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FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART • FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS

www.fssh.com

Learn About One of our Many "Works of Neighborly Love" ...

Nursing



Sister Mary-Lynn Danaher's journey to the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred began in Libya in North Africa when she saw an ad for the community in the Sunday Visitor. She wrote to Sister Agreda and carried on a correspondence until she finished high school and entered the congregation. She had 14 classmates, and Sister Mary-Lynn appreciated their support. Her mother was a nurse, so she had a good example to follow. Sister had her LPN training at St. Mary in LaSalle, IL. She helped at the infirmary at the

Motherhouse. She later spent 10 happy years at Sacred Heart Home in Avilla, IN. She has good memories of the Sisters there and the time she spent helping in the garden. The bounty of her labor graced the tables of the residents. In 1981, Sister moved to Joliet to minister at Villa Franciscan, previously called Family Tree. She went to Joliet Junior College and became an R.N. After her time there, she began her current position at Provena St. Joseph Medical Center in 1994. She became a surgical nurse. Sister Mary-Lynn now calls upon her years of experience to help orient new nurses to the hospital. She works the 3-11 shift. She takes blood, helps the aides, speaks with doctors and does anything else that can happen unexpectedly in the healthcare field. She also plays the organ for the Mass in the hospital chapel.

Her mother's faith and profession influenced Sister Mary-Lynn's choice of ministry. To help those who are sick and be present to their needs are two reasons she felt called to nursing. She also has a strong admiration for Mother Teresa whose deep reverence for each

person inspired her. The other nursing Sisters provided additional role models.

Prayer has a prominent place in her ministry. Before her shift, Sister prays for the patients to whom she will minister. When praying the Stations of the Cross, she is particularly attuned to the Station where Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

Veronica's example of compassion relates to Sister's ministry. Also, when Jesus falls the third time, she thinks of those who face addictions because they too cannot get up by themselves. The most rewarding part of her ministry involves prayer. She prays that patients may have successful surgeries. She touches those in pain. Also, she is privileged to pray with those who are at heaven's doorstep. Sister Mary-Lynn also adds "God bless you" to her conversations. A favorite Scripture passage is Matthew 25:40: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" and for patients. Another favorite passage is found in Luke: "And I tell you, ask and you will receive". Sister pointed out that a new section of the hospital has Scripture passages written on the walls of the hallways. This is one way to have the Word of God be visible. Sister's prayers, warmth and compassion are gifts to her patients.



Sister Mary Lynn at Provena St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.



Fraternitas
 BROTHERS & SISTERS BONDED
 BY THE LOVE OF JESUS

Sister Acts

FRATERNITAS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the Fraternitas Committee thank you for your support of our 2011 Fraternitas!

Whether you were in attendance, made a donation or purchased a raffle ticket, your support made the evening a great success!

Gerry Guzaitis - Director of Development



Joyce Hutten, Sr. Phyllis Pitz, Rita Schmidt, Bob & Karen Meyers, Jim & Marie Petges, Fr. Ed Poff, Kathy Wilhelm, Rev James Lennon



John & Rosemary Amberg, Therese Besse, Fr. Godwin, Beverly Regalado, Jim & Rose Sharples, Fr. Greg Skowron, Fr. Miro Stepien, Rose Weinberg



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Sr. Dominic Dybel, Jill Dybel, Geri Dybel, Gayle Dybel, Laura McHugh, Sr. Josephine Mulcahey, Sr. Frances Therese Ortega, Sr. Mary Flora Papesch, Richard Segally, Denise Tonkovic



Committee members Lori Martin and Colleen Steck



Sisters & Gerry Guzaitis sing "I Will Follow Him"



Chris Glatz and her Mom



The crowd responds enthusiastically to the Live Appeal.



Beth and Donald Hughes

Congratulations to Sister Sue Bruno... the winner of our TV raffle!



Sr. Norma Janssen, Sr. Sue Bruno and Sr. Lourdes Boyer



Sister M. Elizabeth Wlezien
July 7, 1924 — August 17, 2011

Sister Elizabeth was born in Mundelein, IL. Sister entered the Postulancy in 1943 and made final profession in 1949. After profession, Sister entered Nurses Training at St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet, IL and three years later ministered as a Registered Nurse. During the following years, she was the Obstetrics Supervisor at both Sacred Heart Hospital, Garrett, IN and St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet. Subsequently, she ministered at St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin, IL as the Supervisor of OB and Pediatrics and later as Receptionist in the Regional Cancer Center. In 1977 her dream of being a missionary became a reality when she was commissioned to work in Brazil. When she returned in 1984, she ministered in our infirmary at St. Francis Woods for more than 3 years and then went to St. Francis Medical Center in Santa Barbara, CA where she was a part-time Receptionist and part-time Dietary Assistant. She was very committed to daily praying for peace in the world. When praying the Stations of the Cross, her prayer at the twelfth station, Jesus Dies on the Cross, was always one of thanksgiving and blessings for our community. In fact she called this station, her station. It was in 2002 that Sister retired to St. Francis Woods. During her more than 50 years of active ministry, she was known for her kindness, friendliness, sense of humor and willingness to do almost anything. Sister once reflected on how very grateful she was for all of her ministry experiences - "God has been so good to me, and I thank my community and family for their support and prayers for me..."

