

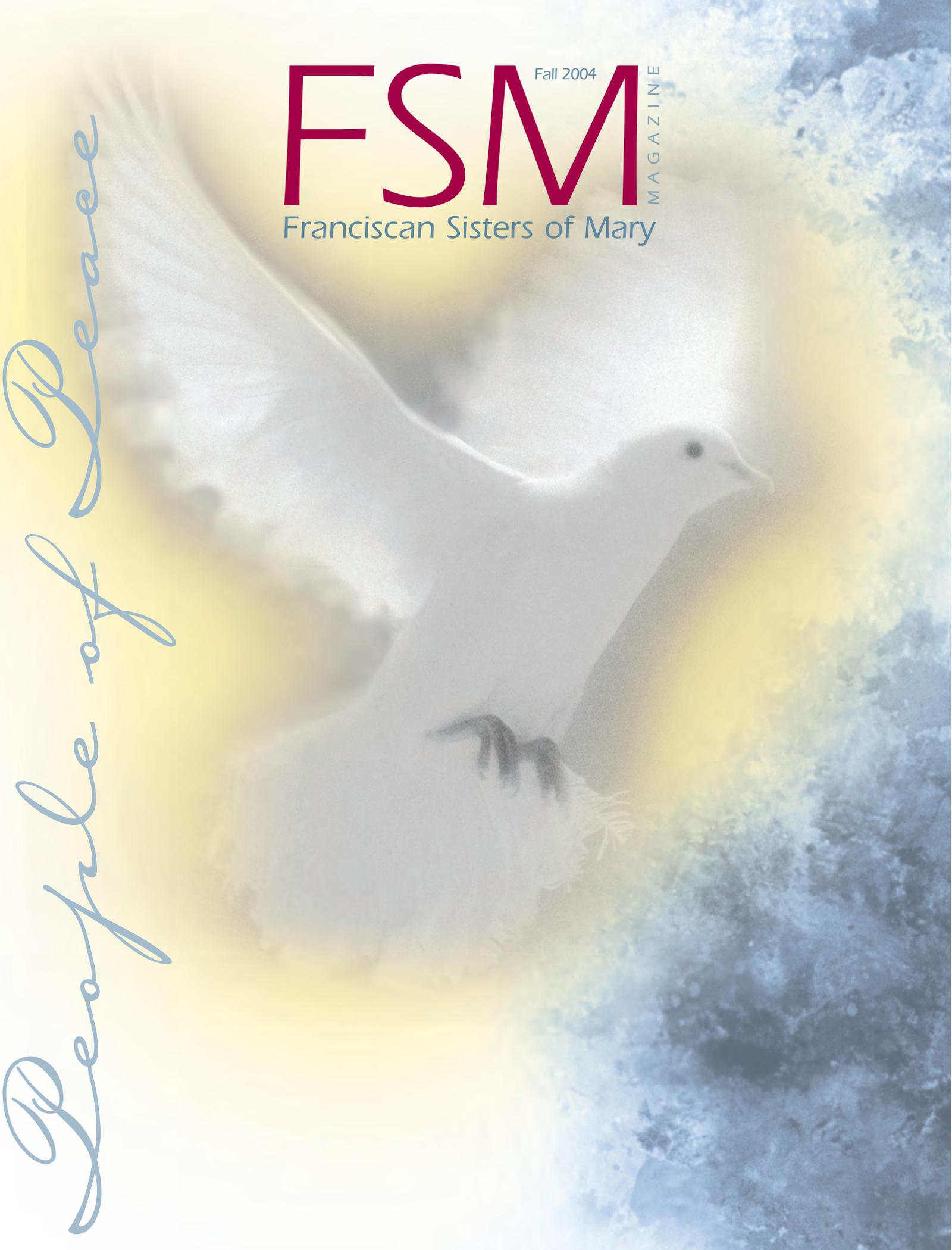
People of Peace

F S M

Fall 2004

MAGAZINE

Franciscan Sisters of Mary




 he reunited
 Franciscan Sisters of
 Mary is a religious congregation
 of women within the Roman
 Catholic Church. Founded in
 1872, the Franciscan Sisters of
 Mary sponsor the following
 ministries: SSM Health Care,
 Almost Home, Woman's Place
 (St. Louis); co-sponsor Holy
 Family Services (Weslaco, TX),
 and collaborate with four other
 religious congregations of
 women in The Sarah
 Community.

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Message From Jacqueline Motzel, FSM, President Franciscan Sisters of Mary



Dear Friends:



The human heart holds great potential for love, vitality and, yes, even violence. Centuries ago, the prophet Jeremiah penned the words we read today in the Hebrew scriptures: *More tortuous than all else is the human heart, beyond remedy; who can understand it?* Assuredly we are all familiar with the twists, turns and tumbles we describe from time to time, and attribute to our hearts.

Looking around the world, few of us would dispute the prominence of violence. It enters our home through common everyday ways we easily take for granted – TV, radio, newspaper. Outside our home, violence is seen in neighborhoods, schools and shopping centers; it further permeates our nation and even countries beyond our own.

In short, violence grips our world like a closed fist ready to strike at the slightest provocation. Certainly, from time to time, we have all experienced being caught in its tendrils.

To our benefit, there is an alternate way of responding to challenging relational situations. It is the way made possible by Jesus Christ – the way of nonviolent peacemaking. People, like Francis of Assisi, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Teresa of Calcutta, embodied this nonviolent spirit, and gave it visibility through the consistency of their words and actions. The worldwide peace movement we witness today is another example of people longing to replace the madness of violence with the compassion of nonviolence. The movement is open to every person who wishes to participate. Its opportunities are endless and its involvements rewarding.

This year celebrates the 10-year anniversary of our congregational Declaration of Nonviolence. In this magazine, we happily share with you the diverse ways our sisters embody nonviolent peacemaking in their lives and ministry. The deepest desires of our sisterhood are reflected in this declaration. Its message calls to us today with as much vibrancy and relevance as when it was written a decade ago. For us, it is a living word, and it is our privilege to share it with you.

Peace and All Good,

Jacqueline Motzel, FSM

Peace Making

We pledge to be
people of nonviolence
PEOPLE OF PEACE

*"In Germany, they first came for the communists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.*

*Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.*

*Then they came for me -
but by that time there was no one left to speak up."*

(Pastor Martin Niemöller, a committed churchman and pacifist,
who spoke out against the Nazis during World War II)

“Each person is created in the image and likeness of God and that makes each person beautiful,” says Inez Kennedy, FSM. “If we would only strive to live justly with one another, and treat each other with respect; one voice would not be louder than that of another, one person would not be superior to another, one country would not be more powerful than another.”

“And we would live in peace.”

“It might sound almost simplistic, but we cannot have peace without justice,” adds Jacinta Elmendorf, FSM. “It is essential that each of us strive to be peacemakers.”

Through its Justice Ministry, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary seek to creatively advocate for promoting peace and justice, and for giving more effective witness to nonviolence in our society.

The FSM Declaration of Nonviolence is recognized as the congregation’s corporate stance. This year the FSM celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Declaration’s inception.

live in peace

Franciscan Sisters of Mary

Declaration of Nonviolence

We, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, live the gospel call to love one another, choosing to be the compassionate, healing presence of Jesus to all, in recognition of the dignity afforded the children of God. We value the sacredness of life and respect the dignity and freedom of each person.

We accept the challenge of the poor calling us to conversion, service and solidarity; we choose an option for the poor knowing full well it requires changes in unjust political, economic and social structure.

We dedicate ourselves to heal the wounded and make decisions in light of what our choices will do to, for and with our brothers and sisters who are poor and marginalized, especially women and children.

