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

Summer 2012

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Immaculate Conception Convent 309-674-6168

Development Office 309-674-2005

westpeoriasisters.org

Gelebrating 120th Anniversary

In 2011, we, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception, also known as the Heading Avenue Franciscans, celebrated 120 years of our founding as we continue to make God's compassionate presence known to all through our vowed life in community and ministries serving the Peoria and Springfield dioceses.



The year-long celebration began with a mass and dinner in February. Proclamations in appreciation of service were presented to the sisters

by the City of West Peoria and the Peoria County Board.

At our Volunteer Appreciation Tea in May, we celebrated with a festive birthday party.

In June, our Garden Birthday Party was held with a Master Gardeners' tour, ice cream and cake, and the Peoria Area Civic Chorale Youth Chorus.



As the 2011 Grand Marshal for the annual West Peoria 4th of July parade, we decorated our parade float with a huge birthday cake!

In August, the West Peoria Residents' Mass was held in our chapel. We prayed with and for the needs

of all our neighbors in the community. Violinists Anna and Mina Vogel performed.



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Dear Friends,

Where has the time gone? Has it been over a year since we last touched base with all of you? This issue of Franciscan Prints is well over-due.

A spiritual practice I have begun during this past year is to thank God in all circumstances. As the events of this summer unfolded, I found myself whispering, "Thank you, Jesus."

In preparing my article for this issue of Franciscan Prints, I walked down memory lane. I found those same words upon my lips, "Thank you, Jesus." I remembered the many wonderful, generous people, like you, who have touched the lives of the sisters. I fondly recalled the



Sister Paula Vasquez

three sisters who are in heaven interceding for us. I rejoiced that Sister Marcelina has lived 60 years of consecrated life with us. Sister Sarah tells us that women are interested in religious life! Sisters are rewarded for their dedication to their ministries.

For all of this, and for so much more, I find myself saying, "Thank you, Jesus. Thank you."







SISTER MARCELINA CASANDO

60-YEAR JUBILEE (1951-2011)

Ou never know how you might influence a child. Just ask Sister Marcelina Casando. She learned of the goodness of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception at a young age and in a very personal way. When Sister was in the fifth grade, her mother became sick. Sister Marcelina came to live at Guardian Angel Home, where the sisters helped lovingly raise her. God's calling to Sister Marcelina came through the kindness and generosity of these sisters. "Every day was a joyful experience of prayer, work, and recreation," she recalled. "Their way of life took a hold of my life. The sisters worked so hard, prayed, and took care of all of us kids."

Sister Marcelina made her professed vows on June 17, 1951, three years after she graduated from the Academy of Our Lady in Peoria. She went on to serve the community in

numerous ways. For 16 years, she worked as a cook at the order's convents in Henry, West Peoria, and Peru. For the last 23 years of her active ministry, she served in resident services at St. Joseph's Home in Springfield, until her retirement in 2005.

Sister Marcelina was blessed with a disposition ideal for community life. "Sister Marcelina is even tempered and is very easy to be around," said order president Sister Paula Vasquez. "She is willing to do what needs to be done and is dedicated to the task."

Sister Marcelina celebrated her 60th Jubilee in 2011. At this Mass, she renewed her vows, which, in part, state: "I most trustfully commit into the hands of God my entire self and my total unknown future, fully recognizing that fidelity to his consecration and commitment depends on the grace God gives me."

She has kept those vows well and, like the sisters at the orphanage who cared for her, has become an example of God's love to all who know her.

From the Vocation Director... Sister Sarah Elizabeth Roy

As a vocation director, the most frequent question I am asked is, "So, what does a vocation director really do?" As I began this ministry, I really didn't have a concrete answer to this question. I found myself saying, "Basically, I am a recruiter for our community." However, every time I said those words I would cringe. That is NOT what a vocation ministry is! So, what is vocation ministry?