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the Sisters memorialized on this page.

Our Community will deeply miss our Sisters, but we are happy to know that they are now at peace in their Heavenly Home.



Sr. M. Barbara Ann Raderstorf
May 19, 1918 — September 24, 2011

Sister Barbara Ann was born in Swan, Indiana. She became acquainted with the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart when her big sister Rosanna entered the community. At the age of 16, Barbara Ann followed in her sister's footsteps and entered the Postulancy in 1934 and made final profession in 1940. After profession, Sister began her many years of domestic service at Sacred Heart Home, Avilla, Indiana and she felt privileged to spend a total of 18 years there. In 1982 there was a need for her special skills at the Portiuncula Center for Prayer at St. Francis Woods. Sister willingly responded to this call, which resulted in almost 27 years of "creating a welcoming spirit" for the many guests who passed through the doors of the retreat center. She said that her greatest joy was to watch the retreatants mellow as the Spirit softened their hearts during their time at the PORT.

During her 72 years of active ministry, Sister Barbara Ann arose early each morning to "simply work for the Lord." She would often say that "the pay was good" and delighted in the fact that she "even got a vacation." It was in 2009 that health needs required Sister to move into full retirement at the Motherhouse. Once when reminiscing, Sister Barbara Ann said, "I have loved my life, every single day; and when I get to heaven, I will tell God that I tried every day-well, most of the time!"

Ensure the future of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart & their many "Works of Neighborly Love" through planned giving.

- Bequests in Wills & Living Trusts
- Gifts of Life Insurance
- Gifts of Real Estate
- Gifts of Securities

For more information, contact
Gerry Guzaitis, Director of
Development at 815.464.3864.

2011 Donor Appreciation Mass & Reception

Our Annual Donor Mass and picnic were held on Sunday, August 7. Father Larry Gorski was the celebrant with Dale & Lois Nugent participating in the offertory procession. At the reception afterwards, Sisters were able to socialize with supporters and friends.



A SISTER'S PERSPECTIVE



Sr. Cristina Soyao made First Vows as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart, on August 6th, 2011.

"Is It Worth the Wait?"

As I reflect on my journey I remember the question I asked myself frequently at the very beginning. That question was, "How much longer before I can make my vows?" When I entered, I felt I was ready to take on the world, to serve the poor and to love the unlovable. This is what I thought was the only thing I needed to live the Gospel. However, during my formation I realized there was more to learn, and one of the most important values I learned was the value of waiting. And I can tell you today that the wait was well worth it.

I started my journey afraid of the WHAT IF's. What if it is not for me? What if the community decides that I am not really called to be a part of them? What if... Do all these things really matter when God calls you by name? I had lots of questions, along with my "what if's." I was advised to take this journey one day at a time, not to set my heart too much into the future, but live and pray for today. That is exactly what I did.

During this time of waiting, study, prayer, and ministry, I learned more things about myself, my faith, Franciscan values, our community and my relationship with God. Some of my most unforgettable experiences were in St. Louis as I participated in the Franciscan Common Novitiate for 9 months. I was tried and probed as well as blessed with the spirit of understanding and gratitude. I learned that community living is not always easy, but we make an effort to listen to one another and to live in harmony with our many differences. We all share a common goal that is to be a living witness of God's goodness to the people of God and to one another. I learned to trust that what we do and who we are is God's work. It is amazing the transformation that can happen when we open our hearts to the movement of the Spirit in our life.

As time went by, my waiting became a longing to become more and more that person that God truly made me to be. My heart changed from a WHAT IF to just BEING.

It was more fun that way. I learned to enjoy each moment and each person that God placed in my life. I learned to appreciate my formation directors, who patiently listened and guided me in my journey, along with my classmates who helped me and experienced my journey with me. I have realized God's presence in each situation that I encountered. The greatest transformation for me was my relationship with God in all of Creation.

When the day of my First Profession came, my heart was ready, not for the big day but for the newness that is to come. Our constitution states, "Having the intention of observing them always, and realizing our need for continual conversion, we say with St. Francis, "Let us begin." I am looking forward to this new beginning which has already begun. I look forward to embracing each and every day with my new knowledge, the value of waiting, and my sense of anticipation of newness to come.

I now have settled into the town of Morris, Illinois, where I live in community with Sr. Debrah. As a licensed Physical Therapist Assistant, I work for Provena Home Health visiting clients at home helping them get back on their feet. Everything is new to me, my job, my clients, the house, the people, the parish, the neighborhood, but the living out of my vows is not exactly new to me. During my years of formation as I learned about these sacred vows, I felt that I already was living them out in my heart.

So was this all worth the wait? Absolutely! Without a doubt! So if you hear God's gentle voice calling you, listen and pray about it. Answer God, "Here I am, Lord, I have come to do your will." It is worth the wait.

