



FRANCISCAN Prints



Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception • *"A Caring, Praying Presence"* • West Peoria, Illinois

Immaculate Conception Convent: 309-674-6168 / Development Office: 309-675-2005

FALL 2020

2020 Rolan Johnson Christmas Ornament



"Jesus Blesses the Children" is the 26th Annual Limited Edition Christmas Ornament, inspired by Rolan Johnson's 1978 Christmas Card.

The 2020 Ornament is approximately 3" x 4", two-sided, and encased in a 24kt. gold-plated brass frame which displays icons from the original artwork. It is gift-boxed with a numbered certificate of authenticity.

\$35

Order form also on-line at
westpeoriasisters.org
Development Office – 309-674-2005
Ask about curbside pick-up

Available at the following Retailers:

- Hometown Community Banks
- Immaculate Conception Convent, West Peoria
- Kay's Hallmark, Metro Centre
- Lagron Miller Co.
- www.westpeoriasisters.org

2020 Ornament Underwriters

Anonymous
 Charlie & Carol Kamm
 Jim & Debbie Knost
 David Vaughan Investments, LLC
 Margie Wagner
 Dennis & Nanette Gillan
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lawler
 Richard & Mary Jane Noe
 PNC Bank
 River City Construction, LLC
 Roy & Mary Couri Spence
 Gene & Carmelita Statler
 Curtis W. Theyse



Sister Kathleen Ann Mourisse

**Sister Kathleen Ann
Mourisse, President**

Fall Musings from the President

I am so pleased that the theme of our 26th Rolan Johnson Ornament is "Jesus Blesses the Children." This ornament is especially meaningful for our Sisters who have ministered to children during the 129 years of our existence. Our congregation began in 1891 with the request from Archbishop Spalding to care for the children in the diocesan orphanage in

Metamora, Illinois. From that time on, our Sisters ministered to children in so many cities throughout the Diocese of Peoria: in schools and in religious education programs, while continuing to serve at Guardian Angel Home after it was moved from Metamora to Heading Avenue in Peoria. Sadly, our Sisters are no longer in schools; however, Sister Jacqueline Schroeder still gives religious instruction to children on the Standing Rock Reservation in the Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota. Until Covid-19 kept children out of schools and at home, Sister Betty Jean and a host of volunteers provided snacks to hungry children in one of the Peoria Public Schools.

When the children return to school, Sister Betty Jean will resume her mission to nourish hungry children.

I, myself, spent most of my years in ministry to children in Catholic Schools. I was privileged to teach at St. Philomena, Peoria; St. Mary's, Metamora; Peru Catholic; Sacred Heart and then Seton Catholic, Moline. In 2017, I completed ten years at St. Boniface, Edwardsville, in the diocese of Springfield, Illinois, before becoming president of our congregation.

It is always so interesting and entertaining to listen to our Sisters share their experiences with children in their classrooms. It would be fascinating to hear how many of the students our sisters taught are now influential adults who benefitted from what they learned from their Sister-teachers. I do know that I taught students who became priests, Religious Sisters, lawyers and even a major league baseball pitcher. I am certain that there are countless others who became influential, contributing adults.

What a wonderful legacy our Sisters possess, knowing that through our ministry during these 129 years, we have contributed to a better future. As Jesus blessed the children, our sisters have also followed that example in their many years of service to children.



*Sisters following health and safety guidelines at mass
and during their daily routines*



