



FRANCISCAN Prints



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

SPRING 2018

Musings from the President...

Moving Along

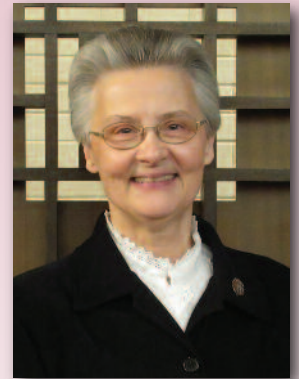
It is quite amazing to me that it has already been one year since my election on March 11, 2017. On that day I delivered a message to all of the sisters present. I invited them with these words:

“In the Letter to the Hebrews, we hear ‘faith is a realization of what is hoped for.’ Just as we hope in God as we face our unknown future, so God hopes in us. We 31 sisters are like that faithful remnant mentioned by the prophet Zephaniah, the anawim, God’s poor. The anawim are the lowly who sense their own limitations and existential poverty. The anawim trust in the Lord, and they know they can count on Him. As we look at our 126 years of ministry to God’s people, we remember and recognize how God has been with us to handle the problems that seemed too difficult to handle by ourselves. God’s compassion has been with us these 126 years and so we have been able to share that compassionate presence with others. God’s compassion is our reason for HOPE. What God has done in the past is a pledge of what He will do for us in the present and in the future. And so sisters, may God’s gifts of faith and hope guide us to daily live our religious lives with courage, compassion and connection.”

After that election day, I was given a few months to finish up my ministry at St. Boniface in Edwardsville, pack, and move to the Motherhouse in Peoria. My

installation took place on June 4th when I officially took on my new role as President. These last 10 months have been a time of transition, *letting go* and *letting come* with much new learning taking place. These transitions and *letting go* and *letting come* have not just been the task of myself and the new leadership team only, but have been the task for all Community members.

To enable our whole Community to “Move Along” we each recognize the complexity of our present world and situation. As those elected to lead, we know this task is impossible for only the five of us; we need all members to participate and contribute. We call on the creativity and commitment of all community members as we work with the issues of our present situations and plan for our future. The invitation of those final words from my election day sharings continue to be a challenge for all of us. “May God’s gifts of faith and hope guide us to daily live our religious lives with courage, compassion and connection.”



Sister Kathleen Ann Mourisse
Sister Kathleen Ann Mourisse
President

“What’s In A Name?” ... Shakespeare



Ever wonder why our Newsletter is called “Franciscan Prints” and why the sandal logos are throughout each issue? If you happened to see our inaugural issue in June of 1985, we explained that this newsletter was created as a means of sharing our lives and ministries with our families, friends, co-workers and benefactors. We follow the religious rule of St. Francis. Sandals were a common style of footwear in Francis’ time, and the word *Prints* refers to footprints as well as newsprint. As Francis tried to follow in the footprints of Christ, so too, do we.



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Sisters Enjoying Their New Kitchen!



Sister Betty Jean and Sister Linda arrange the shelves.



Sister Kathleen Ann made her famous Nut Brittle for the Dinner Auction Cookie Bags.



Sister Mary Ann and Sister Mary Barbara supervise Sister Mary Louise washing dishes.



And Construction Continues...

Unloading materials through the windows for 3rd floor bedrooms.



Framework for new bedrooms on 3rd floor.



Convent Time Capsule Opened From 1962!

A time capsule was discovered behind the cornerstone of the 1962 building and opened by Sisters Kathleen Ann and Irene Marie on March 22. Discovered were Catholic newspaper articles on the construction of the 1962 building (an estimated \$500,000 project) and brochures explaining the activities of the high school girls attending the Aspirant School at the motherhouse (a preparatory school for girls interested in entering religious life after graduation). A relic of St. Francis of Assisi and brochures portraying the sisters' ministries, as well as a list of the ministry assignments for the 145 sisters during 1960-61 and 1961-1962 were found.





2017 Festival of Nativities

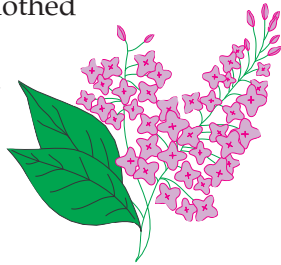
We were honored once again to have our framed Christmas Ornaments, based on the original Rolan Johnson Christmas Cards, featured at this festival during the first weekend in December. It is always such an inspiring display! Once our construction is finished, they will always be on display here at the convent.



