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FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART • FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS

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

## Bereavement



Since 2002, Sister Diane Martin has been the Religious Services Coordinator at the Archdiocese of Los Angeles' Queen of Heaven Cemetery and Mausoleum. In this role, she not only directs families in planning funeral services but also provides spiritual and emotional support to family members. Sister Diane also assesses each family's bereavement needs to make appropriate referrals and conducts follow-up as needed. Sister's ministry does not only have her helping families who have lost a loved one. She also assists in overseeing the

daily operations of the mausoleum building. Her role at the cemetery keeps her busy. Just recently in one week she coordinated eleven different funeral services.

Sister Diane is the first one to admit that she never thought she would end up in a position like this. Back in 1957, she joined the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education from St. Xavier College, Chicago. She was a primary grade school teacher for 28 years in Indiana, Illinois and California. In 1987, she went to California to serve as chaplain at Hollywood Presbyterian/Queen of Angels Medical Center. It was in this position that she found her calling in bereavement care. "I didn't look for this role," she states. "It was served to me." Serving as the hospital's chaplain prepared her for the 2002 move to Queen of Heaven Cemetery and Mausoleum.

Queen of Heaven Cemetery in California includes over one hundred acres with seventy acres still undeveloped. The site is located on rolling hills providing scenic views of the surrounding San Gabriel Mountains and Valley. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles states that their Catholic Cemeteries are an extension of the church community. "They are a sacred testament to our

belief in the resurrection of the body: holy places for prayer and consolation. They serve our parishes in ministering corporal and spiritual works of mercy: burying our deceased Catholic brethren and their family members, comforting the sorrowful, and praying for the living and the dead with all attendant rites of the Roman Catholic Church."

Sister Diane's current ministry is to be a supportive presence to families in their time of grieving for a loved one. In her capacity as the cemetery's Religious Services Coordinator, she is ever mindful of the Church's mission to treat those who mourn with compassion and the departed with reverence. "I've learned to listen," she explains. "I also end up doing a lot of hugging, too. I always make it a point to let families know they are on the right track and tell them they've done well. Many times I'll comment on remarks made during the eulogy and tell them that their family member would have been proud."

Assisting families in funeral ritual preparation and being a supportive presence to families in grief takes a special person, and Sister Diane's calming presence makes her the right person for this task. "I really enjoy what I do," she says. When asked if there is a certain scripture reading that inspires her work, she responds, "In Revelation 21, God says 'Behold, I am making all things new.' I like to refer to that phrase especially if families lost a

loved one due to old age or illness. I remind them that if their loved one was very old or sick, God will make them new. It gives them a sense of peace." We are very proud of Sister Diane Martin and thank her for being an inspiring example of FSSH's mission of doing "works of neighborly love."



Queen of Heaven Cemetery was dedicated in 1959 and is located in Rowland Heights, California.

# Celebrating our 2011 Jubilarians

Looking at the prism of each Sister's life as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart, we see the light of God shining through each in so many ways.



## 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**SR. AGNES KULAS**

Sister Agnes is a woman of diverse talents. As a prism reflecting God's goodness, Sister Agnes graciously cared for the domestic needs of the teaching Sisters at St. Mary Convent in Avilla, IN, and Sacred Heart Convent in Springfield, IL. She also lovingly served at St. Vincent Orphanage in Freeport, IL, as a housemother to 30 high school girls. Seeing that each child was accepted, cared for, and loved in her own uniqueness was not an easy task; but, with the grace of God, Sister succeeded in creating an atmosphere where these qualities could be nurtured. Sister also ministered at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House in Mundelein, IL, where she had a special place in her heart for priests, treating them with great respect and reverence as did St. Francis. For many years Sister Agnes was at St. Anne's Maternity Home in Los Angeles, California where she cared for young girls as "dorm mother" and then became the welcoming, gentle receptionist at the front desk. Now, retired and living at the Motherhouse, Sister Agnes continues to be a reflection and extension of God's own hospitality to all she meets.