*"We are blessed with
much; let us be a
blessing to others"*

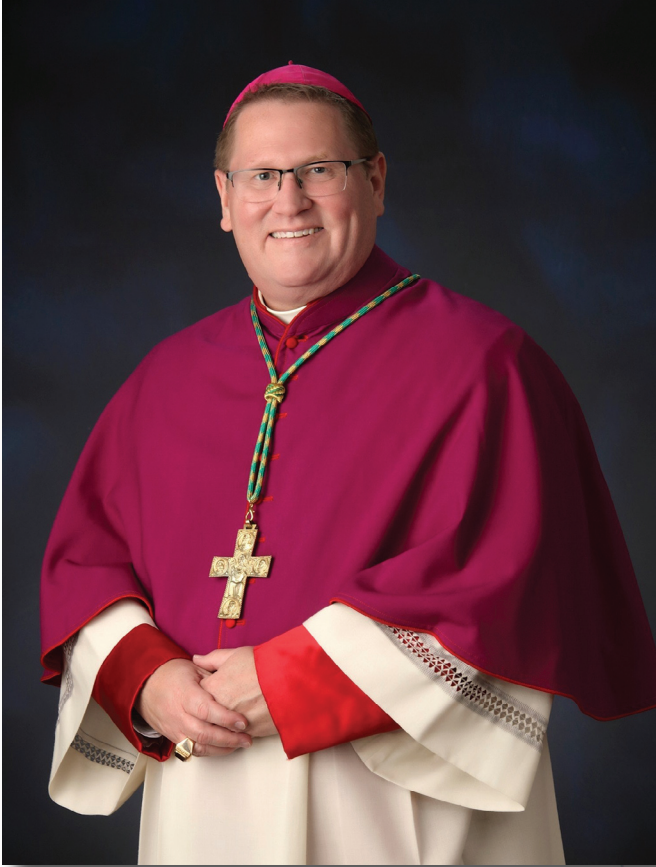
Sentiment by
Msgr. Gerald Ward,
Morton, IL



Peoria Diocese Welcomes New Bishop

Co-Adjutor Bishop Louis Tylka

July 23, 2020



Two of our sisters were delighted to attend the social-distanced ceremony which was also live-streamed for all to witness.



All sisters were invited to a mass for Consecrated Religious on August 12, 2020.



Meditation Moment

Only God Can Do That!

by Sister Mary Dries

Oh, beautiful autumn! What a wonderful gift from our loving God this season is. My appreciation for the beauty of fall goes back over 65 years when I was 9 or 10 years old. I had walked into our dining room at home when I saw my dad looking out the window at the wooded field across the street from our house. He called me over and had me look at all the beautiful colored trees and simply said, "Only God can do that."

From then on the beautiful autumn leaves remind me of how good God is to create such beauty for us to enjoy. My gratitude to God for the gift of trees has expanded beyond autumn to include the dormant trees of winter, which are so gorgeous after a snowfall. In the spring, as the trees begin to bud, they speak to me of the miracle of new life, and then in the summertime we can enjoy the fruit and shade and flowering of trees that are gifts from our loving Creator. So yes, Dad, you were right – only God can do that!

Donor Gifts Totaling \$372,502.48
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020



- Ornament Sales
- Dinner Auction
- Annual Appeal
- Unrestricted Donations
- Raffle
- Other

The Sisters thank God for your generosity and the innumerable ways you have supported them through the years. As always, you are remembered in their prayers and the monthly Masses for their benefactors.





Pray as the Sisters Pray

MOTHER STUART'S PRAYER*

Keep us, O God, from all pettiness.
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off
all self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense and meet each
other face to face, without self-pity and
without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgment, and
always be generous.
Let us always take time for all things,
and make us to grow calm,
serene and gentle.
Teach us to put into action our better
impulses,
to be straightforward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize that it is the
little things of life that create
differences,
that in the bigger things in life,
we are as one.
And, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind!
Amen.



***Who was Mother Stuart?**

Janet Stuart (1857-1914), a sister and educator, was a devoted leader in her community of the Society of the Sacred Heart of England and Wales. Many religious and individuals have been inspired by her essays and poetry.



**A gift to the sisters
from employees
after their return
to work this May.**



Back in the Day...

How many of you reading this were picked up by the sisters in their station wagon for kindergarten at the Motherhouse? Here, Sister Mary Arthur VanLancker picks up Susan (Scherer) Calandra on the first day of kindergarten in 1955 with her mother, Pat Scherer, looking on. The sisters removed the seats in the back to put in benches to allow more children to ride. Our own Sister Mary Jo also drove students that year with Sister Marie coming along to keep the children in order.



(Picture courtesy of Susan Scherer Calandra)



Ornament Unveiling



Our 2020 Rolan Johnson Ornament Unveiling was held September 25, 2020 with Fr. Ken Marchulones blessing our project and Sister Kathleen Ann unveiling "Jesus Blesses the Children"

A virtual video is available on our website.



