



FRANCISCAN Prints



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

Spring 2013

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Sister Sarah Elizabeth, Vocation Director, with Postulant Darlene Santibout (left) and affiliate Rachel Tennant (right) at a vocation fair. Darlene entered our community in October 2012.

From the Vocation Director...

Sister Sarah Elizabeth Roy

In Luke 5:4 Jesus said, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Vocation work is just that, "casting" ourselves out there and trusting God to provide us with a catch of wonderful women who will continue to bring God's compassionate presence to others.

Where have we been casting our nets lately?

- At the FOCUS Conference (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) held in Orlando, Florida. 4,000 college students attended this conference.
- At the NRVC Conference (National Religious Vocation Conference) in Plano, Texas. This gathering of vocation directors throughout the United States was an opportunity for training and networking.
- At Peoria Notre Dame High School, teaching about early Church communities and the founding of religious life.
- In providing women with opportunities to schedule a visit with our community. Two women are presently spending time getting to know us to discern their call to our community.
- In welcoming a young woman from Macomb, IL into our affiliation program (the first step towards entrance into the community).
- In welcoming a young woman into postulancy (the first official step of the formation process).
- In the VISION online matching service (a dating service for religious communities and discerners). Making contact with these women and sending them information about our community and scheduling visits with them.

As you can see, we are casting our nets far and wide in order to allow God to fill them with women committed to serving His kingdom. Thank you for your prayers and support in making this ministry possible.



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

“Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary use words.” St. Francis of Assisi

When our Holy Father was elected and took the name, “Francis,” I was overwhelmed with joy. I was sitting watching the events with my mother, and when I heard the name he had chosen, tears came to my eyes. My Franciscan roots are touched very deeply as I read about his life as priest, bishop, and cardinal. A professed, Jesuit priest with a very Franciscan heart and philosophy of life is how I would describe Pope Francis.

As I page through this edition of Franciscan prints, the words of St. Francis are very evident. Sister Sarah Elizabeth, our vocation director, plans many events for women interested in religious life. It seems the parting words of the women are always the same: “It was wonderful to meet you and experience what you do.”

The picture gallery of our ministries illustrates the many endeavors of our sisters. Being there for the other; meeting the needs of the other; taking a stand on issues for the other are all opportunities “to preach the Gospel at all times.” In some circumstances PRESENCE says it all.

Three of our sisters have gone home to the Lord whom they loved and served so well. Keep in mind the words of St. Francis as you read about them.

Sister Mary Dolores celebrated her 100th birthday! Sixty-eight of those 100 years were as a professed Heading Avenue Franciscan. How many lives did her PRESENCE “touch” in the many ministries in which she engaged?

Thank you for enabling us through your generosity to “Preach the Gospel at all times...” We thank God for your partnership with us.



Sister Paula Vasquez

Sister Mary Dolores Kirchgessner Turns 100!!!



On December 22, 2012, Sister Mary Dolores achieved a milestone few of us will see, celebrating her 100th birthday with fellow sisters and her sister-in-law. Her special treat that day was from Steak ‘n Shake, always her favorite! Sister Dolores entered the religious life in 1941 and continues her ministry of supervising the kitchen daily.



Sister Dolores taught Sister Irene Marie in 1st grade religion class

New Ministry Opens in Macomb



Sister Janice Keenan and Sister Marion Lemon began serving in a new campus ministry at the St. Francis of Assisi Newman Center at Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL in the fall of 2011, working daily with students, RCIA candidates, and volunteering at St. Paul’s Parish.



*Some of our
Community Ministries*



Elementary Education
St. Boniface School, Edwardsville



Pro-Life Activities



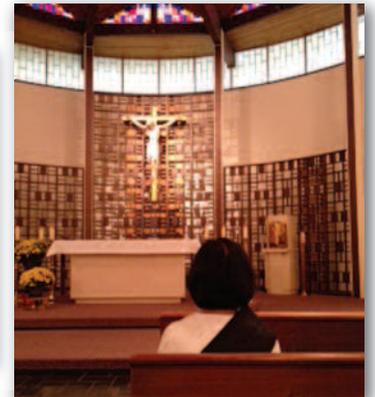
Hospital Chaplaincy



Prayer



Adult Literacy



**Formation of
New Candidates**



Massage Ministry & Spiritual Direction



Internal Community Ministry



Visiting the Sick & Elderly



**Campus Ministry -
Western Illinois University**



St. Joseph's Home of Springfield

Watch for additional ministries in our next issue of Prints...



2012 Rolan Johnson Christmas Ornament

During the six years prior to his death in 2000, artist Rolan Johnson gave the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception exclusive permission to use his unique, silk screened mosaic cards for a fundraiser. With the gracious consent of the Johnson family, this collectible series continues in their father’s memory.

“A GIFT OF LOVE. A GIFT OF LIFE”

The 2012 ornament was the 18th in the series and was inspired by Rolan’s 1998 Christmas card. The sisters are grateful for your purchase of these beautiful limited edition ornaments and appreciate the generosity of the underwriters and retailers. All proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Sisters’ Retirement Fund.



