

stewardship

Spring/Summer
2005

F S M

MAGAZINE

Franciscan Sisters of Mary

*“Be hospitable to one another
without complaining.*

*Like good stewards of the
manifold grace of God,*

*serve one another with whatever gift
each of you has received.”*

(1 Peter 4:9-10)

She 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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Jacqueline Motzel, FSM

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Sherri Coleman, FSM

Joanne Klenke, FSM

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Editor

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TABLE OF CONTENTS:

| | |
|---|----|
| President's Message | 1 |
| "Stewardship" | 2 |
| "Since We Have Gifts that Differ" | 8 |
| Spring Commemorative Appeal | 9 |
| "FSM Peace Pole Planting" | 11 |
| "Our Sisters Are in the Spotlight" | 12 |
| Transitions | 14 |
| "Join in Support of Mission and Ministries" | 17 |
| Gifts to the Franciscan Sisters of Mary..... | 18 |



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of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
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Franciscan Sisters of Mary

Mailing address:
Development Office
Franciscan Sisters of Mary
1100 Bellevue Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63117-1826

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



Dear Friends:



Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. (1 Cor 4:1-2)

In chapter 12 of Luke's Gospel, we read about the faithful steward who Jesus portrays as an example of a responsible Christian. The last verse of that section reads, "much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more".

Stewards are careful and responsible managers over what is entrusted to their care. As Franciscan Sisters of Mary, we are attentive to our stewardship responsibilities and intentional in sharing our time, talent and treasure with God's people – especially those in need. Within our limited resources, we see responsible stewardship as a way to consciously participate in building the reign of God.

In previous issues of *FSM Magazine*, we shared stories, poems, and other communications about the ways our sisters steward their time and talent to make this world a better place to live. Frequently these writings described our response to our sisters and brothers who are poor and live on the margins of society.

This issue focuses on the ways we steward our financial resources. As you read these pages, you will learn about our congregational guidelines, alternative investments and the Chiara Corporation which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

It is my hope that you find our sharings informative. In addition, I pray that they provide ideas and incentives to you, our readers and friends, to also reach out to those in need. The ways to do this are many: that it be done is a Gospel call. May each of you be blessed in making your response as good stewards of God's generous love.

With a prayer,

Jacqueline Motzel, FSM

Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP

Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,

serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:9-10

stewardship

“We have been blessed,” suggests Joanne Klenke, FSM, treasurer of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

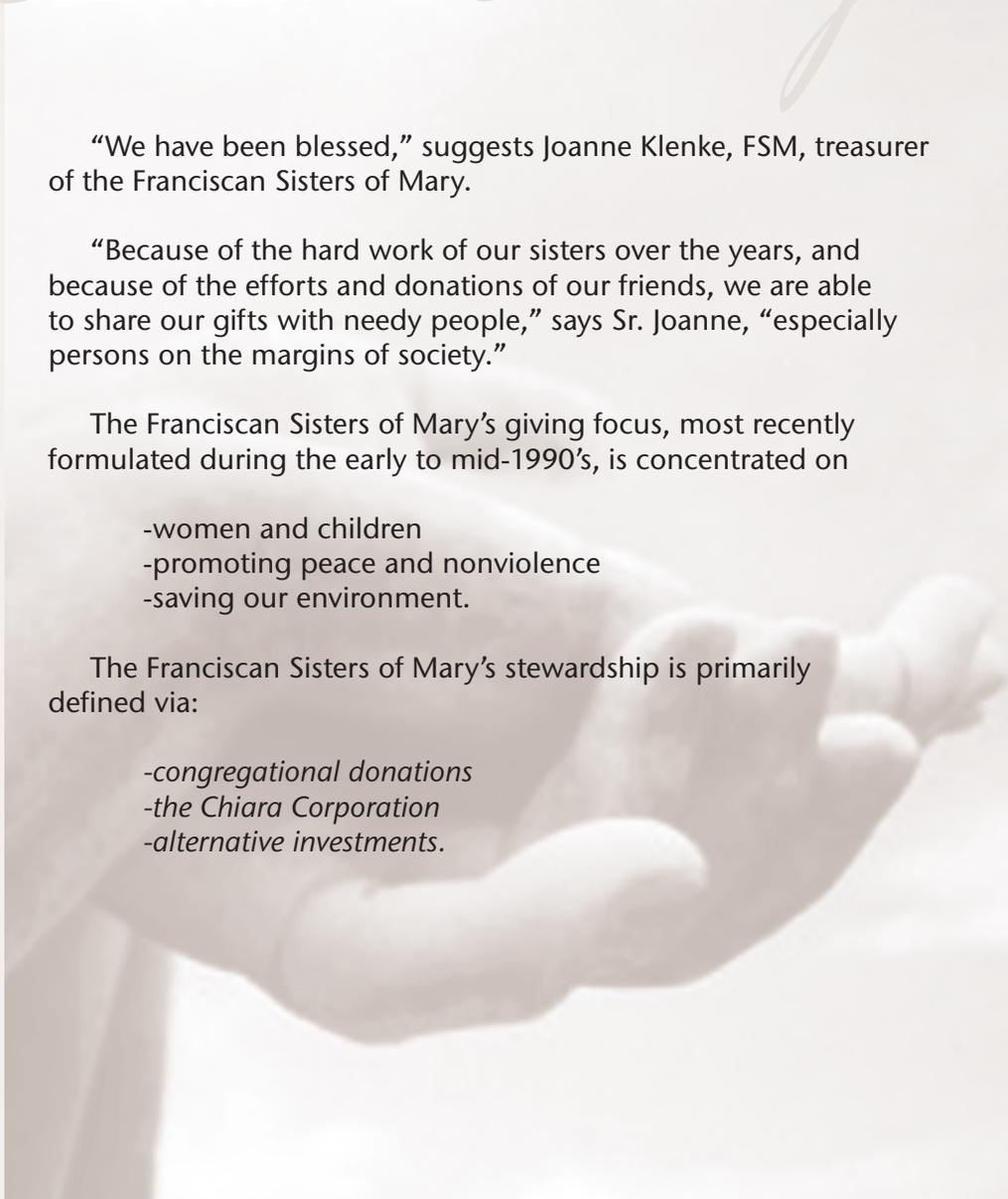
“Because of the hard work of our sisters over the years, and because of the efforts and donations of our friends, we are able to share our gifts with needy people,” says Sr. Joanne, “especially persons on the margins of society.”