Meditation Moment

Reflections by Sr. Linda Burkitt, OSF

Spring is a special season in my life. For me, it is a reflection of life springing anew. It begins with Our Lord's Resurrection at Easter - His promise of new life. This (God's gift) spreads through all of creation. My eyes are open to new life: buds flowering, trees being clothed with new leaves, the earth covered in a blanket of green, birds singing their praises to God, and squirrels scampering here and there. Yes, spring touches my heart and awakens me to pause in Gratitude to God.



"For, lo, the winter is past...
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of the singing of birds
is come..."

Song of Solomon 2: 11-12

Pray as the sisters pray...

excerpts from...

The Canticle of Brother Sun

written by St. Francis of Assisi

All praise be yours, my Lord
Through all that you made
And first my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day;
And light You give to us through him.

How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

All praise be yours, my Lord,
Through Sister Moon and Stars;
In the heavens You have made them,
Bright and precious and fair.

All praise be yours, my Lord,
Through Brothers Wind and Air,
And fair and stormy, all the weather's moods,
By which You cherish all that You have made.

All praise be yours, my Lord,
Through Sister Water,
So useful, lowly, precious, and pure.

All praise be yours, my Lord,
Through Sister Earth, our mother,
Who feeds us in her sovereignty and
Produces various fruits with
Colored flowers and herbs.

Praise and bless my Lord,
And give Him thanks,
And serve Him with great humility. Amen.



“Your Table is Ready” Dinner Auction 2018



Our Dinner Auction is one of the most popular fundraising events of the year for the sisters and their friends. The *Oldies but Goodies* theme filled the room February 24 at the Spalding Pastoral Center from table décor to Elvis! Proceeds benefit the sisters’ ministries.



Happy Faces ~ Fun Times!



SAVE THE DATE
February 23, 2019
Dinner Auction

Happy Retirement, Joyce Powell!

Serving as Development Director since the fall of 2010, Joyce has served the sisters through: nine Ornament Productions and Unveilings; eleven PRINTS Newsletters; nine Annual Appeals; eight Dinner Auctions; two Garden Parties; numerous Volunteer functions, mailings and ornament checking; marketing; Bless Your Heart Raffles; office and storeroom moves; council reports; meetings; traveling research; Avanti’s lunches; laughter; tears; and many, many friendships new and old.

Please join with us in wishing Joyce and her husband, Jim, the very best!!



We pray for you and your loved ones each day with gratitude for your friendship and support. If you choose to send a tax-deductible gift, please use the enclosed remittance envelope. Most importantly, pray for us as we pray for you.



In Memory Of... Kindly remember in your prayers our deceased sisters, friends, and those who have honored them with a memorial contribution October 1, 2017 - March 31, 2108.

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In Honor Of...

Thank you for gifts that remember special occasions and honor friends and loved ones at special times received October 1, 2017 - March 31, 2108.

We regret any errors and omissions. Please notify the Development Office if your name is not listed correctly.

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PrintWorthy...



Sister Jean Marie Ciuffini and Sister Holly Marie Schultz sell Rolan Johnson Christmas Ornaments at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Morton, November 2017.

Our patrons are so clever in displaying their collections of Rolan Johnson Ornaments! Here is one from Jean Pillion in Henry, IL. Show us yours! Email to development@westpeoriasisters.org



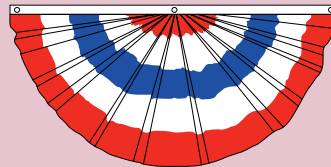
Complete Collections of Ornaments available 1995-2017.

If you have Rolan Johnson Original Christmas Cards or Ornaments and would like to donate to the sisters, call 309-674-2005, like Earl & Carina Stotler who "found a home" for theirs!

2017 Rolan Johnson Ornaments still available for \$34. Call Development at 309-674-2005 or pick up at the convent.



Watch for the sisters in the Annual West Peoria 4th of July Parade again!



All Are Welcome!!

to the West Peoria Residents Mass at Immaculate Conception Convent
~ **Sunday, August 5, 2018** ~
10:30 am
Refreshments following

New VOLUNTEERS are always welcome to help with mailings and ornament checking! Call the Development Dept. at 309-674-2005 to be added to our list.



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.