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FALL 2019

2019 Rolan Johnson Christmas Ornament

"There Is A Peace" is the title of the Rolan Johnson Limited Edition Collectible 2019 Christmas ornament. Rolan's 1985 Christmas card was the inspiration for the 25th annual ornament in the series. Ornaments are custom-designed, two-sided, 24kt gold-plated on a brass frame, and gift-boxed with a numbered certificate of authenticity. These ornaments are produced exclusively for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception, and are a major fundraiser to benefit the Retirement Fund.

The sisters are deeply grateful for your purchase of these beautiful ornaments and appreciate the generosity of the underwriters and retailers:



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Sister Kathleen Ann Mourisse
Sister Kathleen Ann
Mourisse, President

Fall Musings from the President...

Our 25th Rolan Johnson ornament for 2019 is titled "There is a Peace." I felt this was a most appropriate theme for not only this ornament, but for my comments in this edition of our Prints newsletter. At this particular time, there is an urgency to focus on Peace. Our world, our nation, our state and our city are all in desperate need of the gift of Peace.

The struggle for peace is not new, but has been a part of human history since the beginning. Our Bible bears truth to this fact as the term *peace* appears more than 250 times in the Old Testament. This notion of peace

continues in the New Testament where *peace* is referred to 91 times, and Ephesians 6:15 calls the Christian message, the Gospel of Peace.

The peace referred to in the Scriptures is not just the cessation of war, conflict and violence. Peace in the Scriptures is the result of God's presence in a person's life since God is the source of that peace. In John 14:27, Jesus promises, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you, not as the world gives, do I give to you." Our true peace comes from our relationship with the Prince of Peace who promises His presence in all the circumstances of our lives, especially the difficult times. We need only to heed the words of that famous hymn, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me," knowing that the source of our peace is found in our Lord and Savior, Jesus.



Our Jubilarians



Sister Mary Patricia Masterson, OSF - 70 years

Current Assignment: Retired

Home Parish: St. Patrick, Camp Grove, IL

Professed Vows: June 12, 1949

Education: Bachelor's degree from

St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa; master's degree from Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Ministries: Sister Mary Patricia taught at St. Philomena School in Peoria (1949-52), St. Joseph School in Pekin (1952-54), Immaculate Conception School in Spring Valley (1954-56), Bishop Dunne School at Guardian Angel Home in Peoria (1957-61), St. Mary School in Metamora (1961-62), and Sacred Heart School in Moline (1972-82). She also worked with the elderly at St. Joseph's Home of Springfield from 1982 to 1985 and from 1993 to 2017.

Sister Mary Patricia served her community as director of new Sisters from 1962 to 1972, and was president from 1985 to 1993.

Comments: "For me the attraction to religious life was initiated by a direct invitation from Sisters to join them in their life of dedication and service to God and his people," Sister Mary Patricia said. "In time I accepted this invitation and joined the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception."

Her two families - family of origin and religious family (community) - have provided the support needed for a happy, dedicated life to God.

Sister Mary Patricia said those discerning a vocation shouldn't be afraid. "My belief is that women will find happiness if they respond to God's call to religious life."



Sister Mary Ann Mehufs, OSF - 60 years

Current Assignment: Retired, assisting community needs

Home Parish: Sacred Heart, Moline, IL

Professed Vows: August 12, 1959

Education: Bachelor's degree from

St. Ambrose College, Davenport, Iowa; master's degrees from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and LaSalle College, Philadelphia

Ministries: A longtime educator, Sister Mary Ann taught second grade at St. Mary School in Canton (1959-63) and St. Mary School in Metamora (1963-68), English at Alleman High School in Rock Island (1968-70), and English and religion at Bergan High School in Peoria (1971-81). She also served as director of religious education at St. Philomena Parish in Peoria from 1981 to 1997, and administrator at Mother of Peace Home in West Peoria from 2002 to 2016.

Comments: "It has been a joy and privilege to belong to my religious community, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception, these 60 years.

"The Sisters have been a source of inspiration in prayer and charity in living the Franciscan life. Their compassion for me when I was recovering from a serious car accident was truly life-giving as I was making a year's recovery. These are some of the joy-filled treasures among the many, too numerous to mention, but kept in my heart with gratitude."