2012 UNDERWRITERS:

- Jim & Debbie Knost
- Anonymous
- Charlie & Carol Kamm
- Albert Zeller
- Anonymous
- John & Margie Wagner
- AWSS Inc.
- John & Leigh Becker
- Mary Couri & Roy Spence
- David Vaughn Investments, Inc.
- Margaret O’Neill
- PNC
- Villa Tax Advisory Group

2012 RETAILERS:

- Jones Bros. Jewelry
- Morton Community Bank Locations
- Bronze Frog
- Frames Plus/Hallmark
- Harp & Thistle Imports Ltd.
- Immaculate Conception Convent
- Kay’s Hallmark –
- Metro Center & Washington
- Lagron Miller Co.
- Skin Dimensions
- St. Mary’s Convent
- The Dwelling Place

The 2013 ornament is in production and will be available in October!

Past ornaments and Collections II and IV are available by contacting the Development Office — 309-674-2005.

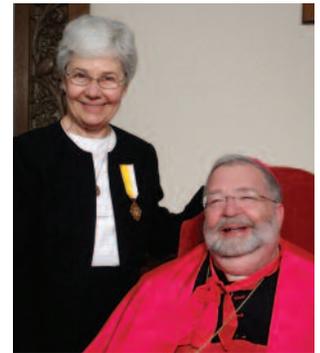
“COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS” RAFFLE

Thanks to everyone who supported our 2012 raffle. Replacement of the 3rd floor shower valves and stalls is in progress. **Congratulations to the winners!**

- \$4000 – Ruth Vogel, Peoria
- \$2000 – George Ann Feldman, Little River, SC
- \$1000 – Edward & Judy Phelan, Macomb
- \$500 – Bob Shearer, Wenona
- \$500 – Joan Fandel, Germantown Hills

Sister Diane Receives Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Award

On November 18, 2012, Sister Diane Marie VandeVoorde was honored by Pope Benedict XVI and the Diocese of Peoria for outstanding diocesan service. It is the highest papal award a bishop can bestow on a lay person or clergy. Sister Diane is the associate director in the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, instructing Deacon candidates.



Annual Appeal 2012

Our 2012 Appeal was for the repair of the weathered frames of the stained glass windows and the replacement of the windows in the connecting stairway between the 1912 and the 1962 buildings. It will provide a more weather-resistant and energy-efficient structure. Your generous contributions to our window project enables us to care for the many gifts with which God has graced us.



Volunteer Appreciation Tea 2012

Each spring, the sisters host a tea to celebrate the generous service of their volunteers. Without volunteers, we could not accomplish so much in so little time. The guest speaker of the April 17, 2012 tea was Nikki Cole, VP of Development at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. It’s a fun time and a chance to thank all of our tireless volunteers!



If you would like to volunteer your service, please call the Development Office at 309-674-2005 or email us at joyce@westpeoriasisters.org



“Your Table Is Ready” DINNER/AUCTION

The “Your Table is Ready” Dinner/Auction is a most popular fundraising event for the sisters and their friends. It is a fun evening with wonderful fellowship, good food, many exciting live and silent auction items and very unique table decorations. A theme is chosen for each year's event, and the hostesses decorate their dinner table using this theme.

2012

My Favorite Book

The 2012 Dinner/Auction was held February 26, at Itoo Hall in West Peoria. The theme was “My Favorite Book” and the table decorations varied from “Dr. Seuss” to the “Bible.” Proceeds benefit the sisters' ministries.



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 Anonymous
 James Vergon
 Van Dam Charitable Foundation
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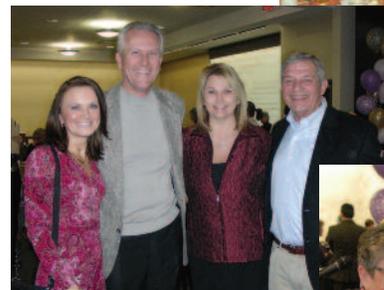
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2013

Magical Moments
Dinner Auction

The 2013 Dinner/Auction was held February 23, at Spalding Pastoral Center, 419 NE Madison, Peoria. The event was sold-out, and the evening was very successful. The theme was “Magical Moments” and the hostesses decorated their tables according to the events they felt were Magical! It was a fun and elegant evening and the sisters thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many of their friends and supporters. Proceeds benefit the sisters' ministries.



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SAVE THE DATE

2014 “Your Table is Ready” Dinner/Auction
 Saturday, February 22, 2014
 Spalding Pastoral Center
 419 N.E. Madison Ave • Peoria
 Want to receive an invitation?
 Call the Development Office: 309-674-2005.



