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

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A message from

Leadership

Everything is interconnected; and genuine care of our own lives and our relationships with nature are inseparable from fraternity, justice, and faithfulness to others.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si’ (70)

Throughout his life, Saint Francis of Assisi gave witness to the inseparable bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, universal human rights, and a culture of peace. As Franciscans, we recognize our interconnectedness with the natural world and that our actions either contribute to fulfilling God’s vision or hindering it.

“We stand at a critical moment in Earth’s history. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future holds both peril and promise. We recognize that we are one diverse human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. Fundamental changes are needed in our values, institutions, and ways of living,” (Earth Charter). Intentional efforts are needed to face the crisis. The challenge to protect the Earth, our common home, includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development. Addressing climate change is part of our duty to care for creation. Our faith moves us to speak on behalf of our sisters and brothers across the world who are being pushed deeper into poverty due to the changing climate.

The Franciscan tradition views all creation as a free gift from God, given equally to all. “Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness” Laudato Si’ (12). Our congregational mission compels us to live in right relation with all creation. Many of us cherish memories of a favorite play area, mountain stream, windswept prairie, raging river, and the beauty of a sunrise or sunset, spaces and places where we recover something of our true selves. Likewise, our senses are stimulated by hooting owls or cattle calling, the soothing scent of rain and the sound of it as it dances on the roof, or the feel of a butterfly as it flutters by. These delightful experiences in creation are filled with wonder, awe, and excitement. When we see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to a genuine, deep respect for the integrity of creation as modeled by Saint Francis. The choice for integral ecology is inherent to who we are as Franciscans.

--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.

Direction 2020 - 2026:

Rooted in our Franciscan mission and commitment to contemplative dialogue, we the Sisters of St. Francis and Associates set our common heart on the way, responding to the signs of our times as we: focus our efforts within the intersection of our three commitment areas: addressing systemic racism, the climate crisis, and the underlying issues revealed by the pandemic; enhance our collaboration with diverse partners to give expression to our mission; and explore re-imagining Shalom Spirituality Center as a vehicle for transmitting the Franciscan charism and values.

Leadership Team

Sister Kathy Knipper
President

Sister Pat Clemen
Vice President

Sister Maureen Leach
Vice President

Sister Brenda Whetstone
Vice President

Footprints
Prairie Restoration sign at Mount St. Francis Center.

Dubuque Franciscans Make Commitment to the 
Laudato Si’ Action Platform

by Jessi Russo

The Vatican Office for Promoting Integral Human Development has invited Catholic communities world-wide to join a movement for caring for our common home, and the Dubuque Franciscans answered the call.

The Laudato Si’ Action Platform officially launched on November 14, 2021, and asks Catholics to, “transform our way of dwelling in the world, our style of life, our relationship with the resources of the Earth and in general, our way of looking at humanity of saving life.” The initiative encompasses a seven-year action plan to look at environmental and social issues as addressed in Pope Francis’ Encyclical Laudato Si’: On Care for our Common Home from 2015.

The Dubuque Franciscans have formed a Laudato Si’ Committee, comprised of Sister Michelle Balek, Sister Marie Cigrand, Sister Nancy Miller, and Franciscan Associate Lori Apel. The congregation has publicly committed to the Laudato Si’ Action Platform in a statement dated November 10, 2021: “Rooted in the Gospel and in the spirit of Francis and Clare, we as the Sisters of St. Francis live in right relationship with all creation. Therefore, we, the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, Iowa, and our Associates, publicly commit to join the worldwide Catholic community in responding to Pope Francis’ appeal to participate in a seven-year journey toward sustainability and integral ecology by developing a Laudato Si’ Action Plan.”

This seven-year journey of ‘integral ecology’ is a world-wide movement notes Sister Nancy Miller, Social Justice Coordinator for the Dubuque...
Franciscans and BVM Sisters.

“The Laudato Si’ Platform’s purpose is to engage Catholic institutions and the grassroots across the globe. It encourages each congregation to support seven goals of sustainability and to develop their own platforms emerging from the congregation’s charism and accomplishments,” said Sister Nancy.

