

Spring 2010

F S M

MAGAZINE

Franciscan Sisters of Mary



letting go of life's clutter

Traveling Light

Founded in 1872, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary is a religious congregation of women within the Roman Catholic Church. Committed to standing with the poor and marginalized, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary sponsor the ministries Almost Home, SSM Health Care, and Woman's Place, and collaborate with four other religious congregations of women in The Sarah Community.

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Message from Rose Dowling, FSM, President Franciscan Sisters of Mary



When Less Is More . . .

In our June 2009 Gathering we Franciscan Sisters of Mary called ourselves to a focus committing us to do our part to lessen devastation to the Earth, to “vigorously endorse actions to lessen the destructive effects of global climate change.” In this issue of *FSM Magazine* we share a way that has helped us become more aware that having fewer and fewer “things” in our lives deepens our presence and as a result deepens our life with God, others and creation.

As we began this path, before we ever let go of one item, we reflected on Scripture and some of the writings of St. Francis of Assisi and then responded to a few questions that we found very helpful. I thought sharing them could set the stage for you to consider how you could “declutter” in your own life. So here they are:

- Select an experience when you personally had to divest or let go of a possession. What were your feelings about this experience? What helped you get through it?
- Francis made a radical choice to live simply. How would you argue for or against that such a choice frees us?
- Conversion is a Gospel value. Reflect and ponder how the invitation to “declutter” can be a call to conversion for you.
- What would your life look like if you lived more simply? What challenges would you face? How will you meet these challenges?

Decluttering one’s life is certainly a challenge in a society that eggs us on to buy more and more . . . even in the midst of economic “bad times.” But decluttering certainly helps to lessen the destructive effects of global climate change and to deepen our spiritual life.

Pick up any one thing in your home or office. Think about where it came from, the packaging it came in, the miles it traveled and the fossil fuel it took to arrive on your desk or shelf. Consider the materials used, the manufacturing processes and the waste generated to make it, etc., etc. And that is just one thing!!!!

It is a challenge to let go, to not buy “stuff”—“cute stuff,” any “stuff.” But what does the Earth need . . . more things—or fewer? Who can make that happen?

I invite you to join with us as we support one another in committing to act in loving, respectful and harmonious relationship with God’s creation. Actions taken to declutter keep us aligned with our deeper values, our spiritual values. When we let go of “stuff,” we let come our deeper, truer Self.

Happy Decluttering to all of us!!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose Mary Dowling, F.S.M." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page.



Travel Light!

A Franciscan Journey

Watch a butterfly's dance . . . Grace of movement. Incredible lightness. Rainbow wafting on a summer's breeze. A fluttering dance free of whatever weighs us down and holds us to earth.

Butterflies “travel light,” beginning a journey of thousands of miles with—*nothing* packed for the journey.

For the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, the butterfly has been an image, a theme—a goal—throughout 2009 and into 2010.

In January 2009 the FSM Declutter Team organized a campaign encouraging sisters to “Travel Light”—in the spirit of true Franciscan simplicity, to sort through all the “things” accumulated through the years and to let go of whatever they no longer use or need.

Now St. Mary of the Angels Convent—and a number of other homes dotting the country—are lighter, less cluttered than just a year ago.

Where to Begin?

How do you tackle such a project—one that flies counter to the very culture in which we live, where one’s worth is measured by how much he or she *has*?



From left, Sr. Mary Jo Schieber, Sr. Rose Dowling, Sr. Cecilia Lackman, and Marillyn Webb pause by the nearly full van of items recycled from the convent.