We respect, appreciate and live in harmony with creation and direct our actions to preserve the earth.

We further commit ourselves to take corporate and public stands to effect systemic change for the common good based upon our deeply held belief that love of neighbor and justice cannot be separated.

We join and support others who are working for peace and justice.

We commit ourselves to:

- promote the sacredness of life through all its stages and expressions;*
- support legislation to curtail the availability of weapons;*
- oppose military aggression and the continued build-up of nuclear weapons and promote economic conversion;*
- support legislation and other advocacy efforts which provide protection, safety, financial assistance to survivors of domestic violence and child abuse;*
- speak out against the use and glorification of violence in our media and culture;*
- work for just and human solutions in criminal justice and oppose the death penalty;*
- reverse the waste and destruction of our natural environment.*

We bless and sanctify these actions as our pledge to transform and renew the world.

*Let everyone be quick to listen,
slow to speak, and slow to anger.*

James 1: 19

The FSM Declaration of Nonviolence grew out of the FSM Peace and Justice Commission, formed in 1991.

“The fruits of the Peace and Justice Commission, as evidenced in the Declaration of Nonviolence, have enabled us as individuals and as a congregation to put into action our gospel call to nonviolence,” noted Sr. Jacinta, in 1994, at the time the Declaration was accepted by the congregation.

“It is certainly in sync with who we are and what we are to be about as Franciscan women religious. An important aspect of this is to integrate our Declaration of Nonviolence and make choices and decisions that are consistent with the values we hold relative to nonviolence. The Declaration will provide (congregational) leadership direction from membership to make statements on behalf of the congregation,” she added.

Ten years later, Sr. Jacinta celebrates the initiative that speaks to the FSM spirituality while serving as the catalyst and platform for FSM congregational statements and action.

“I think our sponsored ministries especially speak to the commitments and directions the FSM Declaration of Nonviolence stands for today,” suggests Sr. Jacinta. “At Almost Home we actually had to teach the young women that there are other ways to settle differences, which could be very challenging, given that they came from violent homes,” adds Sr. Jacinta. “That continues to be one of their programming focuses, especially as a sponsored ministry.”

“At SSM St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood (SSMSJHK), where I minister as a patient visitor/advocate, there are several ways in which I promote nonviolence, especially related to the language we use and the non-judgmental ways in which we interact with people. We treat each person with respect, and at SSMSJHK I think they know to expect that from me and from other members of our congregation. They know that their status in life, their position, whether or not they are a person of material means, has no effect on how they are approached or treated. I see that respect in the employees as well as I observe their interactions with patients and families.”

God comes to us where we are, in peaceful presence, in patient waiting, in social justice and it is in and through these that we reflect God's image and witness to others.

Sara Marie Schnurbusch, FSM

“Those interactions reflect justice, where all people are respected, appreciated and treated with dignity.”

Mary Ellen Lewis, FSM, says the process through which the Declaration of Nonviolence evolved “brought together FSM of diverse expertise and passions who were willing to devote time and energy to

research and study while preparing information for the total membership and to then recommend actions.”

“There will always be some conflicts between peoples; and when attempts to resolve conflicts are violent – whether in actions or in words – more injury and conflict are created,” offers Sr. Mary Ellen. “Whereas, a nonviolent – but not necessarily a passive – response can resolve a conflict without hurt and thus, void the spiral of escalating violence.”

Insights such as these led the FSM to develop the Declaration of Nonviolence ten years ago and to continue to embrace it today.

“I think of the FSM Declaration of Nonviolence as a clear, outright statement of what we – and I – believe,” says Sandy Schwartz, FSM. “It helps to put my Franciscanism into practical, livable terms.”

Pope Paul VI challenged the world and each human heart when he so wisely said: “If you want peace, work for justice.”

Irma Kennebeck, FSM

“The Declaration is definite, practical and helpful,” she adds. “Through it we pledge to be people of nonviolence – people of peace.”

“There are so many ways in which FSM live their lives guided by the Declaration of Nonviolence,” suggests Sr. Mary Ellen. “Through my board involvement with the International Peace Council, I participate in its mission to demonstrate that peace is possible, especially in interreligious endeavors where conflict is frequent.”

“Through our chaplaincy we are conscious of interreligious sensitivities and balance those while addressing the religious and spiritual needs of patients. In participating in patient care and other conferences we seek to promote resolutions that honor the needs of all persons.”

“When there is justice the number and intensity of conflicts decreases and promotes a more peaceful setting,” adds Sr. Mary Ellen. “Justice is essential for peace.”

“Justice opens the door to peace,” suggests Sr. Sandy. “When persons are given

what is rightfully theirs, they need not resort to violence to obtain it. When persons are treated with respect and equality, they need not resort to anger or retaliation. And when persons have what they need, they don’t need to resort to any means possible to get those things they feel necessary.”

“Through my ministry with Mercy Hospice, I try to bring a sense of peacefulness to a person’s final journey. If that means assisting a person to be about the work of reconciliation of fractured relationships, I do what I can to help heal those relationships. When the situation may involve bringing the dying person to a sense of peacefulness with God, I help the patient imagine a loving, forgiving, tender God inviting them to come forward.”

“In my work relationships I try to be calm and not too chaotic in the ways I go about my daily responsibilities. I try to speak in a normal tone of voice, in order not to add to the hectic nature that often prevails.”

“I try to create an air of peacefulness, whether at the office, in the car, or in the field visiting in homes or at the hospital,” adds Sr. Sandy.

True peace-making must begin by breaking down the walls of hostility in our own hearts.

Martin Buber

“I think prayer is a powerful weapon against violence,” says Sr. Inez. “Everyday I include in my prayer intentions “justice for all and a peaceful settlement to stop the hatred of races against each other. I pray for the end of the war in Iraq.”

“In my hospital ministry at SSM St. Joseph Health Center, I promote nonviolence and the

FSM Declaration of Nonviolence by serving our marginalized sisters and brothers,” adds Sr. Inez.

“I offer help while providing food and personal items gathered by our employees’ ‘mission team’ to help those employees who cannot make it from paycheck to paycheck to support their families. This also includes school supplies for families who cannot purchase items their children need for school.”

*If you don't find God in the very
next person you meet,
it is a waste of time
to look for God any further.*

Gandhi

“I also do my best to make employees aware of nonviolent organizations like ‘Bridge Builders’ should they face challenges like racism or hate crimes. The organization holds meetings where subjects such as workplace violence or other violence or justice topics are discussed.”

Mary Juliana Droste, FSM, ministers in Marceline, MO. “I strive daily to live out our Franciscan gospel values, and for me that includes visiting in the school. The children’s foundation is built by the family and the school helps to continue that development of the children.”

“In my ministry I visit persons who are sick, pray with persons who are dying, and bring Eucharist to people who are homebound within the parish. I’m kept busy with parish activities and assisting with mass in a nursing home. We contact many people of various denominations, including four Baptist churches, a Methodist church and St. Bonaventure.”

It is only during these days that I have realized – that I have understood – what the Lord Jesus Christ means when He says: “Do not take up the bushel! I have not lit the candle for you to put it under the bushel, in order to protect it from the wind. Away with the bushel! The light should be placed upon a candlestick! It is not your business to worry whether the light is extinguished or not by the draught.”

We are not to worry whether the light is extinguished or not; that is God’s concern: we are only to see that the light is not hidden away – hidden away perhaps with a noble intent, so that we may bring it out again in calmer times – no: “Let your light shine before all!”