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary’s giving focus, most recently formulated during the early to mid-1990’s, is concentrated on

- women and children
- promoting peace and nonviolence
- saving our environment.

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary’s stewardship is primarily defined via:

- congregational donations
- the Chiara Corporation
- alternative investments.



CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS . . .

In determining groups to which donations are granted, FSM leadership utilizes the following guidelines, which are inherent in the values of the Identity and Mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary:

- 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;
- are involved in the care of natural resources.

A sampling of congregational donations in 2004 includes;

- support of a ministry to women and children
- contribution to a national women religious organization for a religious community that was unable to pay
- assistance toward the construction of a dormitory for a school in Uganda
- support of the expansion of an orphanage in Haiti
- support the rebuilding of an Iraqi maternity hospital
- assist group in efforts toward promoting nonviolent change.

While FSM leadership makes decisions on which efforts to support through congregational donations, it does so on behalf of the congregation. At regular intervals, donation decisions and financial reports are communicated to the congregation. At times requests for donations on behalf of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary are made by sisters.

In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

THE CHIARA CORPORATION . . .

The Chiara Corporation is another avenue through which the Franciscan Sisters of Mary share their gifts with persons on the margins of society.

Chiara has supported ministries which have met needs throughout our country and throughout the world. Priority areas would include ministries focused on healing, peacemaking, care of the earth, services with people who are poor, justice and nonviolence. The greatest share of funds provides for or supports women and children.

Funding is granted to promote and support the mission and vision of the congregation, and to provide fiscal assistance for new and ongoing FSM ministries.

Here are a few of the ways Chiara funds have helped needy people:

- provide material goods for poor families
- support children grieving the death of a relative or friend
- support a childbirth assistance (doula) program
- decrease risks associated with teen pregnancy
- contribute to Almost Home's new facility
- purchase a car for Holy Family Services
- educate and support local grandparents with limited means
- assist low income people in rural Missouri
- give spiritual assistance to abused women in South Carolina
- help poor/uninsured mothers and their children
- enhance and expand the Hispanic Catholic faith community in an economically deprived area
- address the need for grief recovery within an African American community
- fund a recreation and socialization program for teen mothers and their children
- provide home care services for elderly persons in financial need
- encourage and promote peace efforts in our country and beyond, including Northern Ireland
- build an addition for the Children's Pastoral Program in Brazil.

In order for an effort to receive Chiara support, an FSM must be directly involved with the ministry. Ministries receiving Chiara funds must submit accountability reports.

The five Chiara Corporation directors are:

Mary Wuller, PhD
Marita Anne Marrah, FSM
Rose Mary Dowling, FSM
Joanne Klenke, FSM
Jacqueline Motzel, FSM



*“ . . . there are so many injustices . . . there is so much to do . . .
we can do it . . . together . . . ”*

Meeting with prayerful hearts, the directors of the Chiara Corporation come together with diverse experiences in business and in life. Together, on behalf of the congregation, they receive requests, review accountability reports, read narratives, contemplate options, share concerns, grant requests and refuse others, with open minds and open hearts.