In the congregation’s statement, the sisters and associates affirmed they are making the commitment for the next seven years to:

• “Take up the ‘urgent appeal’ of Laudato Si’ to listen and respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor by making it a community priority;
• Further the ongoing ecological conversion by bringing members into greater understanding of their socio-ecological vocation within the spirit of our charism;
• Integrate each of the seven Laudato Si’ goals into our life and ministries by developing a systematic process to transition to an integral ecology;
• Take bold concrete actions in the spirit of Laudato Si’ to address the multiple crises afflicting our common home—the planet and its people;
• Practice nonviolence as we reconcile and heal the pain in creation and so hope for peace.”

“This commitment is made in faith, hope, and love, knowing that we are participating in God’s work of transformation for we know that things can change,” said Sister Nancy.

The committee has been compiling the Dubuque Franciscans’ initiatives in relation to each of the Laudato Si’ goals. Included on the next page is the “Response to the Cry of the Earth,” list of initiatives that the congregation has completed toward that particular goal.

Sister Michelle Balek said that going through the congregation’s history and seeing the initiatives related to creation has filled her with “immense pride.”

“One thing that stood out to me was the language we’ve used throughout the years for these initiatives. It really reflects our growth as a community in our understanding and deepening of our Franciscan relationship with creation,” said Sister Michelle.

“The listing under goal one starts out with a ‘Land Development Committee’ and as the list progresses the language changes to ‘land use’ and ‘sustainability.’ Initiatives under all the goals provide a mirror to us of how we’ve been attentive to both the

‘cry of the earth’ and the ‘cry of the poor.’ When I look in this mirror, it shows me a community alive and well, not afraid of transformation in thought and practice for the sake of the whole and holy creation. Perhaps without being consciously aware of it, we have been living ‘integral ecology’ for a very long time.”

Each month for seven months, the committee will email sisters and associates the initiatives of the congregation that have met that goal.

“We will also include a prayer intention based on the goal and invite others to pray and review the activities and reflect on their own participation in ways that promote the Laudato Si’ Platform,” said Sister Nancy.

November 2021’s Prayer Intention is: “That humans will recognize our relationship with Sister Mother Earth, and promote renewable energy sources and biodiversity.”

“This is an exciting time to be part of a worldwide faith-based movement critical to promoting environmental and social justice, and caring for Mother Earth,” said Sister Kathy Knipper, President for the Sisters of St. Francis.

More information and inspiration is available about on the Laudato Si’ Platform at https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/.
Below is a list of the Cry of the Earth initiatives the Dubuque Franciscans have implemented in regards to greater use of clean renewable energy and reducing fossil fuels in order to achieve carbon neutrality, efforts to protect and promote biodiversity, guaranteeing access to clean water for all, etc.:

- Formed the Land Development Committee 1970
- Planted and replaced trees using native Iowa trees --
- Chapter of Mats – held conversation on issues on care of the earth 1991
- General Chapter – created action statement on care of the earth -- 1992
- Formed Land and Building Committee 1992-1996
- Formed Care of the Earth Committee 1992-1996
- General Chapter – developed action statement on cosmic-centered worldview/lifestyle questionnaire on Land Use 1996
- Environmental Resources Assessment 1996
- Formed Grounds Committee 1996 --
- Franciscan Cosmic-Call Focus Group 1996-2000
- Created Covenant with Creation 1998
- Prairie Restoration (conversion of 80 acres of farmland into prairie) 1998
- Formed the Sister Water Project 2006 (brings safe water to villages in Honduras and Tanzania) --
- Purchased Hybrid cars 2006 --
- Water retention cells 2007, 2011
- Chapter direction 2008: Sisters of St. Francis live in right relationship with all creation: Deepen our relationship with Mother Earth and Sister Water --
- Gardens:
  - Created congregational vegetable and flower gardens --
  - Implemented garden space for staff in 2010 --
- Replaced the lighting fixtures with LED lights 2011
- Sustainable construction and deconstruction of buildings 2011
  - Efficient boilers installed
  - Reuse and recycling of deconstruction materials
  - Clare House – sustainability features
- Daylighting
- Geothermal (prairie grasses as ground cover)
- Mowing fewer acres of lawn 2006 --
- Formed “ECO (Earth Community Opportunities) Group” 2014 --
- Land Ethic 2016 --
- Natural Burial 2016 --
- Canticle of Creation Center 2017 --
- Green Team - MSFC 2017 --
- Recycling at Mount St. Francis Center, including pill bottles --
- Bee hives 2017 --
- Goats on the Go (Eating invasive species in our 13 acres of woodland and roadside ditches) 2018 --
- Woodland Management Plan 2018 --
- Wildlife/Prairie Management Plan 2018 --
- Corporate Stance on Earth Charter 2019
- Conservation Easement (with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation protecting 55 acres of prairie and 13 acres of woodland from future development) 2019
- Shalom Spirituality Center programs
- Composting (industrial bins) 2020 --
- Installation of 2,640 solar panels 2020
- The Master Plan Implementation Committee 2020 --
- Environmental Concerns Subcommittee 2021--