*Martin Niemöller,
German Protestant Pastor,
1892-1984*

*We can no longer pretend
that inequalities and
injustices of our world
must be borne as
part of the inevitable
order of things.*

Second Vatican Council

In a world that depends on massive slaughter of civilians to settle conflicts;

in a world held hostage by unimaginable and unparalleled weapons of war – **nonviolence is a beacon of hope.**

In a world where exploitation and injustice are the daily bread of two-thirds of humanity; in a world where three-fourths of the world's poor are women – **nonviolence is a comet against a dark sky.**

In a world where neighbors shoot each other for parking spaces and children carry machine guns, not lunch boxes, to school; in a world where consumerism and over consumption are robbing the next generation of healing sunlight and drinkable water – **nonviolence is a star leading to life.**

Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB

"I try to do my part by writing to legislators on very important issues. I do believe we make a difference."

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary work toward systemic change through:

- advocacy efforts
- alternative investments and socially responsible screening
- board involvements
- involvement in policy making/legislative efforts
- collaboration with other congregations for systemic change
- sponsored and related ministries
- the FSM Declaration of Nonviolence.

Nonviolence is a virtue to be developed.

Judith Bell, FSM

Socially responsible screening refers to the guidelines through which congregational donations are granted, reflective of the values of our Identity and Mission:

- serve women and children;
- promote/facilitate self-development of those who are poor and marginalized;
- do not have easy access to other sources of funding; and
- are involved in the care of natural resources.

“Justice issues will be part of the upcoming elections,” suggests Sr. Jacinta.

“In preparation, we must:

- be at peace with ourselves
- study the issues to become informed voters
- share our thoughts with other people.”

It belongs to the very substance of nonviolence never to destroy or damage another person's feelings of self-worth. Justice . . . breathes love and compassion.

Bernard Haring

News releases and ads affirming the FSM commitment to nonviolence have been published in newspapers and other periodicals throughout the country over the past two years, including those in areas where FSM minister.

Looking to the future, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary will continue to build upon the FSM Justice Ministry work; take a corporate stance when appropriate; and seek opportunities through which to embrace and promote justice as revealed through the FSM Declaration of Nonviolence.

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amos 5: 24



“The path to a more peaceful future is found in a rediscovery of personal responsibility, respect for human life and human dignity, and a recommitment to social justice.”

Pastoral Message – Confronting a Culture of Violence

IT'S A MATTER

“As Franciscan Sisters of Mary we live the Gospel as sister to all. We give our life by being present, hospitable and compassionate, choosing to stand with our sisters and brothers who are poor and on the margins of society.”

One of the ways the Franciscan Sisters of Mary choose to “stand with our sisters and brothers who are poor and on the margins of society” is to add the company Wal-Mart to our investment exclusionary list. Our decision was made because of Wal-Mart’s failure to meet FSM guidelines for socially responsible investing. These guidelines include:

- recognition of the human worth and dignity in employment policies and practices
- implementation of non-discriminatory employment
- engagement in honest and fair practices in purchasing.

In addition, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, both as a Congregation and as individual members, no longer make purchases at Wal-Mart or its subsidiary, Sam’s Club. Our purchasing decisions were made after much research into and study of Wal-Mart’s management philosophy and operating practices. Some of their practices include low wages, inadequate employee benefits, discrimination based on gender, “off the clock” work hours for which employees are not paid, retaliating against employees who wish to organize unions, “price squeezing” of manufacturing suppliers, and aggressive attempts to locate in communities against the wishes of the residents. In recent years, Wal-Mart has been named in numerous law suits regarding abuses of labor laws, failure to pay worked hours and overtime, exploitation of illegal aliens and a class action suit for gender bias in not promoting women to higher positions while consistently paying them lower wages and salaries.

Certainly there are positive aspects of the company Wal-Mart; its supporters, justifiably, point to its low consumer prices, value to stock holders, employment of 1.4 million workers and outstanding results in operating efficiencies. But “economic efficiency is not a value that trumps all others, and Wal-Mart’s efficiencies, although they confer considerable benefits, also confer some costs,” writes George Will of Newsweek. Therein lies the dilemma. The “costs” of which Will writes is borne, along with others, by the employees of Wal-Mart. What is good for business in general may not be good for working people in particular.

These employees have human faces. Barbara Ehrenreich, author of the book “Nickel and Dimed; On (Not) Getting By in America”, writes from her own experience about the difficulties of low wage workers meeting living expenses. “That afternoon Alyssa, one of my co-orientees, now in sporting goods, had come by ladies wear to inquire about a polo shirt that had been clearanced at \$7. Was there any chance it might fall still further? I had no idea – but why was Alyssa so fixated on this particular shirt? Because of Wal-Mart’s rule that (employee) shirts have collars, only polos, not tees, could be worn. At \$7 an hour, a \$7 shirt is just not going to make it to her shopping list.”

ter of Justice



Joanne Klenke, FSM

Civil society needs to balance capitalism if it is to work for the entire population. Wal-Mart, in its globalized race to push wages to the bottom, is a corporation “gone amok,” the opposite of how Ford and General Motors brought people into America’s middle class. It was Henry Ford who realized that if he wanted one of his automobiles in every home, he needed to pay employees enough so that they could afford to buy them, a win-win situation for both sides. The same principle could certainly apply to a \$7 polo shirt.

One example of a company that seems to meet the balance between the need for profit and paying just wages is Costco. The company’s president and CEO, Jim Sinegal, states “we think when you take care of your customers and your employees, your shareholders are going to be rewarded in the long run. And I’m one of them (shareholder)”. While Wal-Mart makes twice as much profit as Costco, Sinegal believes it’s better business to make a nice profit (but not a killing) while investing more in Costco’s workers. He says “I don’t see what’s wrong with an employee earning enough to be able to buy a house or having a health plan for the family.”

The FSM’s position follows closely the social teaching of the Catholic Church, who throughout the past century has served as a strong advocate for the rights of workers to receive a just wage and to organize in protective unions. This is seen in such Church documents as “The Church in the Modern World”, “Mother and Teacher” and Pope John Paul II’s “Centesimus Annus, 1992”. In these documents, the Church strongly advocates for sufficient wages to support workers and their families, and that such remuneration not be left solely to the market place and the freedom to join trade unions. Although the case is made by some that Wal-Mart’s wages are only \$3 less than union wages, for a full time position this translates into an additional \$6,240 annually. For a worker who is struggling to pay bills, this increase can make a dramatic difference.

While we recognize that Wal-Mart has recently made attempts to address its critics through public relations efforts and small policy changes, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary will continue to refrain from making purchases there until the company shows more substantive changes.

As consumers, may our purchasing decisions be thoughtful and knowledgeable.

Joanne Klenke, FSM
Treasurer, Franciscan Sisters of Mary

(Sources: “Newsweek” (George Will), July 5, 2004; “Nickel and Dime: on (Not) Getting By in America”, by Barbara Ehrenreich, Metropolitan/Owl Publisher, 2004; and “Fortune 500”, (Jim Hightower), March 8, 2004.)

Our Sisters Return Home From Brazil

After 32 years of dedicated ministry, Srs. Victoria Ewers, Mary Stenger and Jovita Stenger have returned home from Brazil. We are grateful for the presence, compassion and hospitality they offered to the people, and for the countless times they graciously committed to standing "with our sisters and brothers who are poor and on the margins of society."

We share reflections of our returning sisters:

Jovita Stenger, FSM

"Our beginning in Brazil was difficult with not knowing the language, the customs and culture, getting used to the perpetual heat, only having electricity for three hours each evening, no indoor toilet or running water and no communication via telephone, television or radio. Our only communication was through mail. (In fact we became famous for the first several years at the Post Office. Our sister, Mariella Stenger, FSM, was such a faithful communicator for these 32 years and her letters came often in the beginning and the postal workers wanted to know why we were so important, receiving so much mail!)