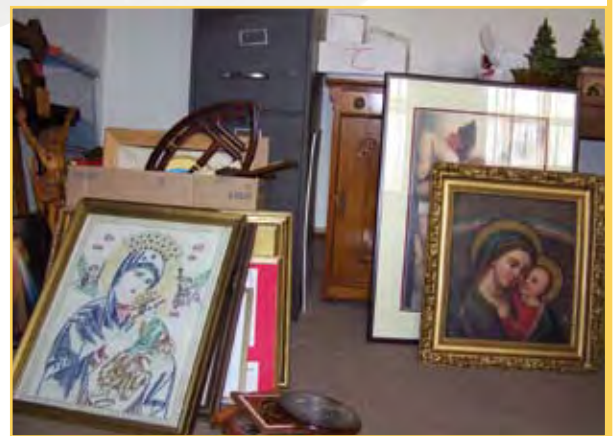
By challenging each person to find and live by worthier goals.

In March 2009 the Declutter Team—Srs. Rose Dowling, Cecilia Lackman, Lenita Moore, and Mary Jo Schieber, and Marillyn Webb (executive director of Support Services for the convent) and Sandy Ashby (director of Public Relations and Development)—sent all FSM a letter outlining the project. The chapter “Letting Go” from Joan Chittister’s book *The Gift of Years*, which sisters were encouraged to read, suggested a rationale.

Beginning the Journey

Our lives, Chittister points out, follow a cycle—in our early years we accumulate; in our later years we divest. And as we follow the natural urge to let go of what we’ve accumulated because we no longer have use for it, we begin to develop “the ability to see into the inner meaning of things . . . that must carry us from this point on. And it is the spiritual essence of a person that emerges from the natural divestment that comes with old age.”¹

And so we begin a spiritual journey, “a period of major divestment, of total renunciation of that which shaped a person *before* he or she began the great spiritual quest. In this period, the seeker considers the meaning of life and death, of the spiritual and the material, of Earth and its beyond, of the soul in contact with the great soul within.



“ . . . We evaluate everything we have come to know about life and look for a dimension above the things of this world, for the sake of what is yet to come. The search means, then, that we strip ourselves of whatever it is we have accrued until this time in order

1 Joan Chittister, *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully* (New York: BlueBridge, 2008), p. 89.



to give ourselves wholly to the birthing of the person within. Into this part of life we travel light.”²

The team invited the entire community to engage in this spiritual journey, to divest themselves of “things” —just as St. Francis of Assisi did centuries ago—so as to open themselves to the discovery of the spiritual essence within, so often obscured by the clutter of everyday life.

Step by Step

Beginning in April, “Travel Light!” flyers went out about every two weeks through the rest of the year encouraging sisters to “reduce, reuse, recycle.” Each flyer described a specific focus for decluttering. To ensure that the excess “stuff” didn’t just end up in landfills, the team included on the flyers ideas for places where sisters, especially those outside the convent, could bring unwanted items for reuse or recycling. The flyers also specified collection sites at the convent.

Books. Magazines and periodicals. Clothes, shoes, accessories. Knickknacks and religious items. Electronics, CDs, DVDs, cassettes. Then the focus shifted to areas. Basements. Kitchens and bathrooms. Garages. Community rooms. Wherever clutter lurked.

A Franciscan Way of Life

The declutter project was a huge success. And the sisters have found “traveling light” a great way to go.

For some, living simply has always been a way of life. As Sr. Eleanor Krieg puts it, “Franciscans are supposed to be simple and travel lightly. The less stuff I have, the less I need to do to take care of it. I don’t keep stuff I know I’ll never use.” Her room at the convent is a testament to that philosophy.

For more than twenty years—long before it was fashionable—recycling everything possible has been a regular habit for Srs. Mary Anne Murphy and Bridgid McNamara in Baraboo, Wisconsin. “Sr. Bridgid will say,



² Chittister, p. 91.

‘Now, Molly, is this recyclable?’ And if I don’t know, I’ll just get on the phone with the City Hall to check!’ Sr. Mary Anne says.

“Recycling isn’t that time-consuming. It’s just something we should want to do.”

Getting in the Habit

To some degree, recycling has always been a way of life at St. Mary of the Angels.