Legend
-- Denotes ongoing activity
Sister Katy Orellana professed her first vows as a Dubuque Franciscan Sister on Tuesday, June 15, at Mount St. Francis Center in Dubuque. Sisters were witness to Sister Katy’s first profession in Francis Chapel and Associates, friends, and family joined the joyful bilingual celebration via livestream.

During the ceremony Sister Pat Farrell, who has directed the formation process of Sister Katy in Honduras, expressed the joy of the celebration as well as how Sister Katy has the support of the entire community.

“We stand in humble awe as we witness Katy take her life into her hands and direct it... The vows have been formulating themselves in her and she has been living them for a long time,” said Sister Pat. “What is new is risking to give public expression to them in this congregation. When called forth, Sister Katy asked of God and the Church that her life be filled with love, that she be faithful and open to God’s call. She asked for wisdom, strength, love, and humility. She expressed hope for our support and prayers.”

Sister Katy is from El Salvador. She continues to share community life and participate in ministry with Dubuque Franciscan Sisters in Honduras.

“We are all inspired by the courage, faith, and trust that Katy has placed in our congregation and in God who calls her to community living and serving others,” said Sister Kathy Knipper, President of the Dubuque Franciscan Sisters.
In April, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious called on its members to offer a ministerial presence along the border. **Dubuque Franciscan Sisters Carol Besch, Kathleen Grace, and Mary Beth Goldsmith** answered that call for two weeks in early May.

Traveling to McAllen, Texas, the sisters volunteered at the Catholic Charities Humanitarian Respite Center. The center provided a “welcoming place in a stressful situation,” said Sister Carol about her role helping families find clothing for themselves and their children.

Sisters Mary Beth and Kathleen worked in the pharmacy area of the center handing out soap, shampoo, diapers, formula, over the counter drugs, and other necessities. Sister Mary Beth, a registered nurse, was able to help explain things like dosage, etc. She listened as a mother lamented the child she had to leave behind.

“I had a conversation with a mother and a little boy. She shared that her son was a twin and when I asked where the other child was, she replied that she had to choose who would come with her,” said Sister Mary Beth.

Back in Dubuque, the remaining sisters at Mount St. Francis Center were offering their support through prayer and donations. In a community sharing session after they returned, Sister Kathleen summarized the experience: “The work was fast-paced and afforded little time for interaction but our reward was the gratitude the migrants expressed for receiving so little. We were glad we went.”
Saturday, July 17, 2021 marked a milestone for the Franciscan Common Venture (FCV) program: 50 years of service, community, and prayer! And what a fantastic day it was with over 50 participants from various parts of the country coming together virtually to reminisce, converse, and celebrate the Fruits of Justice that these 50 years of Seeds of Service have produced through the FCV program!

The day started with asking: what is the significance of any anniversary? They remind us of something important in our lives, and ask us to pause from the busyness, recalling our roots, to celebrate what has been accomplished and to re dedicate ourselves to what is important. The FCV’s anniversary asks of us these same things, and it reinvigorates us as a serving community, and invites others to join us, for the next 50 years - and more! The day’s event went on to include polls, an insightful talk by Sister Pat Farrell, small group conversations, and large group sharing that surfaced ideas to help move FCV into the next 50 years!