## 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**SR. MARCELLITA WELER**

Sister entered the convent at the age of 19 and, following Novitiate and First Profession, was assigned to be the housekeeper for the Bishop of Rockford, IL. She went on from there to serve as a meticulous housekeeper and superb cook to the Sisters on many of our school missions and the priests and seminarians at the Stritch Retreat House, St. Mary of the Lake Seminary and Villa in Mundelein, IL. In all she did she reflected the love of God with her warm, winning smile - a smile that uplifted the hearts of those with whom she lived and worked. She is known for her kindness, cheerfulness and generous spirit in helping with whatever tasks need to be done. These qualities are still very evident in her retirement days at the Woods.



## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**SISTER ELAINE TEDERS**

At the tender age of 13 God's light drew Elaine to journey to Mokena, IL, to become an aspirant and attend Sacred Heart High School. After graduating from St. Xavier College, Chicago, IL, Sister was missioned to Mundelein, IL, where she taught 1st and 2nd grades and then became principal, superior and CCD director. She subsequently ministered as principal at St. Joseph School, Garrett, IN; St. Charles School, Fort Wayne, IN; and St. Mary School, Park Forest, IL. When called into community leadership she served two terms on the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart leadership team and for many years as General Secretary. God's light shines through Sr. Elaine in her love, respect, understanding and warmth as she mentors and companions many students, teachers, Associates and Sisters in formation.



## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**SR. KATHLEEN ANNE COPP**

Sister Kathleen Anne grew up in Detroit, MI, bordered by both Jewish neighbors and a rich Catholic parish life-- learning tolerance of others. An ad in the Sunday Visitor compelled her to leave home to follow her vocational call. She came to our community as an aspirant, followed by entrance into the initial formation program, continuing on to Profession of Vows. Kathleen Anne's ministries include teaching elementary students at St. Mary School, Mundelein, IL, and St. Charles School, Fort Wayne, IN. Later she taught high school at Bishop Luers in Fort Wayne, IN. Ever open to new things, she co-directed the Portiuncula Center for Prayer at St. Francis Woods, seeking to reflect God's love to others through retreats. Some years later, Sister journeyed to Brazil where she was involved in formation ministry. She presently directs the Franciscan International Study Centre in Canterbury, England where she also works on her doctoral degree in Franciscan Formation.



## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**SR. GENEVIEVE RAUPP**

Sister Genevieve was born in Evanston, IL, where her parents operated dairy farms and her strong work ethic is a reflection of that reality. In 1971 she answered God's call and entered our congregation. Her ministry has always been teaching. She taught elementary students at St. Charles School, Fort Wayne, IN, and St. Michael School, Schererville, IN, and was principal at St. Joseph School, Dyer, IN, and St. Joseph School, Lockport, IL. Presently she is the assistant principal at St. Charles School in Fort Wayne, IN, a position she has had for over 20 years. In all she does Sister Genevieve continues to teach, for once a teacher, always a teacher. Her light shines through her patient, detailed explanations, and her willingness to be of assistance is always in evidence.



Guests enjoyed this year's "Wizard of Oz" theme.

### Congratulations to this year's Reverse Raffle Winners...

\$2,500 Winner... Mr. Jim Miller

\$1,000 Winner... Mrs. Marilyn Kurtz

\$500 Winner... Bill & Karen Conroy



Sr. Judith Plumb & "Dorothy" - Sr. Kim Wolf



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.

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.



Sister M. Dominica Scygiel  
July 1, 1923 — October 5, 2010

Sister Dominica was born in Three Oaks, Michigan. In 1945 at the age of 22 she entered the Postulancy of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart. She made her profession of Final Vows in 1951. Sister received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, and her Master of Science Degree in Speech Pathology from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For 20 years, she taught in elementary schools in Illinois, Indiana and California. After leaving the teaching ministry, she continued to teach in her role as Speech Pathologist at St. Joseph Hospital, Joliet, IL. In this capacity, she patiently and compassionately reached out to those with serious speech impediments for 13 years. Always eager to learn, Sr. Dominica even studied sign language so she could prepare deaf students to receive the sacraments. She also ministered in Pastoral Care and then as a Receptionist at Provena St. Joseph Medical Center, Joliet, IL. In 2005, because of failing health, Sister Dominica retired to St. Francis Woods. On her 60th jubilee, she was asked to share her vocation story - "Sharing my life with the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart has been among the most rewarding aspects of my religious life."