For years the sisters at the convent have been recycling clothes and shoes through “The Closet” on the first floor. Each month Sr. Cecilia Lackman sorts through the clothes and shoes, boxes them up, and sends about nine to twelve boxes to Salvation Army. The Declutter campaign encouraged sisters to sort through their belongings more assertively, pulling out items that no longer fit, that just don’t work, that they no longer need—so those items could benefit others.



If St. Mary of the Angels seems a little lighter these days, it could be because Sr. Cecilia Lackman packed off 30 boxes of books for the Greater St. Louis Book Fair. Rudy and Wayne helped move the boxes.

During the two weeks focused on recycling books, Sr. Cecilia, convent librarian and member of the Declutter Team, handled more than a thousand books that sisters brought to the library. She sorted through nursing textbooks, novels, travelogues, religious books and pamphlets—publications of every kind. She catalogued some for the convent library. Many found their way to the Greater St. Louis Book Fair.

Boxes of gently used books, CDs, and DVDs have traveled all the way to Corpus Christi, Texas. At the retreats she gives, Sr. Angela Murdaugh sets up a table at the back of the room for resources valuable for spiritual

growth—authors like Henri Nouwen and Joyce Rupp. People attending the retreats are welcome to take them.

A Move Always Helps . . .

When moving back to St. Louis from Texas, Sr. Mary Chaudet found the value in “traveling light.”

“I was giving away things hand over fist to people there,” she commented. “Every move gives you the opportunity to evaluate whether you need things or not. I’ve really found it fun to let go of things.”

“Now I’m working on not accumulating things. When I don’t use something very often—like a pot for deep-frying—I’ll see if I can borrow it. I don’t buy things I don’t use regularly.”

One’s Junk Is Another’s Treasure

What’s happened to the tons of clutter taken from the premises of the convent and other sisters’ homes?

The Greater St. Louis Book Fair received more than thirty boxes of books, CDs, and DVDs. The proceeds from the book fair benefit local nonprofit education and literacy programs.



Women who couldn’t afford an “interview outfit” benefited from the sisters’ generous donations of clothes and accessories. Furniture, tools, dishes, utensils, and all sorts of household items have made their way to people who need them.

Sr. Lenita Moore, a member of the Declutter Team, has found an excellent use for recycled furniture and household items through her ministry connected with the City of St. Louis Lead Safe Program. As a citizen advocate, she works with families whose children show high levels of lead. Lead poisoning causes irreversible physical and mental damage, and families who live in housing built before 1978 are likely to be exposed to lead paint. Lead is especially harmful to children younger than 6, who often eat paint chips or swallow invisible lead dust created by chipping, peeling, or flaking paint. Poor families are often most vulnerable.

Because lead particles coat and embed their belongings, families whose homes are contaminated by lead must replace furniture, bedding, appliances, and other household items to avoid recontamination once contractors have made the structure itself safe from lead. “If we don’t get rid of it, the child will never get well,” Sr. Lenita says. She provides furniture, small appliances, dishes, utensils, bedding, and other items through the convent’s recycling and the many garage sale items gathered and contributed by Sr. Jacqueline Motzel.



Sr. Jacqueline Motzel and Sr. Lenita Moore transport garage sale “finds” to be used for the St. Louis Lead Safe program.

Their ministry to poor families makes a tangible difference in the lives of those they touch. A 9-year-old girl exclaims, “Now I can have my friends over!” A father says, “My family has what it needs.” A mother ecstatic over a crock pot says, “I can prepare healthy food!” A grandfather phones to tell Sr. Lenita, “We are all sitting around our new kitchen table and talking together.”

Decluttering Can Be Habit-Forming . . .

The work of the Declutter Team ended early in 2010. But, as the FSM have discovered, decluttering and recycling often involve more than just a single pass-through. “Traveling light” becomes a way of life.



Marillyn Webb loads up the van from the side.

Books continue to appear at the convent library. Sisters sort a second and third time through closets, shelves, and storage bins, culling out even more “stuff” they no longer need, regifting gifts, ridding themselves of clutter to make room for the new simplicity they’ve come to appreciate.