During a recent Chiara meeting, directors review the accountability reports of several ministries. Here are some of their comments as they discuss the first ministry...

“Based on their reports I think they are offering a lot of opportunities to enrich lives.”

“I think it is amazing what can be accomplished with a relatively small amount of support.”

“It sounds as though their experiences have been life-changing!”

“I think they are offering these women a chance to step back to re-find the richness of their lives.”

The directors are equally affirming about a second ministry...

“I’ve met some of these people and have experienced their culture...I know that their trust level has been raised.”

“This is a great source of hope and inspiration. I think their effort reveals there are so many injustices, that there is so much to do, but that we can do it, together.”

And another ministry...

“They have decreased the number of incidence reports. I’m not sure that was an expected outcome. For it to be so measurable, well these are real “wow” actions they’ve taken.”

“Originally they were striving to offer participants opportunities to expand their cultural awareness. Now they’ve been presented with opportunities through which they have experienced so much more!”

“This program has truly offered them wonderful opportunities to expand their life experiences. I believe they have been encouraged to turn away from unhealthy relationships.”

And one last ministry...

“They feel such responsibility to deep cultural and religious beliefs.”

“I see the future of the church in them.”

“Some would say this is the church of today!”

They review a recent application...

“We know they do good work. It will help us to join in this role and be a part of connecting people!”

“I think they do a super job. They bring the right kinds of people together in differing ways.”

“The relationships are there. They will be our arms and legs . . . our partners.”

“It takes people behind the scenes. We’ve got to do something and do it soon. War is too costly. People need to be brought to the table to negotiate. That is peacemaking!”

“It’s a good use of Chiara resources.”

“I propose we fund.”

“All in favor . . . ”

(in unison) *“AYE!”*



Alternative Investments . . .

Alternative investments are investments the congregation makes that allow the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, through specific funds, to serve those persons on the margins of society. Through these funds, which are available through the investments of socially conscious investors, applicable needy persons or ministries can receive low or no interest loans for affordable housing or economic opportunities. Such economic opportunities take place throughout our country and the world.

"The FSM continually search for additional alternative investment opportunities that demonstrate a mission that supports "our sisters and brothers who are poor and on the margins of society," says Sr. Joanne. "We search for such opportunities across a wide geographical area, both nationally and internationally, as we identify and partner with people who, in very diverse and committed ways, work in tandem with the FSM, as they serve people of God."

" . . . all good giving and every perfect gift is from above . . ."

James 1:17

"Stewardship for us," continues Sr. Joanne, "means using well the gifts we have been given."

"Truly, we have been blessed."



stewardship

Alternative Investments

CHRLF

A nonprofit community loan fund that attracts socially conscious investments to enable low-income people to develop assets for greater participation in the economic system . . . provides economic education and below-market-rate capital to community-based housing and economic development . . . benefits low income

FAHE

An association of community-based nonprofit housing organizations whose mission is to provide decent, affordable housing available to low- and very-low income families

FORGE

Through its community-based lending activities, seeks to promote and enhance the quality of life and economic sustainability of rural and agricultural communities of the Ozarks. Its mission is to assure that everyone who is a borrower has access to credit

CFF

Brings together socially conscious investors and borrowers as it seeks to build strong communities by providing affordable loans and technical assistance to projects that produce jobs, housing, innovative forms of ownership, and social enterprises . . . provides one-on-one counseling, business training, and micro-lending to small businesses

RISA

Seeks to alleviate poverty and unemployment in South Africa by supporting the development and growth of the small business sector in low-income areas and among women . . . works with entrepreneurs assisting South Africans in business and eradicating poverty . . . invests in people

SHCU

Mission is to create ownership and economic opportunities for minorities, women, rural residents and low-wealth families . . . plans to continue extending its reach toward underserved families and businesses . . . that supports mission and as predatory lending that siphons equity in their homes

NMCDLF

Strives to be an alternative lender and technical assistance provider that empowers low-income people and advocates on their behalf by providing loans and technical assistance to entrepreneurs and individuals who impact the economic and community development of low-income communities . . . tries to improve and revitalize the community through grassroots, community based economic development . . . empowers people

WCCN

A nationwide nonprofit, membership-supported organization working in partnership with Nicaraguans to promote social and economic development. Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with most of its population living in poverty and nearly one-third in extreme poverty . . . currently working with partner agencies to provide credit access to tens of thousands of low-income

SHI

Serves low-income people of color primarily women – in South Africa's townships, rural and urban areas . . . a not-for-profit social investment fund guaranteeing South African bank loans to community development financial institutions engaged in South Africa's reconstruction

SSB

Increases economic opportunities in under-invested communities, providing holistic financial, social and technical assistance . . . strives to restore the economic health of low to moderate income neighborhoods by providing credit opportunities, quality affordable housing and home ownership through a variety of lending programs to areas and individuals traditionally ignored

