived by nieces and nephews, and her Franciscan sisters with whom she shared over 67 years of her life. ■

Rest in Peace

Edward Oberbroeckling
Brother of Sister Lucilla Oberbroeckling

Marie Klein
Sister of Sisters Angeline and Edwardine Freking

Lorraine Kreber
Mother of Sister Janet Kreber

Irene Spahn
Sister-in-law of Sister Aimee Marie Spahn

Joyce Mary Bagenstos
Mother of Sister Veronica Bagenstos

Dubuque Franciscan Associates Work Together to Finish Labyrinth at Lila Mae's House in Sioux City

Dubuque Franciscan Associates volunteered their time and talent May 31-June 4 at Lila Mae's House, a transitional home for victims of sex trafficking in Sioux City, Iowa, launched by Sister Shirley Fineran, OSF.

The Associates worked on a variety of tasks at the home, one of which was completing a labyrinth on the grounds.

Franciscan Associates have been collecting funds over the past year to secure the materials for the labyrinth.

"Thank you to the Dubuque Franciscan Associates for helping make Lila Mae's come to life!" said Sister Shirley Fineran.

Lila Mae's will be a place of healing, safety, and wholeness for seven women and plans to open its doors in November. ■



The labyrinth at Lila Mae's House in Sioux City, Iowa. Contributed photo.

Sisters Celebrate Milestone Jubilees

The Dubuque Franciscans' 2019 Jubilee Celebrations were held the weekend of June 22-23.

Sister Nancy Schreck celebrated her Golden Jubilee (50 years) at a Eucharistic liturgy on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at Mount St. Francis Chapel.

Diamond Jubilarians (60 years) Sisters Elizabeth Cummins, Camilla Hemann, Maxine Lavell, Janet Osterhoff, Colane Recker, Marlene Schueller, Marjorie Staudt, and Anthony Wagner; and Diamond Jubilarian Sister Ameilia Thole (70 years) were honored at a Eucharistic liturgy on Sunday, June 23, 2019.

"As disciples of the Gospel, our sister jubilarians have shown us the face of Christ. They have nourished and fed many people, they have satisfied hungry hearts in their ministries," said Sister Kathy Knipper in her reflection at Sunday's Liturgy. "These women are truly reasons for jubilation and joy. They have witnessed lives of sacrifice and love. They are models of trust and commitment, witnessing fidelity, strength of character, and joy. For them and their generosity, we are deeply grateful. They are the amazing and brilliant jewels of our community jubilee. They are radiant and glowing treasures!" ■

Golden Jubilarian



Sister Nancy Schreck

Double Diamond Jubilarian



Sister Amelia Thole

Diamond Jubilarians



Back row left to right: Sisters Maxine Lavell, Colane Recker, Camilla Hemann, and Elizabeth Cummins. Front row left to right: Sisters Marge Staudt, Janet Osterhoff, Anthony Wagner, and Marlene Schueller.

Footprints



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Sisters Host Summer Camps

In June the sisters hosted two camps: Best Franciscan Friends (BFF) camp for girls in 4th and 5th grades and Surfin' the C's camp for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

During Best Franciscan Friends Camp, girls were

paired with a sister as their "BFF" and each day learned about her life and ministry. The girls also learned about the community's ministries -- including the bees, prairie, and the Sister Water Project -- and played games and did arts and crafts projects.

During Surfin' the C's (compassionate, confident, courageous, Christian!) Leadership Camp, the girls also learned about the lives and ministries of the sisters as well as the values of Saints Francis and Clare. On Friday evening, of camp, the girls spent time with the Dubuque Franciscan Leadership Team to talk about what it takes to be a servant leader.

"I learned that the sisters are very wise and wonderful," said Camper Anya of her time at BFF Camp.

"They are some of the nicest people you'll ever meet," noted Camper Elena. ■



Sister Imogene Klein with her "BFF" Maddie. Photo by Mary Fischer.

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 14

Gathering: Care of the Earth and Peace/Non-Violence commitment groups

SEPTEMBER 21

Gathering: Standing with the Poor commitment group

SEPTEMBER 22

Commissioning of Franciscan Associates, 9 a.m. Mass

SEPTEMBER 22

Dubuque International Day of Peace Keynote Speaker Magdalena Gomez, 6:30 p.m. Loras College Alumni Center, 1450 Alta Vista Street, Dubuque.

SEPTEMBER 23

Drumming for Peace, 6:30 p.m., Canticle of Creation Center, 3390 Windsor Ave., Dubuque. Celebrate peace and the Earth's Rhythms with us in a Drumming Circle for Peace, as part of Dubuque's Day of Peace Festival. Free will offering. Register by September 20 to canticle@osfdbq.org.