Sr. Lenita, for instance, lives frugally but is still finding ways to reduce. “I just got rid of an extra set of dishes,” she said. “I didn’t really need them. And just last week I gave away a coat.”

Sr. Mary Ann Linhoff put together a box of books for the book fair, recycled old magazines, and shredded outdated legal records and receipts. But now she’s rethinking many other items in her apartment. A closet of linens. Dishes and serving pieces she hasn’t used in years. Decluttering is becoming a way of life for her—a way of simplifying and returning to basics.

More than a clothing drive or a cleanup initiative, the Declutter campaign has been an invitation to “Travel Light!”—or, as Joan Chittister puts it, “to go lightfooted into the here and now—because we spend far too much of life preparing for the future rather than enjoying the present.”³

We invite you to join in “traveling light” into wherever the future is calling us. ☀

3 Chittister, p. 93.

Trying Out Your Wings

Would you like to “travel light”—but just don’t know where to begin? Here are a few suggestions.

Why?

If you’re looking for a reason to declutter, try reading Joan Chittister’s chapter “Letting Go” in *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully*. She describes how decluttering leaves us free “to furnish the soul with poetry and beauty, with friendships and adventure, with children to play with rather than raise, and with peers to talk to about important matters rather than superficial things.”¹

How?!

If, on the other hand, you’re already convinced of the need but you can’t even imagine where to begin, consider checking out *Clutter’s Last Stand: It’s Time to De-Junk Your Life!*² Don Aslett, known as America’s #1 Cleaning Expert, offers step-by-step advice on how to approach every pile of clutter in your home or office—and how to avoid re cluttering your life. Lighthearted yet practical and full of common sense, this book takes the fear out of letting go.

What Do I Do with All This Stuff?

The short answer to this question is, don’t just throw it in the trash to end up in a landfill. Scope out the possibilities for reuse and recycling.

- Many organizations that help people find affordable goods will pick up your donations of clothes, books, household items, even furniture. Just check to be sure you understand what they can and cannot accept.
- If you have items you believe are valuable, have them appraised. If you can’t stand to polish Aunt Emma’s silver tea set one more time or have never in 25 years

1 Joan Chittister, *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully* (New York: BlueBridge, 2008), p. 92.

2 Don Aslett, *Clutter’s Last Stand: It’s Time to De-Junk Your Life!* 2nd ed. (Avon, Mass.: Adams Media, 2005).

worn your mother's diamond necklace, sell it for a fair price—or give it to someone who will love it. Tools, knickknacks, jewelry, and antiques can be treasures in the right hands, but if they leave you cold, they're just clutter.

- If items can't be reused, try to recycle. Leftovers in St. Louis, for instance, accepts all sorts of items. Books of no use to anyone (like outdated textbooks) can be recycled as paper. Check with your local Humane Society to see whether they'd like the confidential papers you've shredded—some use it as bedding for dogs and cats.
- Some items should never go in the trash because they release toxins into the soil, air, or water. Solvents, paint, batteries, CFL light bulbs, gasoline and motor oil, electronics like TVs and computers—all need special treatment. Contact the government offices in your area to find out where to bring such items for disposal.

*Discover for yourself the wisdom of “Less is more”
—and travel light! ☀*

FSM Congregational Focus

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary, aware of the critical condition of our Sister Earth, continue our commitment to act in loving, respectful and harmonious relationship with all of God's creation and vigorously endorse actions to lessen the destructive effects of global climate change.

Celebrating Bellevue Meals on Wheels

The tables were turned for the thirty-five volunteers from Bellevue Meals on Wheels and FSM workers from Food Service

who have faithfully prepared and delivered hot lunches almost daily as part of the program. On Thursday, March 11, 2010, this loyal group enjoyed a hot lunch and the thanks of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary for thirty-seven years of ministry through the Meals on Wheels program.



Sr. Jeanne Derer, Carol Dowd, and Sr. Irma Kennebeck

Some have been involved almost from the beginning. Others have joined later. Some heard about the program through their parish and signed up to help—and found lasting friendships along the way.