The word vocation means "to call." Each human being has been given a particular "call" from God. Yes, that includes YOU! God writes our vocation in our heart. It is in our DNA (maybe not literally). This call is our purpose in life. This call brings us to holiness and fulfills us completely.



Vocation ministry is about helping individuals to find and follow their particular call from God. I help women to discover the purpose for which God has created them. I help women to strive for holiness and find what will fulfill them in this life. What a privilege this is! To be an instrument in God's hand for the sake of another is a true blessing!

A second question that I'm asked quite frequently is, "Well, what DO you do all day?" Each day is unique and brings its own joys and blessings. Some days I am in the office responding to inquirers, sending out information about our community, and preparing vocation talks for various audiences. Other days, I am out with our booth at a conference, giving information to interested women. Sometimes, I am visiting the various parishes throughout our diocese encouraging women to consider joining our community. I also provide live-in opportunities and retreats for women who are discerning religious life. No day is the same. I never know what adventure God has in store for me each day!

Another question that you may ask is, "Are your efforts fruitful? Are you getting new members?" The answer is YES! Several women are currently pursuing our community. We have great hope for the future of our community! We have more contacts and interest than we have ever had in the recent past. God is blessing us and giving us hope! Each day we trust that he has our future in his hands, and he will be taking good care of us.





Rolan Johnson Christmas Ornaments

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

The sisters are grateful for your purchase of these beautiful limited edition ornaments and appreciate the generosity of the underwriters and retailers. All proceeds benefit the Sisters' Retirement Fund.

2010 Ornament "SHEPHERDS"



2010 UNDERWRITERS:

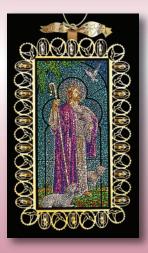
Dr. Jim & Debbie Knost, Charlie & Carol Kamm, John & Margie Wagner, Anonymous, Mary Couri & Roy Spence, Doris Van Dam, David Vaughan Investments Inc., G. Jack & Teresa A. Desatnik, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Maloney, Margaret O'Neill, Dr. John & Leigh Becker, Robert & Kathy Fortner, Tom & Denise Nudo, PNC, River City Construction, Scott & Joyce Elger, Dr. Rick & Cheryl Miller, Dr. William & Nancy Marshall

2011 Ornament "THE GOOD SHEPHERD"

2011 UNDERWRITERS:

Dr. Jim & Debbie Knost, Charlie & Carol Kamm, Anonymous, Doris Van Dam, Albert Zeller, John & Margie Wagner, Anonymous, AWSS Inc., Mary Couri & Roy Spence, David Vaughan Investments Inc., G. Jack & Teresa A. Desatnik, Kirk Doubet, Margie O'Neill, PNC, Villa Tax Advisory Group, Dr. John & Leigh Becker, Robert & Kathy Fortner, Dr. Tom & Madonna Maloney, River City Construction, Dr. Rick & Cheryl Miller, Dr. William & Nancy Marshall

The 2012 Ornament is currently in production.





MEET THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Joyce Powell

Director of Development and

Communications

Cindy Villa

Development Secretary



Joyce came to this position in September 2010. A graduate of Missouri State University, with a Masters from Kansas State University, she has over 30 years of business experience in media, marketing and public relations. Joyce lives in Peoria and attends Sacred Heart Church. When asked about her goals, Joyce said "I want to use all my talents to make a difference!"

Cindy joined the office in September 2011. She brings to this office a passion for creativity, an eye for detail and pertinent computer skills. Past experiences include printing, teaching art and design work. She lives in Morton, attends Blessed Sacrament Church and has 3 wonderful children and 5 grand-children.



Your Table is Ready Dinner/Auction



The sisters enjoying the evening.