LKF

Mission is to promote economic growth and sustainability on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in a culturally sensitive manner

UUAHC

Strives to improve the lives of low to moderate income families and individuals by providing livable and inclusive communities with quality housing, quality childcare, green space access to economic opportunity . . . lends from socially responsible investors and community development and collaborative neighborhood, faith-based and environmental partners

"Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

(Romans 12:6-8)

I wonder if the persons who answered Mother Odilia and her companion sisters' pleas for help nearly 135 years ago ever considered the long-reaching effects of their gifts. Did they consider that the money they gave her would make such an impact on the lives of persons looking to her and her sisters for help for people who needed it? Or did they simply give what they could when she asked for money for medicine for the family down the street, or bread for the neighbors who had watched over the children of a family whose parents were sick and may not make it through the night, or hands when the situation demanded more hands than the sisters had to offer?

Were Mother Odilia's pleas for help so heartfelt, so clear in message, so strong in expectation that individuals passing her on the street felt compelled to respond to her simply stated requests for something to help their sisters and brothers who needed something they didn't have?

Yes. So we believe.

Are the needs of our sisters and brothers who are poor and on the margins of society any more important than those of the persons served during Mother Odilia's time?

Just as important.

So are the gifts you share with the Franciscan Sisters of Mary today as significant as those shared with Mother Odilia in her day?

Absolutely. And we hope you know that.

In a previous article, Sr. Joanne Klenke referred to "laity" as "our arms and legs". That's not so different as in Mother Odilia's day, when more hands were needed than the sisters had to offer. Sisters can do a lot, but they need that extra help from the rest of us to offer, to serve, and to help.

Your gifts, whether given in honor or memory of someone dear to you; whether designated toward our retired sisters or toward our active ministries, allow the sisters to concentrate on ministering to persons who need their help.

Whether given to Mother Odilia in her basket on the streets of St. Louis nearly 135 years ago, or in response to the sisters' spring appeal this past May, each gift given to the FSM remains a part of the ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary. The gifts of the first "donors" supported the foundation of Mother Odilia's ministry. Your gifts sustain the ministry of the sisters and allow for continuance of the congregation's mission into the future.

Thank you for your gifts and your prayers.

We are grateful.

Joan E. Pace, Director, PR/Development

Gifts Received Through Our Spring Commemorative Appeal (April 1, 2005 - May 25, 2005)

. . . be patient, bearing with one another in love . . .

In Memory of:

*In memory of Mary Alcantara Blaska, FSM
Ms. Burdette Blaska*

*In memory of the deceased members of the Blaska family
Ms. Burdette M. Blaska*

*In memory of my mother, Estella Boedicker,
who died last August
Ms. Evelyn J. Boedicker*

*In memory of my sister-in-law, Mary Hugh Boente, FSM
Mrs. Elizabeth J. Boente*

*In memory of Bernard Marie Boland, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Kim D. Kannaday
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth D. Niemeayer*

*In memory of Aloysius Marie Borst, FSM
Ms. Lenita Moore*

*In memory of deceased members of the
John Brunner Family
Deacon and Mrs. Norbert J. Brunner*

*In memory of Miriam Joseph Clem, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph C. Ladi
Mrs. Helen B. Little*

*In memory of Mary Pancratia Ellermann, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. W.T. McCracken*

*In memory of my wife, Marilyn Finney
Mr. Edwin M. Finney*

*In memory of Jose B. Gonzalez
Mrs. Griselda Paz*

*In memory of my mother, Marie Haarmann,
on Mother's Day
In memory of my father, Joseph Haarmann,
on Father's Day
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Haarmann*

*In memory of Duchesne Herold, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Grelle*

*In memory of Mary Johnetta Hoffmann, FSM
Ms. Jacqueline Reiter*

*In memory of Rose E. Hooker
Ms. Jacqueline Reiter*

*In memory of Betty J. Hughes
Mr. Laurence F. Myers*

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

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

*In memory of Mary Carmeline Larotonda, FSM
Ms. Sharon L. Quarcini*

*In memory of Betty Loomis, Diane McKillip's mother
Ms. Carla S. Baum*

*In memory of Maureen Lutz, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Struckhoff*

*In memory of Victoria Martisaukas, FSM
George J. Martisus Trust*

*In memory of John Matthews
Western Dominican Province*

*In memory of my first cousin, Cindy McNulty,
who passed away April 7, 2005
Ms. Dixie Platt and Mr. Michael Burke*

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

*In memory of my aunt, Mary Janet Meyers, FSM
Mrs. Mary Joy Feeney*

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

*In memory of Virginia Marie Parent, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver J. Wirthlin*

*In memory of Milton L. Politte,
on the anniversary of his death
Ms. Elizabeth D. Politte*