In her keynote, Sister Pat challenged us to give the kind of service that indeed produces a revolution of justice in our world. She outlined the elements of service in Jesus’ washing his followers’ feet at the last supper as providing a blueprint for a more just society. She asked the questions: “Can service lead to an upending of an unjust and unequal world order? Can it somehow bring about a different way of relating, a different social structure, a different human dynamic?” It doesn’t happen automatically, but takes our conscious intention to live the values embedded in service in our personal, communal, and public lives.

Small group discussions centered around three service areas: creation, peace, and equity. From those conversations emerged at least eight pages of future service possibilities, ways to network volunteers and ideas to reach more people.

“What a great opportunity to reconnect and recommit.”

“Gratitude, for being part of such a wonderful community.”

“An awesome day!” “The morning felt like a retreat and Pat’s talk was the icing on the cake!”

These attendee comments and so many more show that the spirit of Service is alive, well, and re-energized for the next 50 years!

As a way to continue the celebration and honor Sister Marie Therese Kalb for her crucial role in developing FCV, a red oak tree was planted on the Mount St. Francis Center grounds on July 30. About 30 sisters and staff gathered in the meadow behind the Grotto to plant and bless “Big Red” a red oak tree. Attendees added a spadeful of dirt as they added their thanks and hopes to a spontaneous litany. The ritual closed by singing the Franciscan Blessing over Sister Marie Therese.
Coalition’s Bus Wrap and Billboard Target Traffickers

In August, Dubuque-area drivers began to see a bus wrap featuring a photo of a lovely young girl to drive home a growing reality: “Not for Sale: Stop Human Trafficking.” The bus wrap was an initiative of the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery.

The wrapped bus, which will feature its message for the next year, is a follow-up to the human trafficking awareness training sessions given to approximately 70 local Dubuque city bus drivers. Funds for the wrap come from the coalition’s budget and generous donors to the project.

The coalition’s hope is that the awareness of and response to human trafficking will prevent vulnerable young persons from becoming victims of this crime against humanity, and encourage people to contact the hotline if they see anything suspicious.

This same message was posted on a billboard on US 20 between Dyersville and Dubuque beginning in August. The timing was to coincide with county fairs and sporting events, which are a magnet for traffickers. Dyersville was host to a MLB game between the Chicago White Sox and the New York Yankees at the iconic Field of Dreams on August 12.

The coalition was founded by members of the area Catholic women religious communities in 2014. It has expanded to include women and men dedicated to the eradication of this de-humanizing, criminal enterprise.

Four new Franciscan Associates were commissioned at a Zoom ceremony on Friday, September 24. The new associates are Lori Apel, Dubuque; Father Jim Miller, Dubuque; Kathy Burkheimer, Rock Falls, Illinois; and Paul Uzel, Dubuque.

“We commit ourselves to living out the values and spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare. We will do this by prayer, support, and sharing with one another in faith and action,” said each new associate at the commissioning.

The Dubuque Franciscans have a total of 169 Associates, 144 in the United States and 25 in Central America.
Attitude of Gratitude

Recently a friend thanked me for my words in the last issue of Footprints. Call it age, but I couldn’t remember what I had said. Ah, it was the comments about gratitude with the Sisters of St. Francis “2020 Statement of Accountability” from our Development Office.

This has led me to thinking about this issue of Footprints arriving during the season of Thanksgiving, Christmas and our Annual Appeal. There is much to say about gratitude in our lives. I’ve heard counselors and spiritual directors suggest that each evening we will be happier people if we reflect back and list what we are grateful for that day.