2011 UNDERWRITERS:

Bernie and Therese' Giacabazi James Vergon Albert Zeller **OSF HealthCare Friends of the Sisters**

The "Your Table is Ready" Dinner/Auction, held each February, is a very popular event for the sisters and their friends. It is a fun evening with wonderful fellowship, good food, many exciting silent and live auction items, and unique decorations. A theme is chosen for each year's event, and guests decorate their dinner table with the theme. The 2010 dinner/auction theme was "Tell Us Your Story," and the 2011 theme was "There is a Season." The proceeds benefit the sisters' ministries.

SAVE THE DATE

"Your Table is Ready" Dinner/Auction February 23, 2013 **Spalding Pastoral Center** 419 N.E. Madison Ave • Peoria Check www.westpeoriasisters.org for updates

SISTER VIRGINIA ANN GLOGOWSKI (SISTER MARY ALICIA)

June 4, 1924 — March 10, 2011

Adapted Remembrance given by Sister Betty Jean Haverback

▼ ister Virginia Ann's loving and nurturing family of eight siblings was very important to her. She credits her mother mostly with instilling the love of God and neighbor into them. From her Polish heritage and peace-filled Catholic upbringing in Peru, Illinois, she came to the Heading Avenue Franciscans eagerly and with strong conviction to answer God's call to serve Him and His people.

She poured forth her life as an educator in eight of our diocesan schools, in three of which she served as the principal. Sister instilled the desire to learn and provided the strong base of faith in a warm and loving way through her guidance and trusting manner. Her outreach to youth even extended one summer to a girl scout camp experience.

After 30 years, Sister Virginia Ann ministered to her sisters in their retirement and the residents of St. Joseph Home for the elderly both in Peoria and Springfield. Her compassionate presence reached into the Emergency Department of St. John's Hospital in Springfield as well as the St. Francis Oncology Unit in Peoria as a crisis counselor.

In Memoriam



Sister Virginia Ann tried to meet God and face what may—trusting God to be there, loving her and helping her always to follow that first and complete commandment of loving God and neighbor.





SISTER MARY VIRGINIA BUTKOVICH

In Memoriam July 12, 1917 - March 31, 2011

Adapted Remembrance given by Sister Ann Regina Hughes



hen she enrolled in third grade in St. Mary's School, Canton, Illinois, Sister Mary Virginia "fell in love with our Sisters who by their loving interest and kindness implanted in me a desire to emulate them." In 1934, she began her long journey with the Heading Avenue Franciscans when she entered their high school for girls interested in becoming sisters.

Sister Mary Virginia taught music classes in the school and private piano lessons after school in Peru and Moline, Illinois. In 1951, Sister moved to our Motherhouse and spent 60 years dedicated to service of her fellow sisters – teaching, music, liturgy, archivist, major superior in the difficult years following the Second Vatican Council, and much more.

Always music was woven through her life – she taught generations of us as novices and in many choir practices. Music was in her blood – when singing but also playing the organ – her whole body was into the music – literally!

Sister Mary Virginia enjoyed life. She was an avid reader; appreciated discussing current topics; was Community historian; willingly participated as performer in skits when we entertained our fellow sisters on Community Fun Days. Sister was a holy and prayerful woman, recently described by a friend as "a woman of deep spirituality and elegance."

I believe she prayed and lived the prayer found on a plaque displayed in her room: God grant me serenity to start each day on a joyful note, courage to sing the song of my soul and wisdom to trust you always accompany me.

SISTER MARY PAUL MAZZORANA

In Alemoriam

DECEMBER 30, 1924 – NOVEMBER 1, 2011

Adapted from Remembrance given by Sister Mary Dries



sister Mary Paul suggested that what she had written for our community newsletter on the occasion of her 50th Jubilee be used for her eulogy. So in keeping with her wishes, these are her words:

How can one summarize 50 years of vowed commitment to God and community? I can best do so in Dag Hammarskjold's words: "For all that has been – Thanks! For all that shall be – Yes!"