During our first year, we spent time with a doctor who came in from another city. Many of the patients would return to their villages without having received medical attention. We learned about the different medicines, listened to stories about their lives and living conditions. We became educated about the customs and taboos which we later used in our training courses for health agents and midwives.

We very much wanted to focus on this healing ministry although many of the priests and religious tried to talk us into evangelization. With the help of Bishop Murphy and Fr. Joe Stenger, we worked to make health care our pastoral ministry. Today the health ministry is flourishing in Bahia as well as in Brazil's Amazon valley.

When we left Bahia in 1986, we had trained 500 health care workers and 350 midwives for the seven parishes in the diocese. Many of these individuals have gone on for further education at nursing school and the university.

In the early days, we worked out of our house instead of the clinic at the school, working day and night with people literally falling at our doorstep with high fevers. There was an outbreak of typhoid fever followed by a meningitis epidemic.

When we took responsibility for *The Children's Pastoral Program*, we visited families, teaching them the basics, checking vaccination cards, weighing and charting. We also taught them how to make and use herbal medicines and enriching diets using leaves, seeds, peelings from banana and bran. Despite ongoing challenges, the people have kept it going. We truly feel they are now capable of taking our place.





An important thing I learned during my years in Brazil was that poverty doesn't mean unhappiness. With the little that the Brazilian people have, they are among the happiest people in the world. They know how to share with one another their physical and spiritual goods. I have a great sense of what Church means and how my actions, my words, my omissions and sins have a great impact on the whole church.

There is a time to be reborn, a time to help people to be the best they can be, and a time to let go and leave.

That time of letting go has arrived for us.

Victoria Ewers, FSM

In both Bahia and Amazonas, we three have been the “gypsies of the Prelacy” while traveling to the other parishes of Juazeiro Bahia to train community health workers (500) and mid-wives/mid-husbands (300) and to the parishes of Coari to train 30 coordenadores Paraquiais and 1,000 or more leaders of *The Children's Pastoral Program*. (Not all of these are still active.)

Not only have we chosen to “stand with our sisters and brothers who are poor and on the margins of society,” we have striven to empower them, especially the women, by helping them:

- recognize their dignity as Children of God and members of the cosmos;
- claim their basic rights of citizenship found in housing, food, education, health and well-being;
- take responsibility for their own lives, their community and environment by realizing their talents and gifts and developing them for their own betterment and that of others;
- serve as apostolic agents of change while promoting peace, justice and nonviolence.

I came to “be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate and healing Jesus” and I have received so much more than I have given. I have been evangelized more than I have evangelized. More and more I realized that God was there before our coming. I have become aware of the working of the Spirit among the people and in their culture, while striving to help them recognize and proclaim the work of the Lord in their midst and their participation in it. God walks before us and with us and we with God – together we make history.

I don't leave Brazil so much with feelings of sadness but instead with feelings of gratitude. Leaving was difficult, as was returning home. But the same God who sent us to Brazil is also inviting us to come back; and the same grace of God that strengthened us to adapt to Brazil will stay with us as we continue to re-adapt at home.

Mary Stenger, FSM

I felt at home when I arrived in 1974, thanks to the hospitality offered by Srs. Jovita and Vicki. I had a very difficult time with the language and I remember Bishop Murphy writing to me and telling me I was like a newborn baby. I had to learn to talk, to walk and listen to others. While I was trying to learn the language, Srs. Jovita and Vicki took a 30-hour bus ride to come to visit me. I did not stay for the entire course because I just wasn't getting the language. It was the little children who gave me hope that one day I would learn the language. A little girl named Rose came every day to teach me and help me with words and conversation. So willing to help me, she became my best friend.

With help from our congregation, our families, friends and benefactors (especially *Bucks for Brazil*), we bought a Xerox machine and an electric stencil cutter. I ended up doing the finances for the church, the Prelacy, banking for the sisters in Beruri, Caaparinga and Anori. I was able to do all the printing for the church, their songs, materials for special celebrations and booklets used for courses in the different ministries. There was also plenty of printing to be done for *The Children's Pastoral Program*. This kept me very busy, yet I still had time just to listen to people, help them when I could and pray for them.

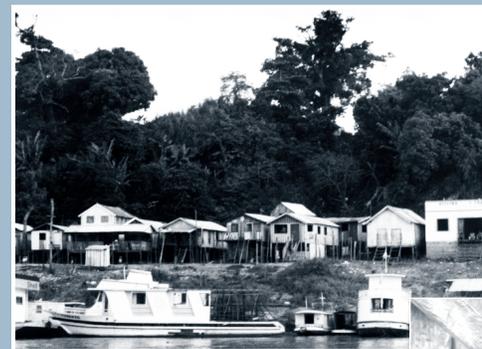
At a point when I needed to stay home more, I found the poor always there. A lot of times they just wanted to talk and knew they could come to the house at any time. I cared about them and became a good listener. I've had many happy times just clowning around with the children. I still need to do this. While at times I felt awkward, I knew I could make them laugh, and that would keep me feeling young!

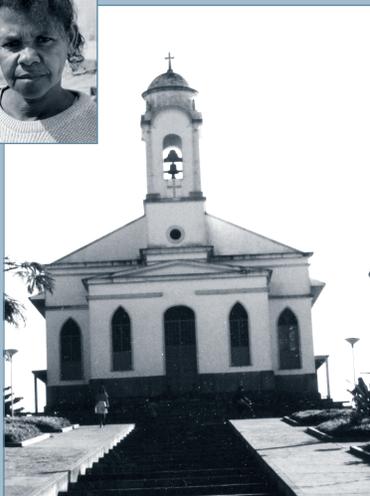
I know that I can still help many people, if by only sharing with them a laugh and a big smile while letting them know they are loved and cared for.

On June 8, 2004, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary held an "Evening Prayer of Transition and Welcome" for the returning sisters, led by Jacqueline Motzel, FSM, president of the congregation. Here are Sr. Jacqueline's words of welcome within the "Evening Prayer":

In our prayer this evening, we recognize a significant transition and sisterly welcome. The transition is three-fold: for Srs. Vicki, Jovita and Mary, who return home after three decades of ministry in Brazil; for the congregation, as we no longer have the presence of sisters in a country outside our own; and for the people in Brazil, who have lived, worked and worshiped with our sisters through the years. We remember in our prayer all those whose lives are being touched by this homecoming.

It was my privilege to be with Srs. Vicki, Jovita and Mary as they shared their final good-byes. We began in Sento Se – the first FSM mission in Brazil. We visited people in their homes, at their workplace, on the streets and in small groups. Frequently they displayed a photo of the sisters – near pictures of family and loved ones.





When the sisters first arrived in Sento Se, they began responding to the health needs of the people in a small clinic. Today, the city has its own hospital. The sisters also began to train local health care workers; and, today, many of those men and women serve in prominent positions at the hospital and within the city.

Farewells were replicated as we journeyed to Manacapuru, where we again greeted countless men, women and children – some of whom came by our house to visit. The ministry here was to develop The Children’s Pastoral in the Prelacy of Coari. The Children’s Pastoral is a national program throughout Brazil, focusing on women during pregnancy and children from birth to six years. It is held in the seven parishes of the prelacy or, we would say, diocese. The closest of these parishes to Manacapuru is eight hours by boat. The sisters did a lot of water traveling!

In recognition for their presence, commitment, and accomplishments, they were each made citizens during official ceremonies held in both Sento Se and Manacapuru.