Sister Irene Marie Fritch, OSF - 50 years

Current Assignment: Vice president and formation director for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception, and GED instructor

Home Parish: St. Anthony, Matherville **Professed Vows:** Aug. 9, 1969

Education: Bachelor's degree in elementary education from Bradley University; master's degree in religious studies from Saint Louis University, St. Louis

Ministries: Sister Irene taught at St. Joseph School in Pekin (1970-76), Sacred Heart School in Moline (1976-78), and Epiphany School in Normal, where she also served as principal (1978-82). She was treasurer and vice president for her community, and facility director at Immaculate Conception Convent from 1982 to 1997, and was president from 2001 to 2009. Sister Irene has been formation director for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception since then, and was elected vice president in 2017.

Comments: "Throughout these past 50 years, my life with my sisters in community and my service in each of my ministries have brought me the most joy. The love and support of my sisters has strengthened me and enabled me to strive to use my education, talents, and experiences to serve to the best of my ability. They truly are 'sisters' to me in every sense of the word."

She noted that she has also been enriched through the various ministries assigned to her.

"I have had a wonderful, happy life."



Our Jubilarians



**Sister Janice Keenan,
OSF - 50 years**

Current Assignment: Portiuncula Center for Prayer, 9263 W. St. Francis Road, Frankfort, IL 60423

Home Parish: St. Mary, Wenona

Professed Vows: August 9, 1969

Education: Bachelor's degree in secondary education and mathematics from Bradley

University; master's degree in education administration from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota; courses in theology at Viterbo College, La Crosse, Wisconsin, and religious studies at Saint Louis University, St. Louis

Ministries: Sister Janice taught junior high at St. Joseph School in Pekin (1970-73), was a junior high teacher and co-principal at St. Philomena School in Peoria (1973-80), and principal at St. Mary School in Metamora (1980-87). She served her community as vocation director from 1987 to 1991, formation director from 1991 to 2001, and bookkeeper, motherhouse coordinator and kitchen supervisor at Immaculate Conception Convent from 2001 to 2002.

The director of campus ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Newman Center in Macomb from 2011 to 2015, Sister Janice has been retreat program manager and spiritual director at the Portiuncula Center for Prayer since then.

Comments: "Being called to consecrated life as a Sister is for me a gift and a blessing from a loving God, I was blessed with wonderful, loving parents, six sisters and two brothers, and grew up Catholic on a farm and in small towns. All this gave me a sense of being rooted in faith, an experience of a variety of individuals, a sense of community, and an appreciation of nature."

She found a second home with her religious community, "where faith, respect for each person, supportive community and awareness of God at work in creation were at the heart of what it means to be Franciscan."

"What gives me the most joy is being loved so much by a good and gracious God and being able to follow Jesus using the gifts God gave me to be of service to others."

Her advice to someone discerning a vocation to religious life is to believe that God loves them, wants them to be happy, and will be with them each day as they use the gifts He's given them in service.

Sister Janice's advice for those considering the Religious life - "Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and be willing to give yourself wholeheartedly and generously, trusting that you'll be blessed abundantly."



**Sister Jacqueline
Schroeder, OSF
- 50 years**

Current Assignment: Parish ministry and religious education on Standing Rock Reservation, P.O. Box 539, McLaughlin, SD 57642

Home Parish: Sacred Heart, Moline, IL

Professed Vows: August 9, 1969

Education: Bachelor's degree from Bradley University, master's degree in religious education from St. Thomas University, Houston, Texas, and studies in spiritual direction in Cincinnati, Ohio, and an Anamcara apprenticeship from Sacred Heart of Living Center, Bend, Oregon

Ministries: Sister Jacque taught at Epiphany School in Normal for four years and St. Mary School in Metamora for seven years, including three years as principal. She also served as diocesan director of Teens Encounter Christ, national spiritual director of TEC, diocesan co-spiritual director of Cursillo, and chaplain at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. She was also novice director for her religious community for nine years. Sister Jacque is in her third year at Standing Rock Reservation, where she had previously served for eight years.

Comments: To reflect on her vocation, Sister Jacque quoted the St. Louis Jesuits' song, "Earthen Vessels": "We hold a treasure, not made of gold, in earthen vessels, wealth untold. One treasure only, the Lord, the Christ, in earthen vessels."

"Jesus is the one treasure and he has chosen the lowly, the small, the weak that God's glory might shine through us. He chose me! And if Jesus can choose this little, weak one, He can certainly choose you!"

Those who want to know God's will for them should do three things..

The first is to listen. "Be still. Listen to God in nature, in Scripture, in the wisdom of the church.