Sister M. Sylvianne Mattern  
July 6, 1916 — January 21, 2011

Sister Sylvianne Mattern was born in Henry, IL. When she was 25, she entered the Postulancy in Joliet. She was received into the Novitiate in 1942, made her first profession of vows in 1944 and her perpetual profession in 1947. Sister began her ministry in 1944 at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Danville, IL, where she served for 12 years in the business office. Then California became her home serving six years at St. Joseph Hospital in San Francisco, California and then 24 years at St. Francis Medical Center, Santa Barbara. There she assumed the role of administrator and will be long remembered for her many building and renovation projects there. In fact, someone once asked her, "Why don't you quit building and go smell the roses?" Sister proudly replied, "Oh, I smell the roses, and I build, too." Even after she retired to St. Francis Woods, Frankfort, IL in 1989, she continued grant writing and on several occasions returned to St. Francis Medical Center to help with fundraising activities. At her 60th jubilee, Sister remarked that the greatest inheritances she received from religious life were prayer and community. Her advice to others was to be honest and to make your needs known.

## Recognizing the Accomplishments of our Sisters...



At the Franciscan Federation Conference Banquet this July, we will be celebrating Sister Marilyn Ellert and her exemplification through her religious life of "Becoming a Sacred Flame." Those recommending Sister Marilyn highlighted her:

- enthusiasm for our Franciscan way of life and our community and deep love of God
- openness to the needs around her and unfailing willingness to go where needed
- living out of our charism as a sister "joyous and poor doing the works of neighborly love"
- passion and commitment to ministry - as a teacher she was a "light" for children and adults, in her vocation ministry she companioned many in finding how best to serve God and as pastoral associate she is available and responsive to all
- acceptance of her illness which empowers and inspires others
- trust in Divine Providence
- positive, never-give-up attitude and joy which are an inspiration to all



Sister Marilyn Ellert  
2011 Franciscan  
Federation Honoree

Recent survey trends indicate that Religious life continues to attract women and men who do end up joining a community. Search for a more meaningful life, prayer and community are high in their priorities. However, the survey also indicated that families are perhaps the biggest obstacle in the discernment process. One of our goals is to collaborate with others to foster a vocation culture in which we help young people respond to God's call in their life. If you know a young person who is active in the church, prayerful, generous and friendly, perhaps you can encourage them to think of religious life and priesthood as an option for their future. For more information on Vocation trends, visit [www.vocation-network.org](http://www.vocation-network.org).



At our April "Come and See Weekend", our women inquirers had the opportunity to learn about several things: our Baptismal call, Franciscan spirituality, the story, mission and vision of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and tools for discerning God's call in their life. There was also time for prayer and fun time with the Sisters.

Our Sisters trust that God continues to call young people to religious life. We invite you to help us pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into the field. We are here to help you explore whether religious life is for you. Email us at [fsshvocations@aol.com](mailto:fsshvocations@aol.com) or call Sr. Nancy Roberta Schramm 815-464-3848, Sr. Lovina Francis Pammit 815-464-3873 (Facebook ID "SrLovina"). Check out the "Vocations" page on our website [www.fssh.com](http://www.fssh.com).



FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART  
 Office of Congregational Advancement  
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*Our website has a brand new look!  
 Check out [www.fssh.net](http://www.fssh.net).*

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

**Sister Acts**  
 FRATERNITAS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
**Sunday, September 18, 2011**

**5 TO 9 PM • \$80/PERSON • ODYSSEY COUNTRY CLUB, TINLEY PARK**

*The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart will host their 10th annual Fraternitas fundraiser. This year, we will be reflecting on all the Sister's "acts" of neighborly love. Please join us for an exciting evening that includes dinner, a variety of auction items, and raffles. For more information, call 815-464-3882.*

**ATTENTION ALL BARGAIN SHOPPERS...**  
**FSSH Annual Garage Sale • September 9 & 10, September 30 & October 1**

**CO-FRANCISCAN NEWS**  
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