A Mass of Thanksgiving was also celebrated in both places, with many gestures of appreciation exchanged. At the close of each Eucharistic celebration, we gave a special blessing to the people.

Most apparent to me during this time was the genuine gratitude, love and respect the people have for our sisters. Truly, Srs. Vicki, Jovita and Mary have made a noticeable and notable difference in the lives of the people – young and old.

There is a quote from the Prophet Isaiah selected by the sisters to be displayed on a banner celebrating the anniversary of their presence in Brazil. It reads:

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” “Here I am,” I said, “send me.”

We, the congregation, sent Vicki, Jovita and Mary to Brazil – in our name and as our missionaries. Each of us can be very proud of the way they represented the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, and the way they gave visibility to our Identity and Mission in a far-away land.

And now, we welcome them home and gift them with some time to acclimate to a different culture and environment.

It has been said that unless you fully say good-bye, you cannot fully say hello. The closure rituals I experienced between the sisters and the people gave evidence of deep and meaningful relationships. Each hug, kiss, memory shared, prayer offered, meal enjoyed, gift exchanged attested to this truth. Their final good-byes are filled with good memories – it seems no stone was left unturned. Their hellos, still in the making, are like an unlimited view of the horizon, where grace is abundant, sisterly support ever present and where a faithful God hovers with loving care over their future.

Blessings to each of you – Jovita, Mary and Vicki.

Welcome Home!

Jubilarians 2000

Congratulations to our 2004
Franciscan Sisters of Mary
Jubilarians!

Creator God, you call your creation to freedom and fulfillment. Look upon these women who give praise for your fidelity and renew this day the offering of their lives to you.

On the occasion of this celebration, help them to enter more deeply into the mystery of the divine incarnation and dedicate themselves more generously to the reign of your love.

We ask this through Jesus, the Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

70 YEARS



Standing - left to right

Sr. Mary Celine Gress
Sr. Mary Dorinne Wittenbrink
Sr. Madeline Mary Coens

Seated - left to right

Sr. Mary Andrew Heuman
Sr. Mary Charlene Teson
Sr. Marie Charles Weber

60 YEARS



Standing - left to right

Sr. Mary Roseanne Ewers
Sr. Ann Miriam Stenger
Sr. Francita Barringhaus
Sr. Mary Angelita Terrio
Sr. Mary Evelyn Steinman
Sr. Mary Louise Jaegers

Seated - left to right

Sr. Mary Josephine Huhmann
Sr. Mary Juliana Droste
Sr. Mary Elmendorf
Sr. Frieda Rode
Sr. Mary Wilbur McKenzie

50 YEARS



Standing - left to right

Sr. Rose Maureen Mahoney
Sr. Thelma Marie Mitchell
Sr. Irma Kennebeck

Seated - left to right

Sr. Rita Clara Blau
Sr. Geralyn Klenke
Sr. Connie Fahey

25 YEARS



Sr. Sherri Coleman

Our Sisters in the Spotlight

Saint Louis University School of Nursing held a 75th Anniversary Celebration this past spring. Special honorees included **Mary Teresa Noth**, FSM, Dean Emerita. Sr. Mary Teresa was the last FSM to serve as dean of the School of Nursing.



Evelyn Peterman, FSM, has accepted a board appointment on the Girl Scouts – Heart of Missouri Council.

During the 2004 Justice Celebration of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, the three central city parishes, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Michael and St. Rose, were acknowledged and presented an award for working tirelessly to resettle a Somali refugee family of eight and helping them become self-sufficient. Persons instrumental in these efforts, including **Mary Jo Kahl**, FSM, were recognized for giving flesh to the Church teaching that “the family is the central social institution that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined.”



Betty Brucker, FSM, and **Kathy Buchheit**, FSM, raised over \$14,000 for the American Diabetes Association, through its annual Kiss-A-Pig campaign. (The pig is honored because insulin, the lifesaving hormone used to sustain the life of a diabetic was first derived from the pancreas of pigs. It is considered an honor for the winners of the campaign to “kiss” the pig.)

The **1st Annual Sr. Betty Brucker Charity Golf Classic** was held on Friday, August 13, at Normandie Golf Club in St. Louis, for the benefit of St. Jane and Father Tolton Catholic Family Services.



Jeanne Meurer, FSM, recently authored a resource manual titled: *Mentoring for Ministries: Women Religious Congregations*. As part of her ministry at Woman’s Place, Sr. Jeanne mentors women from various educational institutions who choose to volunteer their time and services while learning about Woman’s Place’s unique hospitality ministry to women in abusive situations. Through a partnership grant from the Incarnate Word Foundation, Sr. Jeanne was asked to write a resource manual which would be made available to congregations of women religious who are exploring ways of working with laywomen who will assist them in carrying on the mission.

Marylu Stueber, FSM, has been chosen chairperson of nominations and elections for the Archivists of Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR). It is a three-year term of office.





Friendship and Justice Ministry, led by **Marge O’Gorman**, FSM, was featured in the February 2004 issue of *Reclaim*, the quarterly newsletter of the National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian and Gay Ministries. The theme of the issues was “Stories From the Front Lines: Ministries in Parishes and Dioceses.”

Sr. Marge received a Certificate in Spiritual Direction during the May commencement of Aquinas Institute of Theology.

Geralyn Schneider, FSM, received a Service Learning Award during the Annual Honors Convocation of the College of Mount St. Joseph, Cincinnati, OH.

Mary Jean Ryan, FSM, SSM Health Care president/CEO, has been named by *Modern Healthcare Magazine* as one of the “100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare”. Sr. Mary Jean ranked seventh on this year’s list, is the first CEO and the first person outside of the United States government named to the list. She was ranked eighth in 2003.

Sherri Coleman, FSM, and **Andre’ Evanicko**, FSM, were recognized at the *20th Annual Society of St. Vincent DePaul Criminal Justice Ministry (CJM) Volunteers Celebration* this past spring. Srs. Sherri and Andre’ each received a Pellegrino Award, which recognizes their 10-year commitment to praying with the imprisoned women at the St. Louis County Jail, in Clayton, MO, and their efforts to introduce others to the realities of incarceration.

At the spring 2004 convention of the American Massage Therapy Association – Missouri Chapter, Sr. Andre’ was elected to its board as a Member at large.

Sr. Sherri was one of nearly twenty women and men religious leaders from the St. Louis area participating in *Giving Voice: Civic Strategies for Religious Leaders*.

The program, sponsored by the Incarnate Word Foundation, Lutheran Foundation and Deaconess Foundation, was conducted by the Coro Leadership Center.

Bernard Marie Boland, FSM, celebrated her



102nd birthday with a ride on the Giant (Ferris) Wheel (11 stories) that was stationed at Forest Park in St. Louis this summer. When the World’s Fair came to St. Louis in 1904, Sr. Bernard Marie was two years old. She thinks she is the

reason her mother could not go to the World’s Fair or ride the Ferris wheel. “I was probably a terrible two – too much trouble to take a long, and too much trouble for my mother to leave behind,” said Sr. Bernard Marie.



Margaret Mary Vehige, FSM

March 21, 1931 - February 22, 2004

For Sr. Margaret Mary Vehige, life was worth living to the fullest, a gift never to be taken for granted. So how does one describe her? Words that come to mind are: spirited, delightful, dedicated, spiritual, committed, human, adaptable, genuine, people-oriented, friendly, hopeful and open. Gratitude and joy were part and parcel of her bubbly personality. Humor and optimism were gifts she used to deal with cancer and illness during the last four years of her life in a positive, faith-filled manner.