Gratitude is deepest, foremost to God who called me and from whom all graces of my life have come. Thanks to my family: my mother, who let me go and assured me our home would always be open if I changed my mind; to my sister, brother, and their spouses, who encouraged my vocation. Thanks to my community for providing countless opportunities for spiritual and intellectual growth, and for challenging appointments to teaching and leadership in Moline, Pekin, Canton, the motherhouse and St. Joseph's Home, Peoria, where I served as co-admin-

istrator (for 26 years). Thanks to the sisters of my community, especially those friends and mentors whose words and example taught me the meaning of religious dedication and strengthened my perseverance.

...crisis times have required evaluation and recommitment. The result has been a deepening of my relationship with God and greater conviction that I am where God wants me. As for the future, St. Paul says it well: "I continue running toward the prize to which God calls me – life with Christ Jesus."

We know, dear sister, that on the Feast of All Saints you reached that prize your patron saint, St. Paul, spoke of – may you now enjoy forever life with Christ Jesus whom you loved and served so well.





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 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011.

2010

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Patricia Hunt

Mr. Thomas Hunt

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Catherine Tomlianovich

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Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Statler

Sister Priscilla Will

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Statler

Mary Ann Wrhel

Mr. Raymond Wrhel

2011

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Mr. and Mrs. John Bickett Mr. and Mrs. Robert Riopell Mr. John Small

Sister Mary Virginia Butkovich

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Barnes Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bullock



Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Croegaert

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Giovani

Mr. and Mrs. Blake Haverback

Mr. and Mrs. Rory Gibson

Judy Glancy

Sharon Graham

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Rose Mary Croegaert

Mr. & Mrs. William Haverback Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Croegaert

Sister Mary Luke Kapraun Christina McCasky

Michael Keyser

Mr. and Mrs. Don Castelli

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Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Mackey

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Joan Freese Delores Sierra Mr. and Mrs. John Weigandt

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In Honor Of...

Thank you for gifts received during the period of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011, that remember special occasions and honor friends and loved ones at special times.

Sister Mary Virginia Butkovich

Mrs. Theresa Mueller Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Poplette Nancy Rebeschini Janet Sepich Dr. and Mrs. Morton Weir

Sister Mary Ruth Coopman

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Sister Paula Vasquez

Dr. and Mrs. Morton Weir

2011

Mary Virginia Butkovich

Mrs. Theresa Mueller Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Poplette

Sister Anna Flanigan

Mrs. Emma Lozowski

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gainey -**40th Anniversary**

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Gillan

Dennis Gillan

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5th Prize - \$500 Joseph O'Brien, Peoria, IL

Sister Janice Receives Award

On October 10, 2010, the 5th annual Peace and Dialogue Award, was presented to Sister Janice Keenan, then a member of the pastoral staff at St. John's Catholic Newman Center in Champaign, IL. The award was presented by the Intercultural Friendship Foundation, whose



mission is to spread values of cross-cultural understanding, tolerance, respect and dialogue within a community.



2010 Honoree Msgr. Charles Beebe

Co-worker of the Year

This award is bestowed on benefactors who have generously supported and encouraged the sisters in carrying out their mission of making God's presence known in our world. During a Mass of Thanksgiving, Sister Paula Vasquez presented the award.

2011 Honoree wishes to remain anonymous

Annual Appeal

We are fully aware of how God has met our needs through you as you share your treasures and talents, and in return pray that God blesses you with all you need.

Our 2010 Annual Appeal was used to remodel bathrooms on the infirmary floor, and this work has been completed.

Our 2011 Annual Appeal was for renovation at the guest house located behind the motherhouse. Work is in progress.



Volunteer Appreciation Tea

Each spring the sisters invite volunteers to a Tea to celebrate their service. Without volunteers we could not accomplish so much in so little time. In April 2010 Jim Parrott, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, presented "How to Attract Birds to Your Yard." In May 2011, the guest speakers, Kaitlyn and Claire Geier, 10-year-old twins and creators of Backyard Talent Show in Morton, delivered "Fostering Volunteerism In Children."

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