For years I have been inspired by a small booklet by Father Henri Nouwen (1932-1996). “The Spirituality of Fund-Raising.” Excerpting (and editing) a bit, Father Nouwen says, “we all are gathered as one on the holy ground of God’s generous disposition toward us.” Speaking of us all taking time each day, even a few minutes, to reflect in prayer, Father Nouwen comments: “As our prayer deepens into a constant awareness of God’s goodness, the spirit of gratitude grows within us. Gratitude flows from the recognition that who we are and what we have are gifts to be received and shared. Gratitude releases us from the bonds of obligation and prepares us to offer ourselves freely and fully for the work of the Kingdom.”

In the words of a few others: “Gratitude is pausing to notice and appreciate the things that we often take for granted, like having a place to live, food, clean water, friends, family, even computer access. It’s taking a moment to reflect on how fortunate we are when something good happens – whether it’s a small thing or a big thing.” www.kidshealth.org

“Gratitude makes sense of your past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.” Author Melody Beattie

As you celebrate this season of Thanksgiving, receive Christmas cards from friends who are grateful for your presence in their lives, and yes, receive lots of mail from charities and non-profits for their annual appeal, know that the Sisters of St. Francis and all who care for and fund needs in our society, are grateful for YOU!

Sister Cathy (Kate) Katoski, OSF
For the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, IA

A group of Dubuque Franciscan Associates gave service at the Mustard Seed Farm in Ames, Iowa, in September. The Mustard Seed Community Farm is a Catholic Worker Farm dedicated to sustainable, simple living, love of our neighbor, and creating a community in which everyone can participate in growing and eating delicious, healthy, locally produced food.

The Associates were also able to see upgrades the farm has made with the Associates’ financial contributions to help replace windows and doors in order for the farm to, “let in Brother Sun and Sister Moon, and to help welcome the stranger!”

DBQ Franciscan Associates Give Service in Ames

Dubuque Franciscan Associates at the Mustard Seed Community Catholic Worker Farm in Ames. Contributed photo.
P
atricia was born on March 18, 1927 in Mason City, Iowa, to her parents, Edward and Jennie (Kisner) Stork. On August 28, 1945, Patricia boarded a train heading for Dubuque. The following year on August 12, 1946, she was received into the Franciscan community and given the name Sister Mary Priscilla.

After her novitiate years she began her ministry in teaching. She taught at Templeton, Melrose Park and, Sacred Heart, two Dubuque schools - Holy Trinity and Holy Ghost, then St. Mary’s, Manchester, Holy Trinity, St. Edward’s, Waterloo, all in Iowa. She completed her teaching years at Melrose Park, Illinois.

After teaching for 25 years, Sister Priscilla’s request for a different occupation was granted. She accepted the challenge of managing the bookstore at Briar Cliff College. After five years in the bookstore Sister found herself preparing for a life in a variety of professions: in Clinical Pastoral education; librarian at Clarke College, Dubuque; Chaplain at St. Francis Hospital, Blue Island, Illinois; Chaplain at St. Francis Hospital in Monroe, Louisiana; Pastoral Care in Quincy, Illinois; receptionist at Siegert-Didesch Funeral Home; Director of Pastoral Care at Covenant Medical Center in Champaign, Illinois; and in 1996 she accepted a position as Chaplain in the Good Neighbor Home in Manchester, Iowa. This proved to be the best of all her experiences as Chaplain with many more duties and responsibilities.

Sister Priscilla’s career in pastoral ministry provided the background for the novel she wrote, Our Lives Unfold.

In 2002 Sister retired to Mount St. Francis in Dubuque. Sister Priscilla moved to Clare House in 2012.

Sister is survived by nieces, nephews, and her Franciscan sisters.

Sister Norma Jean Holthaus February 10, 1934 - June 24, 2021

O
n February 10, 1934, Norma Jean was born to Leo and Rose (Bengfort) Holthaus on a farm near Ossian, Iowa.

Norma Jean completed her elementary and high school education at St. Francis de Sales School in Ossian. She continued her education at Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa, Loyola University in Chicago, concluding with a certification in Spiritual Direction.

While in high school, Norma Jean did a lot of reflecting about entering the convent. A big factor in helping her decide were the Franciscan Sisters, especially during the last two years of high school. Father Ed Frost, an advocate of mentoring for vocations, also gave her words of encouragement. When he asked her if she wanted to go to the convent, she said yes, but wasn’t quite ready yet. The following year while working in a store she decided it was time to follow her call to religious life.