The second is to surround yourself with wise people --- "people who can listen with you and offer the wisdom of the lived experience of their own relationship with God," she said. "Learn from them. Follow the example of the saints!"

The third is to choose every day. "Choose a loving relationship with God as the one most important thing in this life. God is already 'head over heels' in love with you - look for ways to return this love. I guarantee that God will never be outdone in generosity."



Abbot Philip Davey, OSB, priest concelebrants and jubilarians



Msgr. Thomas Mack, Rev. Donald Henderson, Abbot Philip Davey, Rev. Ken Marchulones



Sisters renewing vows during mass



Sister Kathleen Ann Mourisse with jubilarians

A fabulous time was had by all at our **Volunteer Appreciation Luau!!**
June 11, 2019 **Mahalo (Thank You!)** We can't do it without you!





Meditation Moment

by Sister Marion Lemon

On my retreat this summer,
I heard this story and meditated on it daily.

A young lady got on the plane
and sat on the aisle seat.
She was crying and repeating,
“What if I can’t, what if I can’t?”

The man in the seat on the other side
of the aisle took her hand
and looked at her intently, and said,
“But what if you can?”

This question has been my mantra
every morning since I heard it –
What if I can?

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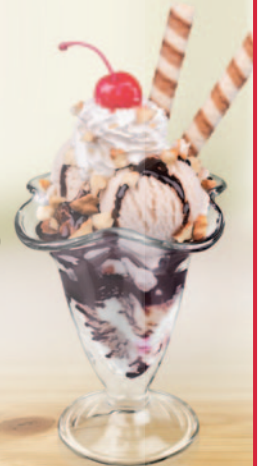
Saturday, February 29, 2020

Spalding Pastoral Center



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 Mr. & Mrs. David Wolfe
 Wright & Salmon Mortuary
 Mr. & Mrs. James Wygle
 Deacon & Mrs. Kevin Zeeb
 Mr. & Mrs. Russell Ziegler
 Margaret Zobrist

In Honor Of...

ALBERT ZELLER

Dr. & Mrs. Thomas K. Maloney

REV. MSGR. CHARLES BEEBE

Mr. & Mrs. Frank I. Russo

SISTER BETTY JEAN HAVERBACK AND HER HEALING HANDS

Michael Serangeli

SISTER DIANE MARIE ANDEVOORDE

Mr. & Mrs. Duane W. Ivey

SISTER JANICE KEENAN

Dr. & Mrs. Daniel F. McLaughlin

SISTER IRENE MARIE FRITCH & SISTER JANICE KEENAN

Melissa Wilder-Redding

In Kind Donors

Those who gave non-monetary items

Adolph Arnold
 Annie Carroll
 Arlene Brocksmith
 Broken Chimney Restaurant,
 Kewanee
 Mary Carrara
 Maria Carroll
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 Tom & Dorothy Conlon
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 Sheila Flaherty
 Kay's Hallmark
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 Jane Hoff
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 Margie Wagner
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PrintWorthy...

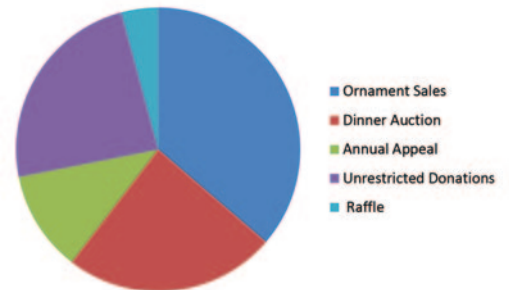


Sisters were chauffeured this year in the West Peoria 4th of July Parade in a '69 Cadillac owned by Nick Volk!!



The 2019 ornament was unveiled on September 28 by Rolan Johnson's great-grandchildren and Sister Kathleen Ann.

Donor Gifts July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019
Total \$315,245.00



Local Residents celebrated our Annual West Peoria Mass on August 4



All are welcome to
Advent Lessons & Carols
on Sunday, December 1
4:00 p.m. in the Convent Chapel



We're always looking for Volunteers to help with mailings and checking ornaments AND we treat you well!! Call the Development Office: 309-674-2005 if interested. Guys too!!

Remember special occasions and honor friends and loved ones with a memorial or honorarium gift to the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception. For a special bequest in your will, please talk with your legal advisor. We thank God, as we thank you, for your support, whether spiritual or financial. Prayer is our best and deepest expression of gratitude.