Our Efforts to End Human Trafficking

WRITTEN BY SISTER DEBRAH FUNFSINN



Human Trafficking is an ongoing issue that we, the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart and our Associates, have been feverishly addressing for more than a year. Recently we've joined the National Call-In day to Pass Trafficking Victims

Protection Act on Sept. 8. We were outraged at the treatment and the inhuman conditions of students from abroad who came to work in the Pennsylvania factories. A petition was signed to stop injustices, not only for the students, but also for the local workers in the Hershey Factory in Pennsylvania. Also, every member of Community took a stance and signed a commitment last August to refrain from purchasing Hershey's chocolates because of their Human Trafficking business in obtaining the cocoa beans. Sadly, they treat the children inhumanly as they force them to harvest the cocoa beans for them.

JCPenney was also targeted by our Community because it didn't keep its promise to the families of factory workers who lost their lives in a factory fire making clothes for JCPenney.

For those readers who have not heard much about Human Trafficking, here are some tragic truths about the realities of human trafficking:

- Human Trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world.
- Human Trafficking is the second largest criminal enterprise in the world.
- There are an estimated 27 million people trapped in slavery at this moment.
- There are an estimated 13 million children trapped in slavery at this moment.
- The average cost of a slave around the world is \$90.
- According to some estimates, approximately 80% of trafficking involves sexual exploitation, and 19% involves labor exploitation.
- Around half of trafficking victims in the world are under the age of 18.

Combating human trafficking is a daunting task; but as followers of Christ and His gospel, we cannot turn our backs on them. There are 27 million people counting on us.

If you are interested in more information about Human Trafficking go to www.humantrafficking.com.

Update from the Vocation Office



"SPIRIT OF ASSISI" DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

In Assisi, Italy 25 years ago (October 27, 1986) Blessed Pope John Paul II brought together religious leaders from around the world to pray for peace. This meeting, the "Spirit of Assisi," permitted those attending to bear witness to an authentic experience of God according to each one's religion. Today, we celebrate the Spirit of Assisi as a model for unity towards healing our broken world. On October 27, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI will once again convene a Day of Prayer for World Peace in Assisi that includes leaders of the world's religions. Our very own Sister Mary Elizabeth Imler will be participating in this ecumenical event. Meanwhile, the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart are collaborating with other Franciscans in the Joliet area to host an ecumenical interfaith service at the Rialto Theater in downtown Joliet on October 27.



"WOMEN & SPIRIT: Catholic Sisters in America" is a traveling exhibit sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in association with Cincinnati Museum Center. It reveals the mystery behind a small group of innovative American women who helped shape the nation's social and cultural landscape. You can see this exhibit now through December 31 at the Center for History in association with the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana. Visit www.centerforhistory.org for details.



Additional Opportunity for Giving

*Please consider making the
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
a charitable beneficiary in your will...*



After you have carefully reviewed your will and are comfortable with meeting the financial needs of your family and loved ones, you may want to review your charitable giving. Those organizations and causes that you are supporting today will be honored to be remembered in your

will. A bequest to the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart can be made in the form of a specific dollar amount or a fixed percentage of your estate (the remainder – that which is left – after providing for all other beneficiaries).

For more information about how to set up a bequest or a trust and becoming a member of our "Franciscan Legacy" group, please contact Gerry Guzaitis, Director of Development at 815-464-3882.

The Perfect Christmas Gift... All Occasion Greeting Cards



10 Card Variety Pack
\$15.00
plus \$2.50 shipping & handling



The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart are now selling greeting cards that were specially designed for them. These beautiful cards feature original carvings created by Kay Francis Berger, OSF, Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, currently on display at St. Francis Woods.

Each card represents one of St. Francis' "Canticle of the Creatures" and includes a variety of greetings fitting for any occasion - Happy Birthday, Get Well Soon, Sympathy, Thank You and more. The cards are being sold individually for \$1.75 each and in a variety pack - 10 cards for \$15.00. Mass cards are also being sold separately for \$12.00 each. For more information, please call Gerry Guzaitis at 815-464-3882.

Why not stock up on greeting cards & support the Sisters at the same time?



FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART
Office of Congregational Advancement
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*You can now make donations through
our website: www.fssh.net*

SAVE THIS DATE • SAVE THIS DATE • SAVE THIS DATE • SAVE THIS DATE

Beggar's Buffet



Saturday, December 3

6:00 pm

St. Francis Woods

\$25 Per Person

Co-FRANCISCAN NEWS

Please change my address. (Attach old label, indicate corrected address on the lines below and return to FSSH.)

Please add the following name/names to the Co-Franciscan News mailing list.

PORTIUNCULA CENTER FOR PRAYER

Please add my name to the mailing list for retreat and program schedules.

ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

Please send additional information.

VOCATIONS, NEW MEMBERSHIP

Please send additional information.

Local restaurants big and small will be donating soup for this very special evening. Guests will visit a variety of soup stations to try different soups and then vote for their favorite. Winner will be announced at the end of the evening.