*In memory of Mary Reardon, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ortleb*

*In memory of Jim and Emily Riordan
Ms. Alice M. O'Leary*

*In memory of Mildred C. Schneiders
Mr. and Mrs. Alex J. Reinkemeyer*

*In memory of my husband, Kenneth Scholl
Mrs. JoAnn Scholl*

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

*In memory of Judith Schulte
Ms. Marilyn Maret*

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

*In memory of Mary Benigna Semtner, FSM
Ms. Kathleen R. Rodgers*

*In memory of Eugene Marie Smith, FSM
Ms. Delia Greer*

*In memory of Kathryn Weiss, FSM
Ms. Virginia Mulhern*

*In memory of Arlene C. Weitzel, FSM
Ms. Mary E. Burt*

*In memory of Norman J. Wirtz
Mrs. Patricia A. Wirtz*

*He sat down opposite the treasury
and observed how the crowd put
money into the treasury. Many
rich people put in large sums. A
poor widow also came and put in
two small coins worth a few
cents. Calling his disciples to
himself, he said to them, 'Amen, I
say to you, this poor widow put in
more than all the other
contributors to the treasury. For
they have all contributed from
their surplus wealth, but she,
from her poverty, has contributed
all she had, her whole livelihood'."*

Mark 12:41-44

Gifts Received Through Our Spring Commemorative Appeal (April 1, 2005 - May 25, 2005)

. . . be patient, bearing with one another in love . . .

In Honor of:

*In honor of Mary Doris Ashcraft, FSM,
on her Golden Jubilee*
Ms. Lenita Moore

*In honor of Marie Christine Berner, FSM,
on her Golden Jubilee*
Ms. Lenita Moore

In honor of Rita Clara Blau, FSM
Ms. Ginny Becker

In honor of Claire Marie Borst, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Skwor

*In honor of my wife, Lorraine C. Brennan,
for her courage and leadership*
Dr. Robert A. Brennan, Sr.

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

In honor of Rosanna Marie Carter, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Garvey

*In honor of my mother, Hilde Degenhardt,
on Mother's Day*
Ms. Joan E. Pace

In honor of Mary Rosaleen Dorlac, FSM
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Sweeney

*In honor of my granddaughter, Jessica M. Dowden,
on her high school graduation*
Mr. Kenneth L. Dowden

In honor of Gertrude Duperret on Mother's Day
Ms. Marina Duperret

*In honor of Mary Elmendorf, the "BEST mom,"
on Mother's Day*
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Weaver

In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
Mr. Carl Debrecht
Ms. Theresa Ramirez

*In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
for all prayers during recent illness*
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald P. Turgeon

*In honor of the FSM that prayed for sons' successful
kidney transplant surgery on April 27, 2005*
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Skwor

In honor of Mary Damien Francois, FSM
Ms. Joyce Ware

*In honor and appreciation of the FSM
at St. Anthony Hospital*
Lt. Col. Dorothea A. Courts

In honor of Mary Rosina Higgs, FSM
Ms. Joyce Ware
Mr. Harry Wilson

In honor of my mother, Ann Hanna, on Mother's Day
Ms. Peggy Ederer

*In honor of Mary Maxelinda Heimericks, FSM,
on her 84th anniversary as an FSM*
Mr. and Mrs. Larry E. Poettker

In honor of Kellen Hutzler on his first birthday
Mrs. Judith Pautler

*In honor of Mary Jo Kahl, FSM,
on her Golden Jubilee*
Ms. Lenita Moore

In honor of Irma Kennebeck, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Bess

*In honor of Beatrice Knecht for all the help she
has given me*
Ms. Marie A. Voves

*In honor of my mother, Casey Krings,
on Mother's Day*
*In honor of my father, Art Krings,
on Father's Day*
Rev. James A. Krings

*In honor of my wife, Maryfrances Lang,
on Mother's Day*
Dr. John Lang

*In honor of Mary Ellen Lewis, FSM,
on her Golden Jubilee*
Ms. Lenita Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Timm

In honor of my sister, Jeanne Marie Meurer, FSM
Mrs. Colette Hinkle

In honor of my sister, Ramona Meurer, FSM
Mrs. Colette Hinkle

In honor of Elizabeth Mullins on Mother's Day
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Claggett, Jr.