Norma Jean entered the convent in 1952. The following year she was received and given the name Sister Mary Nathan. She kept this name until given the option to return to her baptismal name.

Sister Norma Jean taught at Immaculate Conception, North Washington; Immaculate Conception, North Buena Vista; St. Boniface, Ionia; and St. Peter in Temple Hill, all in Iowa. In 1964 she was assigned to Corpus Christi School in Chicago, as a teacher for 10 years and then as a counselor for five years. Of her experience at Corpus Christi she said, “My work was not the main thing but my wonderful experience of being part of an all black parish and school was a turning point for me. I gleaned so much from the faith of the people and the love they showed. They were not afraid to talk of their love for Jesus. I am a very different person because of my experience at ‘Corps,’ as those of us who were there fondly call it.”

Being certified in Spiritual Direction was a very significant event in her life. Sister Norma Jean felt that it was an awesome experience walking with persons in their journey with God.

Sister is survived by her sisters-in-law Gertie Holthaus and Lucille Holthaus; brother-in-law Nilus Imoehl; nieces, nephews, and her Franciscan sisters.
In Remembrance

Sister JoAnn Lohrman  September 25, 1930 - July 6, 2021

On September 25, 1930, a baby girl was born to Charles and Ellen “Nellie” (Walsh) Lohrman in Oelwein, Iowa. Five days later, on September 30, she was baptized at Sacred Heart Church, Oelwein and given the name, Josephine Ann. Josephine, or “JoAnn” as she was called, attended Sacred Heart School in Oelwein from kindergarten through 12th grade, graduating in 1948.

On August 25, 1949 Josephine entered the Franciscan community. The following year, on August 12, 1950, she was received and given the name Sister Mary Vernon. She served as a homemaker in the congregation’s missions at Rickardsville, Mapleton, and New Hampton all located in Iowa. Sister also served in the laundry and domestic services at Mary of the Angels, Loras College, Xavier Hospital, and Mercy Health Center all in Dubuque. Sister really loved working in the laundry all these years.

To celebrate her 25th jubilee in 1975, her sisters, Imelda “Mel” and Agnes “Bernie”, took Sister JoAnn and her nephew, Father Jim King, on a trip to Rome, Fatima, Lourdes, Ireland, and Assisi. This trip was very memorable for her.

Sister is survived by her nieces, nephews, and her Franciscan sisters.

Sister Dolores McAllister  May 27, 1925 - July 17, 2021

Dolores was born on a farm eight miles northeast of Cascade, Iowa on May 27, 1925, to Joseph and Angeline (Klein) McAllister. She was baptized Dolores Marie at St. Mary’s, Cascade, on June 7, 1925. She was the eighth child in a family of 15.

During the spring and summer of 1944-45 there were stirrings of the Spirit nudging her to be a Sister teacher. Through the encouragement of her cousin, Father William Menster, she visited several religious communities. The decision was made, and Dolores entered Mount St. Francis on August 25, 1945. The following year on August 12, Dolores was received into the Franciscan community and given the name Sister Mary Eugene. After profession Sister resumed her teaching career at Holy Ghost in Dubuque, followed by St. Edward’s, Waterloo, and then helped open a new school at Mater Christi, North Riverside, Illinois.

From there, she taught in Iowa at Holy Trinity, Dubuque; Sacred Heart, Fillmore; St. Athanasius, Jesup; and Holy Trinity, Luxemburg. During the years of 1981-1984, Sister Dolores was taking care of her father while teaching at Sacred Heart in Dubuque. She then ministered as an aide in the Aquin School System until 1993 before assuming the role of DRE at St. Catherine’s/St. Donatus. In 1997, she accepted the position of Pastoral Administrator for both parishes.

In 2000, Sister Dolores fell on a patch of ice and broke her hip, which Sister took as a sign from God that it was time for her to complete her ministry. So, Sister retired to Mount St. Francis. In 2014, Sister Dolores moved to Clare House.