SISTER MARY ESTHER PAVICH

SEPTEMBER 11, 1919 – JANUARY 25, 2012

Adapted Remembrance given by Sister Kathleen Ann Mourisse

In
Memoriam



My connection with Sister Mary Esther goes back 57 years to kindergarten when she was my teacher at Sacred Heart School in Moline. I am sure that the good start that Sister Mary Esther gave me and her good example led me to become both a sister in the same community and a teacher like her. I saw her great love for her Pavich family as well as her love for her fellow sisters. I saw her willingness to give her all to whatever ministry she was assigned whether it be cook, teacher, catechist, tutor, secretary, visiting with the elderly, sacristan, laundress and in these last years, full-time prayer and support. She was never afraid of hard work. Sister Mary Esther did all of these ministries with joy and graciousness. She had a good sense of humor, liked to tease, and was always up for a good time. She was a wonderful example of kindness, hospitality and friendliness to all who came her way.

I share with you today a poem written for her at the time of her Golden Jubilee by her sister-in-law, Helen Pavich. (excerpt)

*She has devoted her life to others
Her talents too many to count
She has touched the lives of hundreds
No problem too great to surmount....
For fifty years it has been "Sister"
It's herself that she has given to all.
"Dear Sister we salute, as you celebrate
That day when you answered the 'Call.'"*

SISTER MARY RUTH COOPMAN

SEPTEMBER 22, 1919 – MARCH 9, 2012

Adapted Remembrance given by Sister Jacqueline Schroeder

In
Memoriam



Sister Mary Ruth spent her life squeezing out all the song and dance, laughter and joy, goodness and grace, which God's great Gift of Life offers us all. She found joy everywhere and in everything.

She truly had the heart of a child, having taught little children for most of her life in ministry. I'm sure that she learned from them as well... She helped God unstop the ears of the deaf when she played the piano for the people at St. Joseph's Home of Springfield – and for all of us. She taught children in kindergarten to move with the music ... Her parents nurtured her love for music at an early age as they encouraged her to play the accordion for Belgian gatherings in Moline.

And how she loved her family! She was so happy in the times that she shared meals with them and visited with them. She especially took pleasure in the children as they grew and enjoyed showing off her family pictures. She had a special love for her ancestral home in Belgium and the Flemish language.

But most of all, Sister Mary Ruth loved her Lord. She was not overly demonstrative or particularly "religious" in her devotion, but simple and straightforward about it. As I sat next to her in her last hours on this earth I asked her to entreat the Lord for all her dear sisters – to give us a double portion of her spirit of Joy and Gladness in the Lord.

**SISTER MARY STEPHANIE DHAENENS**

NOVEMBER 8, 1917 – JULY 17, 2012

*Adapted Remembrance given by Sister Marion Lemon***In
Memoriam**

Sister Mary Stephanie made her final vows on August 20, 1948, and was appointed house-mother for the big girls at Guardian Angel Home. Because of my family situation, it was in August of 1948 that I appeared at GAO. I was an 8th grader, a big girl and Sister Stephanie became my mother. Sister's loving, caring presence, was always there for us as we worked or played; comforting us, encouraging us, providing after-school snacks, being "mother" 24/7.

She took pride in our appearance, like a mother does... She taught us how to cook, how to decorate, how to make something beautiful out of something very simple. Through the example of her Belgian work ethic we learned responsibility, pride in work well done, and the importance of caring for others.

We all appreciated Sister's eye for beauty and her talent for decorating for holidays, feast days, birthdays, for any excuse – just to make others happy. Sister Stephanie was blessed with many talents – gifts that she joyfully shared with all of us. The list of her ministry assignments is testimony to this: cook, house-mother, housekeeper, teacher, nursing home wing supervisor, office assistant and gift shop manager. And those of us who have lived with her know that this list does not begin to include the countless ways Sister quietly performed behind-the-scenes services to help make life easier for the Sisters.

Sister Stephanie, thank you for the blessing you have been in my life!

In Memory Of...

Kindly remember in your prayers our deceased sisters, friends, and all those who have honored them with a memorial contribution during the period of January 2012 through March 2013.

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In Honor Of...

Thank you for gifts received during the period of January 2012 through March 2013, that remember special occasions and honor friends and loved ones at special times.

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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



PRINTWORTHY... 2012

March 9

Marian Stations



May 25

Pre-K closes after 70 years of
education at Heading Avenue.

May 27

Ministry at St. Philomena's School
ended. Farewell mass and reception
was held.

June 30

"Hats Off to 100 Years in
West Peoria" Garden
Party at Immaculate Con-
ception Convent. Master
Gardeners, refreshments
and a Barbershop Quartet
were enjoyed by all.



July 4

Sisters enter a float in West
Peoria's annual parade.

August 5

West Peoria Residents' Mass held
at Immaculate Conception
Convent.

September 11

Henry, IL Daughters of Isabella
potluck and check presentation for
Retirement Fund



December 2

Advent Lessons & Carols annual event at Immaculate Conception Chapel

2013

March 15

Marian Stations

Ongoing – Numerous presentations and retreats given through-
out the year by Sister Betty Jean Haverback and Sister Diane
Marie VandeVoorde

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.