In honor of my son, William Osterholt
Mrs. Henrietta B. Osterholt

In honor of my Godmother, Wanda Rester
Mrs. Susan Scalise

In honor of Josephine Ruzicka on Mother's Day
Mr. and Mrs. Terry G. Tibeau

In honor of Mary Jean Ryan, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Jay C. McCutcheon

In honor of Cathy Schultz
Ms. Margaret M. Wittenbrink

In honor of Mary Ellen Sloan, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard H. Sloan

In honor of Marylu Stueber, FSM
Mr. John and Dr. Anne Butler

*In honor of Sarah A. Sykes, FSM,
on her Golden Jubilee*
Ms. Lenita Moore

In honor of Mary Charlene Teson, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Don D. Roberts

In honor of Joy M. Venker
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Reiter

In honor of my mother, Marie Wittenbrink
Ms. Margaret M. Wittenbrink

Spring 2005 Appeal Donors

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Msgr. Thomas F. Baxter
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Mr. and Mrs. Bua Van Le

May Peace Prevail On Earth

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary planted a *Peace Pole* on the campus of Saint Louis University Medical Center this past October. The planting ceremony celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the *FSM Declaration of Nonviolence*, which encourages peace-making at all levels.

The planting ceremony was held during the FSM's annual Assembly, and included prayer, reflection, acknowledgement of victims of violence and a call to peace.

The Peace Pole Project was initiated in Japan by The World Peace Prayer Society and was launched to uplift humankind toward harmony rather than conflict. To date, over 200,000 Peace Poles have been planted around the world in over 180 countries. In the United States, there are over 7,500 Peace Poles.

The eight-foot, four-sided Peace Pole includes the message, *May Peace Prevail On Earth*, in four languages. Besides English, the other selected languages are Spanish, German and French.

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary have a long history of association with the Jesuit-sponsored University. In partnership with the Jesuits, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary began the Saint Louis University School of Nursing in 1929, with four FSM serving as the school's dean over its 75-year history. From this association, the University's School of Allied Health also began.

An identical *Peace Pole* was planted on the grounds of St. Mary of the Angels Convent following the ceremony at Saint Louis University.



Peace on Earth

Our Sisters Are in the Spotlight

Congratulations to **Irma Kennebeck, FSM**, and **Jeanne Meurer, FSM**, who were each recipients of a **2005 Catholic Women** award, given by the (St. Louis) Archdiocesan Committee on Women in the Church. Srs. Irma and Jeanne received their awards in the Justice Seeker category, which is modeled after Dorothy Day. Women nominated in the Justice Seeker category are women who work to change systemic injustice and to promote human dignity; who live justly and leave people uncomfortable in their own complacency.



Angela Murdaugh, FSM, received a **Doctor of Humane Letters** degree from Villanova University.

(Fishing the “East Cut” between Laguna Madre and the Gulf of Mexico, Sr. Angela landed a 42-inch red fish!)



Ramona Meurer, FSM, received a **2005 Good Counsel Alumnae Award**. Nominated by her classmates, one exclaimed, “*God is definitely with her, giving her the strength to do all which she feels must be done!*”



Sherri Coleman, FSM, and **Marilyn Davis, FSM**, are part of a new initiative, **Healers in Ministry**, whose mission is “to offer groups and agencies the gifts of



different healing modalities to empower those who would not normally have access to them.” Healers in Ministry consists of women actively engaged in a variety of healing ministries including: healing touch, integrative manual therapy, reiki, rosen method bodywork-movement, tai chi, prayer, relaxation techniques, therapeutic massage, therapeutic touch, and yoga.



Betty Brucker, FSM, was heralded as a (St. Louis Business Journal) “**Health Care Hero!**”



Leo Rita Volk, FSM, was honored as one of twenty-five 2004 *“Ageless – Remarkable St. Louisans”*. *“These individuals represent an increasing senior population that refuses to sit back and let life pass them by,”* said Mary Alice Ryan,

president and CEO of St. Andrew’s Resources for Seniors, who sponsors the celebration.

Mary Jean Ryan, FSM, SSM Health Care president/CEO, was recently recognized by Modern Healthcare Magazine and the American Hospital Association. Modern Healthcare named her one of the *“Top 25 Women in Healthcare”* and she received the AHA’s *Award of Honor* for her “exemplary contributions to the health and well-being of people through leadership on major health policies or social initiatives.” Earlier this year Sr. Mary Jean traveled to Japan, Thailand and the Philippines to speak on performance excellence to representatives of the Asia Productivity Organization.

Jeanne Derer, FSM, received *“Best in Category Award”* at the *Arts at Concordia* 3rd annual art show held this past spring at Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood, MO. Sr. Jeanne submitted three of her artistic works and received the award in the acrylic category. She received the award for her painting *“Mary visits Elizabeth”* or *“The Dance of Life.”* Two other works she submitted were titled *“Abram and Sarah”* and *“Job: Whom God Lives is Tested.”* (If you would like to view other works of Sr. Jeanne, visit her website at <http://ruahstudio.tripod.com/>).



Mary Joan Meyer, FSM, is the author of *“Contemplative Solitude”*, a compilation of her Haiku prayers and photography.