Sister is survived by her sister Rita Hoffmann, her brother Joseph (Margaret) McAllister, her sisters-in-law Beverly McAllister and Marlene McAllister, nieces, nephews, and her Franciscan sisters.

Rest in Peace

Patricia Banowetz
Sister-in-law of Sister Dolores Banowetz

Rita Marie Cain
Sister-in-law of Sister Thecla Cain

Leo Freking
Brother of Sisters Angeline and Edwardine Freking

Eugene Yetmar
Brother-in-law of Sister Theresa Rolling

Mildred Erpelding
Sister of Sister Lila Hellman

Darlyce Day
Sister-in-law of Sister Mary Day

Rosemary “Rosie” Deppe
Sister-in-law of Sister Julitta Deppe

Clara Sibenaller
Sister of Sister Janet Taphorn

Frances Smith
Sister of Sister Anne Marie Smith

Footprints 13
Maureen Alice Smith was the 16th of 18 children born to parents John and Mabel (Scott) Smith on November 27, 1935. The family lived on a farm five miles south of Sumner, Iowa.

On August 25, 1954, Maureen entered the Dubuque Franciscan community along with her sister Arlene. They joined four of their sisters already in the community: Veronica (Sister Robertine), Mable (Sister Valentine), Delores, (Sister Vincent), and Marcella (Sister Theodore). On August 12 the following year, Maureen was received into the community and given the name Sister Mary Barbara Ann.

In the fall of 1959, Sister was assigned to teach in Iowa at St. Mary’s in Manchester, followed by Sacred Heart, Dubuque, and St. Mary’s, Waterloo. She ended her teaching career in 1970 and spent eight weeks learning Spanish so she could begin working full time with the migrant farmworker population at the East Coast Migrant Ministry. She continued in this ministry until 1991 when she accepted a position at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Wimauma, Florida. She later worked with the Redlands Migrant Association in Ruskin, Florida. Because migrant farmworkers traveled throughout little rural communities, so did Maureen. She looked at this as a challenge and quickly found no strangers, as she was outgoing and greatly enjoyed meeting new people. After 16 tomato seasons, Sister Maureen found herself in Charleston, South Carolina. Throughout her ministry Sister assisted migrant families in West Virginia, South Carolina, Florida, Maryland, Alabama, New Jersey, and New York. Sister Maureen retired to Dubuque in November 2010 after 40 years of both challenging and magnificent ministry with the migratory farmworker population.

Sister is survived by her sisters-in-law Alice Smith, Rita Smith, and Shayla (Smith) Milbrandt; nieces, nephews, and her Franciscan sisters.

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Elizabeth (Liz) joined the Brady family on June 22, 1923. They lived in a modest home in Portland, Oregon.

Liz had a happy childhood. She kept busy caring for her younger brother and sisters and learning the arts of cleaning, cooking, and baking for the family. She enjoyed many sports and the beauties of Oregon, specifically the ocean and mountains. In her early childhood, Liz’s religious life began when her parents first taught her that God is a loving Father who cares for all children. It was then that Liz decided to dedicate her life to others as a Franciscan sister, which pleased her parents.

Liz attended Blessed Sacrament Grade School in Portland. She was taught by the Franciscan Sisters of Dubuque. She completed her high school education at Immaculate Academy in Portland, a private school for girls.

On August 24, 1940, Liz joined the Dubuque Franciscans. A year later she was received and given the name Sister Mary Martin. She received her college education and teacher training at Loras College, Dubuque and the University of Portland. Her teaching assignments included St. Francis Xavier, Dyersville, Holy Cross, St. Mary of the Woods, Chicago, St. Mary’s, Remsen, and All Saints, Portland.

Due to a serious ear problem in 1976, Sister Liz was advised to begin a new ministry. Thus began a new chapter in her life. Upon completing a Clinical Pastoral Education (C.P.E.) program at Providence Medical Center in Portland, she worked as a summer volunteer in the extended care facility of the medical center. She then returned to Dubuque and ministered as chaplain and director of religious activities at Sunnycrest Manor for 10 years. Some of Sister’s happiest times in ministry were spent as a parish minister, serving the needs of the sick and elderly, at Holy Trinity Parish in Dubuque. Sister Liz retired to Mount St. Francis in 1995. She moved to Holy Family Hall in 2002 and to Clare House in 2011.