Born on March 21, 1931, in St. Charles, MO, Margaret Mary was the fifth of eight children born to John and Elizabeth (Lindhorst) Vehige. Margaret Mary entered the congregation in 1946, at the age of fifteen. She was given the name Sr. Grace Marie because of her devotion to the Blessed Mother. She professed her final vows in 1952.

After serving in Medical Records at SSM St. Mary's Health Center, Richmond Heights, MO, SSM St. Joseph Health Center, St. Charles, MO, and the former Firmin Desloge Hospital, St. Louis, Sr. Grace Marie served as Administrator at St. Mary's Health Center, Jefferson City, MO. She then became the Administrator at St. Mary of the Ozarks Hospital, Ironton, MO, serving during its transition to the new Arcadia Valley Hospital, Pilot Knob, MO. Sr. Grace Marie continued her ministry at SSM St. Mary's Health Center, Richmond Heights, and SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, St. Louis, before serving as staff of the Hospital Board at SSM Health Care. She served in the FSM Archives before ministering at SSM Rehab and SSM St. Joseph Health Center, St. Charles, as a chaplain.

In 1997, Sr. Grace Marie reverted to the use of her baptismal name, Sr. Margaret Mary, and was lovingly known as Sr. Margie

Sr. Margaret Mary made good memories in life. The dynamic experience of the sacraments, graced by God's love, her love for her Sisters and her family, and their love for her, sustained her on her journey. Sr. Margaret Mary died on February 22, 2004. Her hope for a cure was in God, but lacking a cure does not disappoint because she was destined for citizenship in heaven, eternal life with God forever.

"God is love." – 1 John 4:16



Mary Clara Heitman, FSM

June 6, 1915 - March 23, 2004

"We've lost our cheerleader," ER nurse, St. Anthony Hospital, the evening of March 23, 2004.

To know Sr. Clara was to know one who brought life to the Word and life to the world! Bringing Jesus' compassionate presence to everyone she encountered, she lightened the burdens of patients and staff at St. Anthony Hospital, and for everyone she ministered with and for during her 71 years of religious life.

Josephine Emma was born in Maryville, MO, on June 6, 1915, to Herman and Catherine Meyer Heitman, the seventh of nine children. Until she was five, Emma was spoiled by her maternal grandfather, and upon his death, she was spoiled by her sister, now known as Sr. Mary Hermine. She heard the call "Come and follow me" and, with Sr. Hermine, committed to life as a religious.

Traveling by train on a stormy night, Sr. Clara went to Oklahoma City to begin nurses' training at St. Anthony School of Nursing. She and Sr. Hermine were the first sisters to be trained at St. Anthony's. Sr. Clara's ministry began at St. Francis Hospital and Health Services, Maryville, MO, and included St. Mary's Hospital, Nebraska City, NE, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Hannibal, MO, St. Joseph of the Pines, Southern Pines, NC, and St. Anthony Hospital, Oklahoma City, where she served as an instructor at the school of nursing, as an assistant administrator, in admitting, and, at the time of her death, as customer service advocate.

A favorite verse began "... a joyful heart is the health of the body ..." When asked why she was always so happy, Sr. Clara responded: "God says, I place you on earth to be happy!"

Sr. Clara lived her life by faith, God's word in the scriptures, and in the sacraments of the Church, and brought life and love to everyone she encountered.

"A joyful heart is the health of the body;
a depressed spirit dries up the bones."

Proverbs 17:22



Theresa Schmidt, FSM

January 2, 1916 - April 30, 2004

Life is a precious gift and for Sr. Theresa it had many challenges. Her search for peace and joy presented her with an opportunity for spiritual growth; she came to know and embrace God in her own way. For a number of years, she experienced suffering in a very intimate manner which taught her much about the meaning of life, suffering, death, and now, her own resurrection.

Born in Port Hudson, MO, on January 2, 1916, Theresa was one of two children born to Alouis and Mary T. (Sievers) Schmidt. She joined the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in 1939, and professed her final vows in 1944.

Her initial ministry at SSM St. Mary's Health Center, Richmond Heights, was as an electrocardiogram technician and nurse assistant. In 1946, she ministered in the convent dining room at Firmin Desloge Hospital, St. Louis. She returned to SSM St. Mary's Health Center in 1950, and was an electrocardiogram technician for 15 years before ministering at Mount St. Rose, St. Marys Health Center, Jefferson City, SSM St. Joseph Health Center, St. Charles, and the Missouri Division of Family Services. She also ministered as a nursing assistant, sacristan, nursing unit secretary, receptionist and typist. In her retirement, she served as a volunteer at Deaconess Hospital, St. Louis, and SSM St. Mary's Health Center, Richmond Heights.

In a spirit of St. Francis, Sr. Theresa enjoyed caring for her birds and talking to them; they were an important part of her life. Mousie, Vinnie and Quennie were her special pets as were the other birds at St. Mary of the Angels Convent.

On April 30, 2004, Sr. Theresa was reborn to a new life, one in which God welcomed her to the glories of eternity freed from earthly struggles.

"I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name."

IS 49:15-16



Mary Leo Schmaltz, FSM

April 12, 1908 - July 19, 2004

When Sr. Mary Leo entered the congregation, she thought she would help others by serving as a nurse. But over the years she came to realize God's hand in her life. Her ministry was in food preparation which physically sustained many people over the years. The bread that she kneaded and baked was the bread of daily life, offered to God as gift, and in turn her life was transformed by God.

Born on April 12, 1908, in Mehlville, MO, Eleanore Josephine Schmaltz, was one of eight children born to John and Rosalia (Mertz) Schmaltz.

Eleanore entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood in O'Fallon, MO, but her stay was short. While continuing to work on the family farm and as a domestic worker, her journey to religious life led her to follow her sister, Sr. Rosalie Marie Schmaltz, to the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

Sr. Mary Leo ministered in the dietary departments of SSM St. Mary's Health Center, Richmond Heights, at the former St. Mary's Infirmary, at St. Mary of the Ozarks Hospital, Ironton, MO, and at the former St. Mary's Ringling Hospital, Baraboo, WI. Sr. Mary Leo also ministered as a parish visitor in Marceline, MO.

She was happy to return to St. Louis in 1985, to be near family. (Her sister, Sr. Rosalie Marie, died in 1991.)

Sr. Mary Leo continued to serve in ministry, sustaining others in a spiritual manner through her prayers.

On July 19, 2004, Sr. Mary Leo died in Our Lady of Victories and now receives nourishment in eternity directly from the hands of her God who had sustained her during her earthly journey.