Sr. Eleanor Marie Kaminski

July 31, 1914 - October 26, 2004

A beatitude that can be associated with Sr. Eleanor Marie is “blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 5:3) Certainly Sr. Eleanor Marie was special in the eyes of God and she shared her personality and presence with others through her eyes and smile.

Josephine Kaminski was born in St. Louis on July 31, 1914 to Anton and Cecelia Dreas Kaminski. Sr. Eleanor Marie professed her final vows on February 10, 1944.

During her ministry at SSM St. Mary’s Health Center, Richmond Heights, she served as an assistant on the nursing divisions within the hospital. As part of her responsibilities, Sr. Eleanor Marie was known to bring the medication box to the pharmacy from 5 West and would exchange pleasantries in brief chats with the pharmacists.

Because of illness, she became a patient at SSM St. Mary’s Health Center and at St. Louis State Hospital prior to living in Our Lady of Victories from 1990 until her death.

In her later years Sr. Eleanor Marie had a special relationship with the nursing staff. Her giggles and smiles were signs of her grateful heart and she gave others joy when she smiled and waved to them as they walked by. The smiles gave staff energy and encouragement. She also enjoyed sharing her mother’s photograph with others.

Sr. Eleanor Marie died on October 26, 2004, just after lunch. She was more alert that morning and was “blowing kisses” to those who passed by. Perhaps she knew God was coming for her and in her way was saying goodbye. Certainly God welcomed and clothed her splendidly with a royal robe, not of purple, but in her favorite shade of pink, and delighted her with everlasting strength and dignity.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven”



Sr. Victoria Martisauskas

December 23, 1914 - November 7, 2004

Born in Cleveland, OH on December 23, 1914, Victoria was the oldest of four children born to George and Anna Nanjakaitis Martisauskas. The family moved to Collinsville, IL when her father was offered a job in the area. Seven year-old Victoria went to live in an orphanage in Alton that was run by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ of Ruma, IL, when her mother died.

Victoria entered the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in June, 1938, and Sr. Adele Marie professed her final vows in February, 1944. (Sister assumed the use of her baptismal name again after Vatican II).

During her ministry, Sr. Victoria served at St. Mary of the Angels Convent, St. Louis, Villa Marie du Lac, Ironton, St. Marys Health Center, Jefferson City, and St. Mary's Hospital, Kansas City, all in Missouri. She also served at St. Mary's Ringling Convent, Baraboo, WI.

Sr. Victoria had a wonderful sense of humor which helped her get through some difficult days. Despite her personal health issues, Sister was always concerned about the other sisters in Our Lady of Victories and their needs, as well as the staff. She loved much and ministered in prayer for the needs of the congregation, her sisters, and the world.

The meaning of Sr. Victoria's name is victory and she has had many victories in life. She has now won the ultimate, marvelous victory for those who belong to God. Today she is the victor, praising and thanking God for giving her victory in eternal life. She exchanged her perishable body for that which is imperishable on November 7, 2004, and now experiences the loving presence of God and the welcoming hospitality given to her, having served her God for 66 years in religious life.

"My God and my all"



Sr. Bernard Marie Boland

August 12, 1902 - March 18, 2005

There are people of many talents in our world: some can run with the grace of a deer, some can write beautifully, but not many can live to the age of 102 with the grace and strength of character that is incorruptible, unbending and undimmed by age or condition as Sr. Bernard Marie. She understood well how important it is that *what* you say be said gently. When you were with her, you knew you were really with someone special and honorable. One of her hallmarks was that of gratitude for everything done for her.

Helen Marie Boland was born August 12, 1902, in New Haven, MO, the sixth of ten children born of William and Hendrina (Lakebrink) Boland. She entered the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in 1923 and made her final vows in 1929.

Sr. Bernard Marie wanted to be a nurse, even before she entered the congregation. She served in the following ministries: St. Mary's Infirmary, the former Firmin Desloge, and SSM St. Mary's Health Center, St. Louis; St. Marys Hospital Medical Center, Madison, WI; St. Francis Hospital and Health Center, Blue Island, IL; St. Clare Hospital and Health Services, Baraboo, WI; and St. Eugene Community Hospital, Dillon, SC.

Not until her 80th birthday did she retire from the operating and emergency rooms of St. Eugene's, only to begin work in the cardiopulmonary department. She continued to minister in that department until well past her 90th birthday.

In fact at the age of 90, she developed her artistic talent – the art of making cards with pressed flowers, which she continued until the end of her life. Many people have been graced by her card-making ministry. Sr. Bernard Marie was a very good correspondent with letters and cards sent to many people. Besides her large and devoted family, she enjoyed the visits of her beloved friends from St. Eugene's when they came to visit. She held great love for the congregation; she loved her sisters and prayed for their needs and those of the world.