Like us on facebook at  Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception - Events

2020 Ornament Order Form

PLEASE PRINT or USE ADDRESS LABEL \$35.00(+\$5 shipping)
 SEND MY ORNAMENT(S) TO:
 NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Mail with check payable to:
 Heading Avenue Franciscans, 2408 W. Heading Ave, West Peoria, IL 61604

Older ornaments available at the Motherhouse, through our brochure or online at westpeoriasisters.org



Donors... The Heading Avenue Franciscans extend a special thank you to all of our very generous supporters whose contributions were received April 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020.

Mrs. June Battey
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Beltramea
Msgr. Michael Bliss
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bush

Mary Carrara
Dr. & Mrs. John Carroll
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Carroll
Mr. Thomas Carroll, Jr.
Catholic Women's League
Mr. & Mrs. Reynaldo Cristobal

David Vaughan Investments, LLC
Rita Deets
Richard DellaValle
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Draggist
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Durkee

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fescenmeyer
Sally Forker

Deacon & Mrs. Dennis Gillan
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Gomer
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Grebner

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Heiar
Rev. Douglas Hennessy

Cindy Intravartolo
Mrs. Amelia Ireland

Debra Joseph-Weeks

Dr. & Mrs. James Kenny Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. David Kinney
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Knapp
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Knight
Dr. & Mrs. James Knost

Ladies Daytime Bridge Marathon
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lawler
Mr. & Mrs. Corey Lindskov
Mr. Jerald Longman
Mr. & Mrs. Andrzej Lozowski

Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Maloney
Patricia Martin
Marjorie McAllister
Mr. & Mrs. Brian McKenna
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Meisner
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Meisner
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Meisner
Deacon & Mrs. Rick Miller

Mr. & Mrs. John Nauman
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Noe
Judith O'Neill
Fred and Linda Ortiz

PNC Bank

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Rekiere
River City Construction, LLC
Mr. Scott Robowski

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Scheirer
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Segura
Roberta Shadensack
Betty Shearer
Mr. & Mrs. James Smith
Roy and Mary Couri Spence
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Sponsler
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Statler
Ms. Lynn Stump
Mr. John Szentes

Mr. Curtis Theyse

Mr. & Mrs. Robert VandeVoorde
Mr. George Villa

Ms. Margie Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Weitekamp
Mr. & Mrs. John Wiebmer
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wiegiers
Ms. Maureen Williams
Mr. & Mrs. James Wygle



In Kind Donors

...those who gave services, volunteer hours, and other non-monetary items

Mary Carrara
Maria Carroll
Robin Heiar
Jane Hoff
Carol Kamm
Deacon Joe & Terri LaHood
Evie Schermer

In Memory Of... Kindly remember in your prayers our deceased sisters, friends, and those who have honored them with a memorial contribution April 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020.

JOSEPH M. ALWAN SR.
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen M. Turner

SISTER MARY VIRGINIA BUTKOVICH
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Grzanich Jr.

MICHAEL KEYSER
Mr. & Mrs. Donald R. Castelli

SISTER MARY CORNELIA KIPFER
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Poehls

JAYNE KNOBLAUCH
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Donald S. Chovan
Mrs. Doris T. Forney
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Fuller
Mrs. Carolyn I. Grebner
Mr. & Mrs. Alan P. Huston
Donald D. Knoblauch
Rosemary Knoblauch
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Larson

Mr. Joseph C. Merkle
Mr. & Mrs. Eric J. Neal
Tim Robbins
Sarah L. Sakash
Evie Schermer

SISTER CONCEPTA MARIE NUDO
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick R. Nudo

JED POPE
John & Charlene Pope

SISTER MARY EULALIA SHEEHAN
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Poehls

JIM VERGON
Mr. & Mrs. Frank D. Rezac

PAMELA WAGNER
Mrs. George Hanlon
Mrs. Angela Kenny

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be
consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that
we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life. Amen*



HOW FUN!

Your Table Is Ready 2021
(probably) Virtual Dinner Auction
Saturday, February 27

If interested in providing a basket or item for our Auction "In Memory" of a loved one, please contact the Development Office: 309-674-2005.

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.