My God and My All

Gifts Received Through Our Spring Commemorative Appeal

In Memory Of:

In memory of my aunt, Mary Charlene Aholt, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Eckelkamp

*In memory of Luis Enrique Baena,
who passed away on 4-5-04, dear husband
of Mrs. Judit de Baena*
Ms. Nubia Hahn and Ms. Maria Medina

*In memory of my great aunt,
Francis Marie Bettels, FSM*
Ms. Freda A. Tilling

In memory of Mary Ann Bode
Ms. Carol Jean Stoll

In memory of my sister, Hilda Brickus, FSM
Ms. Eleanor Brickus

In memory of our grandson, Charles
Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Elmendorf

In memory of my aunt, Miriam Joseph Clem, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph C. Ladi

*In memory of William and Catherine Dahmen
and Family*
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ripp

*In memory of my aunt, Mary Mechtildis
Danner, FSM*
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin M. Finney

In memory of my wife, Vicky
Mr. Carl Debrecht

In memory of my husband, F. Joe DeLong
Mrs. Betty Jo DeLong

In memory of Mary DeLellis Engemann, FSM
Mr. Sylvester Engemann
Ms. Christine E. Harris

*In memory of Mr. Jose B. Gonzalez, on the anniversary
of his birthday/death*
Mrs. Griselda Paz

In memory of my uncle, Mr. John Grellner
Mr. and Mrs. Alex J. Reinkemeyer

In memory of my aunt, Ms. Alice Haarmann
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Habing

*In memory of my parents, Joseph and Marie
Haarmann*
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Habing

In memory of my mother, Ms. Marie Haarmann
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Moffett

In memory of Mary Maximina Haarmann, FSM
Mrs. Mary J. Hamilton

In memory of Mary Clara Heitman, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Steven L. Hunter

In memory of my aunt, Florence Mary Imhoff, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Baker

In memory of my aunt, Mary Josepha Imhoff, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Baker

In memory of Margaret Mary Jarvis, FSM
Mr. Oscar P. Hampton, III

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Kennedy
Mr. James A. Hyde

In memory of Rita Marie Kolb, FSM
Ms. Kathryn R. Kuebler

In memory of my husband, Isidor
Mrs. Isidor Kuchem

In memory of my husband, Charles
Ms. Ernestine C. Kull

Anniversary of Dr. Henry Lattinville's death
Ms. Delia Greer

In memory of Mary Martina Kliethermes, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Schanzmeyer

In memory of Cesar Lim
Ms. Teresa Y. Lim Alagao

In memory of my husband, Robert
Ms. Rose McFarland

*For Mary Felicia McGalloway, FSM, and her dedicated
work for children*
Ms. Doris A. Busha

*In memory of Mary Pancratia McGlone, FSM,
my teacher from 1938-1941*
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Daly

In memory of our friend, Jean Miller
Ms. Carla S. Baum
Ms. Joan E. Pace

In memory of my dear wife, Peg
Mr. Frank Moll

In memory of Mary Carmella Mossinghoff, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Murphy

In memory of our son, Paul Charles
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Nicholson

In memory of my dad, Mr. Alfred J. Petti
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Foster

In memory of Mary Ann Philipps, OSSR
Redemptoristine Nuns

In memory of Mary Cloud Poetz, FSM
Ms. Rita D. Poetz

In memory of Madonna Marie Rawe, FSM
Ms. Margaret A. Schnell

In memory of Agnes Reinkemeyer, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. John Scharf

*In memory of our parents, Clarence and Julia
Sammelmann*
Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Klutenkamper

In memory of Mary Elaine Schornak, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Pokriefka

In memory of my wife, Kathy
Mr. LeRoy Schramm

In memory of our son, Matthew Todd Sinise
Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Sinise

In memory of my husband, Nicholas
Mrs. Kathryn G. Sloan

In memory of Theresa Marie Tierney, OSSR
Redemptoristine Nuns

In memory of my aunt, Ms. Sylvia Trokey
Sherri Coleman, FSM

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Casper M. Unterreiner
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bextermiller

*If you love only those who love you, what credit is that for
you? Even sinners love those who love them . . . but you
must love your enemies and do good . . .*

Luke 6: 32-36

In Honor of:

In honor of my loving parents, Mike and Ethel
Ms. Michelle Backer

In honor of Francita Barringhaus, FSM, on her Diamond Jubilee
Mr. Leonard J. Barringhaus
Ms. Ruth C. Barringhaus
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Schraut

In prayer for my husband, G. Duncan
Mrs. G. Duncan Bauman

In honor of my aunt, Bernard Marie Boland, FSM
Ms. Ann M. Boland

Charles Brady, thanks for the gift of loving parents
Ms. Margie Imo

For my wife Marie's health
Mr. Robert L. Capps

In honor of my niece, Mary Chaudet, FSM, for her love and hard work
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Chaudet

In honor of my friend, Ms. Hilde Degenhardt
Ms. Carla S. Baum

In honor of Mary Julianna Droste, FSM, on her Diamond Jubilee
Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Sandbothe

In honor of Antona Ebo, FSM, for all she contributes to our church
Ms. Gloria N. Green

In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
Ms. Mary Bopsy Miller
Ms. Lenita Moore

In honor of Mary Celine Gress, FSM, a classmate at St. Anthony School of Nursing in Oklahoma City, 1937-1940.
Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Tinker

In honor of Rosina Higgs, FSM
Mr. Bill Hoehn

In honor of Dean Joan Hrubetz and Saint Louis University School of Nursing's 75th anniversary
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick McAnany

In honor of the Huck and Kinsella Families
Dr. and Mrs. Richard F. Huck, Jr.

In thanksgiving for my sister, Eleanor Krieg, FSM, for all the prayers she has said for me throughout all these years.
Mrs. Louise D. Fick

In honor of Mary Ann Linhoff, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Michael G. Asadorian

In honor of my wife, Jackie
Mr. Joseph Maloney

In honor my sister, Dorothy Mishler
Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Brennan, Sr.

In honor of Jacqueline Motzel, FSM, she is a very, very nice person
Mrs. George Bruncker

No one is unworthy of our attentiveness.

Jim McGinnis

In honor of Mary Teresa Noth, FSM, and Saint Louis University School of Nursing's 75th anniversary
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick McAnany

In honor of my friend, Joan E. Pace
Ms. Carla S. Baum

In honor of Mary Imelda Pingel, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Simcox

In honor my sister, Ms. Michelle Poniewaz
Mr. Edward Poniewaz, Jr.

In honor of our daughter, Ms. Patricia A. Powell, on Mother's Day
Mr. and Mrs. William J. McCormick

Christians have to learn, as a most substantial part of their faith, that peace with God, peace in their hearts, peace with neighbors, love of enemy, and redconciliation cannot be separated; they are one indivisible gift of God and a mission for all believers.

Bernard Haring

In honor of Susan and John Remley, wishing them happiness and good health
Mr. Raymond J. Langhammer

John and Margaret Schlereth, thanks for the gift of loving parents
Ms. Margie Imo

In honor and thanksgiving for the health of Ms. Cathy Schultz
Ms. Margaret M. Wittenbrink

In honor of our daughter, Ms. Colleen M. Shelby, on Mother's Day
Mr. and Mrs. William J. McCormick

In honor of my aunt, Mary Ellen Sloan, FSM, on her retirement
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Buns

For more information on giving opportunities with the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, please give us a call at (314) 768-1737.

Gifts Received

February 5, 2004 to July 1, 2004

Gifts Made In Memory Of:

In memory of my husband, Robert
Ms. Lucille E. Bintz

In memory of my sister-in-law,
Mary Helen Bocklage, FSM
Mrs. Rosemary Bocklage

In memory of our daughter, Katie Brandt
Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Brandt

In memory of Rev. Dennis A. Brodeur
Ms. Peggy Ederer

In memory of our grandson, Charles A. Calvert
Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Elmendorf

In memory of my mother, Verona Christensen
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Christensen

In memory of my husband, Richard
Mrs. Mildred F. Durban

In memory of Patrick Flaherty
Ms. Lenita Moore

In memory of my wife, Lizanne
Mr. Donald M. Ganim

In memory of Mary Clara Heitman, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Casey
Ms. Frances C. Meyer
Father John J. Michalicka

In memory of my aunt,
Florence Mary Imhoff, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Baker

In memory of my aunt,
Mary Josepha Imhoff, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Baker

In memory of Margaret Mary Jarvis, FSM
Mrs. Ilma E. Sander

In memory of Mary Amanda Kaiser, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Rackers

In memory of Paul Kettenbach
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Kruse
Franciscan Sisters of Mary