On the evening of March 18, 2005, her earthly life came to a peaceful close. The celebration in eternity is just beginning, with those whom she loved and ministered to, and is greater than any celebration she had on earth. Certainly *Alleluias* were sung by Sr. Bernard Marie, since it was her fervent desire that God would bring her home.

"I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart."



Sr. Kathryn Weiss

September 24, 1903 - April 12, 2005

A member of the FSM Centenary Club, Kathryn Weiss was 101 years old and was in religious life for 84 years when she died quietly and peacefully, just as she had lived, the morning of April 12, 2005. When she met her God face to face, God saw this work of creation now having been fulfilled and “saw it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31)

Kathryn was the second of six children born to Charles and Theresa (Weixelbaum) Weiss, in Morrison Bluff, AR. Her father died when she was six and her mother married Casper Hoelker; two step-brothers and a step-sister were born. Her parents owned a peach farm in Anton, OK.

Kathryn was received as a novice and received the name Sr. Mary Virginia in 1921; she returned to her baptismal name after Vatican II. She professed her final vows in 1925.

Sister graduated from St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing, Maryville, MO. She ministered as a nurse at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, Hannibal, MO and St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City, OK. In 1947 Sister was one of four founding sisters to serve in North Carolina, initially at Maryhurst Retreat House in Pine Hurst for several months, and then St. Joseph of the Pines Hospital in Southern Pines, where she remained until the Sisters withdrew from the hospital in 1966.

Sr. Kathryn served as nursing supervisor at St. Mary’s in Nebraska City, NE, and as assistant administrator and superior of St. Francis Hospital in Maryville in 1969, before returning to St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, Hannibal, MO. A new ministry was begun when she went to Mount Alverno in 1980 to serve in the apostolate of prayer before she moved to St. Louis to live at St. Mary of the Angels Convent serving in the prayer ministry of the Sisters.

Sr. Kathryn’s most satisfying ministry was as a bedside nurse. She was one who was happy to be with people, ministering by her presence, instead of dealing with paperwork. Yet she was grateful God gave her the gifts which she used and that enabled her to serve others during her many years of ministry.

Now Sr. Kathryn enjoys a life in God’s presence for all eternity.

“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.”



Sr. Aloysius Marie Borst

August 8, 1914 - May 9, 2005

Agnes Adell Borst, born August 8, 1914, in Salina, KS, was one of four girls and two boys born to Louis W. and Helen H. (Holly) Borst. Her father was described as a *Jack of all trades*, who worked as a carpenter, barber, butcher, ran a grocery and meat market and was a nurseryman in later years. Agnes entered the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in 1932; she professed her final vows in 1938.

Sr. Aloysius Marie earned degrees in radiology technology and education research from Saint Louis University. She ministered within the radiology departments of SSM St. Mary’s Health Center, Richmond Heights, MO; St. Marys Hospital Medical Center, Madison, WI; the former Firmin Desloge Hospital, St. Louis; the former St. Mary’s Infirmary, St. Louis; St. Clare Health Center, Baraboo, WI; and St. Francis Hospital Health Center, Blue Island, IL. She also served as a radiology instructor at Saint Louis University, and as executive director of St. Clare Health Center, Baraboo, WI.

A true Franciscan, she loved everything about nature and was an avid fisherwoman, catching many a fish! Photography became a hobby, and her camera went along wherever she went. While in Baraboo, she assisted with the liturgy at St. Mary’s Ringling, playing the organ. She was able to enjoy a variety of vacations with Sisters, as well as family and friends, including a trip to the Holy Land. Letterwriting, sending cards and correspondence to others became a part of her apostolate, as well as her prayer for everyone. Sister made the most of her life!

The morning of May 9, 2005, Sr. Aloysius Marie died peacefully. Perhaps Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John were there with Jesus when she was called to eternity. It would not be surprising if the apostles quickly said “Let’s go fishing Allie! We know just the spot where we can make quite a catch.”

“I know that my Redeemer lives.”





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.

We invite you to join in the mission and ministries of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary through your prayers and your support.

Here are some of the ways you can offer your financial support to the FSM:

- include the FSM in your estate planning through a bequest
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- create a trust
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- serve as a contact or initiator for corporate gifts
- send us your gift in the envelope inserted in FSM Magazine
- respond to our development appeals
- make a secure online donation (coming soon!)

Our legal name is Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

Our address is 1100 Bellevue Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63117-1826.

You may specify that your gift support our active ministries, our retired sisters, or our greatest need.

Gifts to the Franciscan Sisters of Mary are tax-deductible.

Thank you in advance for your heartfelt support of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

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September 15, 2004 to May 25, 2005

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*In honor of my sister,
Mary Josephine Huhmann, FSM*

*Do not neglect to do good
and to share what you have;
God is pleased by sacrifices
of that kind.*

Hebrews 13:16

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*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.*

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