Sister is survived by her nieces, nephews, and her Franciscan sisters.
The Dubuque Franciscan Sisters honored their Jubilarians at celebrations at Mount St. Francis Center the weekend of October 23-24 in Dubuque.

**Sisters Marie Cigrand and Maureen Leach** celebrated their Ruby Jubilee (40 years) at a Celebration of the Word on Saturday, October 23, at Mount St. Francis Chapel.

“What is abundantly clear to us: we celebrate today—the integrity of your lives, your commitment, your openness to keep growing: your doing justice, your loving tenderly, and your walking humbly with God,” said **Sister Nancy Schreck** during her reflection. “So we honor you—disciples who lay down your lives in love.”

Twelve sisters celebrated Diamond Jubilees (60 years) and six sisters celebrated their Double Diamond Jubilee (70 years) at a Mass Sunday, October 24.

Diamond Jubilarians honored were: **Sisters Carol Ann Berte, Charlotte Enright, Carole Freking, Kathleen Grace, Mary Hauber, Susan Ivis, Theresa Jungers, Marcine Kellner, Bertha Kruse, Jane McGrain, Judy Sinnwell,** and **Margaret Wick.**

Double Diamond Jubilarians honored were: **Sisters Bonita Fondell, Gwen Hennessey, Elvira Kelley, Mary Kivlahan, Ruth Kleitsch,** and **Eleanor Lambert.**

“Like Mother Xavier, you witnessed a trustful dependence on God and a courageous response to the changing conditions of our times,” said **Sister Kathy Knipper** in her reflection at the Eucharistic liturgy. “May God richly bless you for your many years of loving service.”

Read the Jubilarians’ biographies online at www.osfdbq.org/jubilee or send a congratulatory email to communications@osfdbq.org. The celebrations were recorded and are available to view online at https://www.youtube.com/dubuquefranciscans.
A Message About Our Mailings

Recently we made a decision to discontinue our small newsletter “Connections” and mail our more informative magazine, “Footprints” to our entire mailing list. If you do not wish to receive our mailings, please write “refused” on the mail piece and put it back in the mail, OR mail or e-mail Sister Cathy Katoski, OSF, 3390 Windsor Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001, katoskic@osfdbq.org.

Apologies -- A number of you received a card recently asking if you wished to be removed from our mailing list. Regrettably there was not a place to indicate your name. If you returned the card and didn’t sign it or attach an address label, please e-mail Sister Cathy with your request.

Blessings!

Upcoming Events at Shalom Spirituality Center

December 6: Shalom’s Annual Advent Evening of Women
6 p.m.
Presenters: The Music Group of Lydia
Continuing a 20-year Shalom tradition, the wonderful women of Lydia will lead us in a prayerful and inspirational celebration of the season. As always, the chapel program will be preceded by a scrumptious dinner in our dining room. Come for an evening of good food, conversation, friendship and prayer. Invite your friends to join you in celebrating the spirit of Advent. $35 per person. Register and prepay no later than Wednesday, December 1.

December 13: Shalom’s Annual Advent Dinner, Music & Prayer
6 p.m.
Directed by: Carol Hemesath, OSF and Jim Brimeyer
Enjoy our annual evening of anticipating Christmas with food, music, and prayer. We’ll nourish our bodies with a bountiful meal and our spirits with beautiful music and prayer. Join us and this wonderful group of musicians for a joyous evening that will open your heart and mind to the message of Jesus. $35 per person. Register & prepay no later than Wednesday, December 8.

December 21: Shalom Winter Breakfast: St. Francis of Assisi and the Crèche
7:30 a.m.
Sister Ginny Heldorfer will present on St. Francis’ contribution to the birth of the crèche. $15 per person. Register & prepay by Thursday, December 16.

To register, contact Shalom Spirituality Center at (563) 582-3592 or visit https://shalomretreats.org/.