In memory of my husband, Charles
Ms. Ernestine C. Kull

In memory of Bill Longust
Mrs. Susan Scalise

In memory of William Massman
Franciscan Sisters of Mary

In memory of Roger McManus
Ms. Lenita Moore

In memory of my sister, Mary Alfreda Meyer, FSM
Lt. Col. Frederick V. Meyer Ret'd

In memory of Mary Yvonne Meyer, FSM
Mr. Fred Jones

In memory of Dutch and Henrietta Nashert
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon R. Flygare

In memory of Mary Clarissa Orf, OSF
Franciscan Sisters of Mary

In memory of Mary Cloud Poetz, FSM,
on the one year anniversary of her death
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Dreher

In memory of Wilma "Bill" Powers
Ms. Dixie Platt and Mr. Michael Burke

In memory of my brother, Mr. Lloyd Reinkemeyer
Ms. Marie Reinkemeyer

In memory of my parents,
Matt and Theresa Reinkemeyer
Ms. Marie Reinkemeyer

In memory of our parents,
Clarence and Julia Sammelmann
Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Klutenkamper

In memory of my husband, Warren
Mrs. Ilma E. Sander

In memory of Theresa Schmidt, FSM
Ms. Sondra J. Holloway

In memory of Theresa Schmidt, FSM, and in
sympathy and prayer for those who worked with
her while she ministered at St. Marys Health Center
St. Marys Health Center – Jefferson City

In memory of Marcia Schmitz Schweiss
Mr. and Mrs. Willard Riley

In memory of my sister,
Mary Elaine Schornak, FSM
Ms. Rita M. Szarama

In memory of Mary Romana Schumann, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schaefer

In memory of Mary Benigna Semtner, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Rodgers

In memory of Eugene Marie Smith, FSM
Mrs. Betty Jo DeLong

In memory of Alderwoman
Colleen M. Sondermann
Ms. Lenita Moore

In memory of Margaret Mary Vehige, FSM
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Mr. and Mrs. Don Parren
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Spreadbury
SSM St. Joseph Health Center - West
St. Marys Health Center – Jefferson City
Mr. and Mrs. William Vogt

In memory of Carl "Collie" Wolf
Ms. Maria Raback

Gifts Made In Honor Of:

In honor of Rita Blau, FSM
Ms. Dorothy McCartney
Ms. Bonnie Pellegrini

In honor of Rita Blau, FSM, on her Golden Jubilee
Ms. Ginny Becker

In honor of my aunt, Bernard Marie Boland, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. John Boland

In honor of Betty Brucker, FSM
Dr. Robert M. Donati

In honor of our mother, Mary L. Childers
Mr. and Mrs. Leo F. Childers, Jr.

In honor of Madeline Mary Coens, FSM
Ms. Dolores Weekly

In honor of Sherri Coleman, FSM,
on her Silver jubilee
Archdiocese of St. Louis
Ms. Michelle Backer
Judith A. Bell, FSM
Ms. Mary Pat Elsen
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Myers

In honor of my son, Todd
Ms. Barbara J. Delano

In honor of the retired Franciscan Sisters of Mary
Lt. Col. Dorothea A. Courts

In honor of my cousin, Gertrude Fruchtl, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. David Mytyk

In honor of Mary Celine Gress, FSM,
as she celebrates her Carnelian Jubilee
Mrs. Louise Reed

In honor of Mary Josephine Huhmann, FSM,
on her Diamond Jubilee,
Msgr John F. Huhmann

In honor of Mary Cornelia Immegart, FSM,
former novice director and friend
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Urenda

In honor of the ordination to priesthood
of Dr. John W. Kilgore
Ms. Margaret Mary Stenger, Father Joseph
Stenger, CSSR, Patricia Stenger, Mary A
Stenger, FSM, Jovita Stenger, FSM, Mariella
Stenger, FSM, and Ann Miriam Stenger, FSM



*In honor of living and deceased members
of the Larratta Family*
Ms. Victoria Laratta

*In honor of my wife, Elizabeth, who was raised
in a Catholic orphanage*
Mr. Charles E. Moore

*In honor of our sisters who reside in
Our Lady of Victories*
Veronica Boss, FSM

In thanksgiving for the FSM Prayer Line
Ms. Elizabeth Ann Cooney

In honor of Mary Ellen Sloan, FSM
Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Bolinske

*In celebration of Agnes Stottmann, FSM,
on her 80th birthday*
Mrs. Lucy F. Bruehl

In honor of Marylu Stueber, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester H. Twele

*In honor of Mary Charlene Teson, FSM,
as she celebrates her Carmelian Jubilee*
Mr. and Mrs. Norbert S. Teson

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Sisters of St. Francis
Mr. Steven W. Sparks
Mrs. Ruth M. Speidel
St. Clare Hospital and Health Services
(Baraboo, WI)
St. Marys Hospital Medical Center
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Ms. Mary Starmann-Harrison
Mr. Michael J. Steffen
Ms. Diane R. Stone
Ms. Janet M. Storch
Mrs. Mary A. Sutton
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Ms. Madeleine C. Whyte
Ms. Wilma E. Zarinelli
Ms. Joan Zingsheim

Planned Giving

Agnes Gahagan
Peter Dimo Gark Irrevocable

*"I expect to pass through life but once. If, therefore,
there can be any kindness I can show, or any good thing
I can do to any fellow human being, let me do it now, and
not defer it or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."*

William Penn

Please remember the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in your will.



Franciscan Sisters of Mary
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Identity & Mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary

As Franciscan Sisters of Mary, we live the Gospel as sister to all.
We give our life by being present, hospitable and compassionate,
choosing to stand with our sisters and brothers
who are poor and on the margins of society.

FSM Ministries

Almost Home, St. Louis, MO
Manacapuru, Amazonas, Brazil
Woman's Place, St. Louis, MO
SSM Health Care, St. Louis, MO
Bone & Joint Hospital, Oklahoma City, OK
Boscobel Area Health Care, Boscobel, WI
SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, St. Louis, MO
SSM DePaul Health Center, Bridgeton, MO
Good Samaritan Regional Health Center, Mount Vernon, IL
Pike County Memorial Hospital, Louisiana, MO
St. Anthony Hospital, Oklahoma City, OK
St. Clare Hospital and Health Services, Baraboo, WI
St. Clare Meadows Care Center, Baraboo, WI
St. Francis Hospital & Health Center, Blue Island, IL
St. Francis Hospital & Health Services, Maryville, MO
SSM St. Joseph Health Center, St. Charles, MO
SSM St. Joseph Hospital West, Lake Saint Louis, MO
SSM St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood, Kirkwood, MO
St. Marys Hospital Medical Center, Madison, WI
St. Marys Health Center, Jefferson City, MO
SSM St. Mary's Health Center, St. Louis, MO

St. Marys Care Center, Madison, WI
St. Mary's Hospital, Centralia, IL
Villa Marie Skilled Nursing Facility, Jefferson City, MO
SSM Home Care, St. Louis, MO
SSM Managed Care Organization, St. Louis, MO
SSM Physicians' Organization, St. Louis, MO
SSM Rehab, St. Louis, MO
SSM Health Businesses, St. Louis, MO
SSM Information Center, St. Louis, MO
SSM Support Services, St. Louis, MO
SSM Health Care, St. Louis, MO
SSM Health Care of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK
SSM Health Care of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

FSM Co-Sponsored Ministries

Holy Family Services, Weslaco, TX
The Sarah Community, St. Louis, MO

We also have Sisters serving in other ministries in Ohio, Arizona, Missouri, South Carolina, New York, Texas, Wisconsin and Oklahoma.