Begun in 1973 by Srs. Rose Dowling and Irma Kennebeck, Meals on Wheels has been the face of presence, hospitality, and compassion for thousands of homebound people in the Clayton and Richmond Heights areas. The hot lunches filled a physical need, but the kind words and dependability of these faithful volunteers served as a bright spot in an otherwise dreary existence for so many.



Sr. Rose Dowling (center) with Alice Provaznik and Rose Renz, two Bellevue Meals on Wheels volunteers

As Sr. Irma pointed out in her remarks thanking the volunteers, “Love changes everything.”



Jane Nix and Bryan Warneke received roses to commemorate their many years of leadership and service.

Sr. Jeanne Derer welcomed the group. Sr. Rose thanked the volunteers and spoke of the beginnings of the program and of how dear Bellevue Meals on Wheels has always been to the hearts of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary. Sr. Irma spoke of the difference each volunteer has made in the lives of the people to whom he or she brought those meals—what a ministry of grace their kindness and faithfulness have always been.

Jane Nix, director of Bellevue Meals on Wheels, spoke briefly as well.

Srs. Rose and Irma presented each volunteer with a lovely card designed and framed by Sr. Jeanne thanking him or her for “partnering

with the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in offering presence, hospitality, and compassion to thousands” for thirty-seven years and a gift card to Panera Bread Company.

Jane Nix and Bryan Warneke, who have led the program for more than 20 years, each received a bouquet of roses.

Bellevue Meals on Wheels made final deliveries on April 29, 2010. ☀️



Hilde Retzlaff with Rose Dowling

Sisters in the Spotlight

Sisters in the Spotlight

Antona Ebo, FSM, was highlighted in the February 2010 issue of *Liguorian*. “Sister Antona Ebo: God’s Work in Living Color” honored Sr. Antona for her steadfast work for civil rights both before and long after her participation in the 1965 march in Selma. As part of Black History Month, Sr. Antona was also honored February 18 at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley for her outstanding commitment to and continuing advocacy for civil rights. She spoke Saturday, March 13, in Caseyville, Illinois, at a fund-raising event for Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School in East St. Louis.



Irma Kennebeck, FSM, will be honored at the July 30 banquet of the 2010



Franciscan Federation Conference in Buffalo, New York, for her ministry as director of Woman’s Place, a safe, drop-in haven of hospitality and compassion for women suffering abuse. This year’s

federation award honors members for *Passionately Embracing Gospel Living*. Founded more than 12 years ago, Woman’s Place has provided sensitive listening, crisis intervention, support groups, counseling, and education to thousands of women trying to break the cycle of violence.

Srs. Gertrude Fruchtl, Mary Rose Monzyk, and Cecilia Pribil welcomed **Sr. Mary Catherine Ann Dahmen** as the newest member of the **FSM Century Club**.



Sr. Catherine Ann

turned 100 in late March; the others are 105, 102, and 100 respectively.



Ramona Meurer, FSM, was featured in the article “Recognizing Those Who Carry Christ’s Light” in *The Valley Catholic* (Diocese of Brownsville, Texas) issue for January 2010. The story cited her work with poor families in the Green Valley colonia and with the national and local branches of the American Red Cross.





Mary Joan Meyer, FSM, had her poem “I Really Do Feel” published in the March 2010 issue of *Engaging Aging*, the quarterly publication of the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in

Washington, D.C. Sr. Mary Joan has published a volume of poetry and photography, as well as several calendars and a journal featuring her haiku and images.

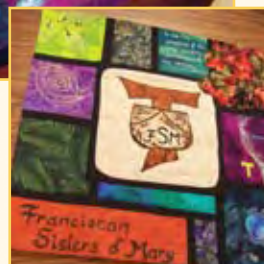
Frieda Rode, FSM, 93, retired from the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Finance Office at the end of October 2009, where she had worked since 1982. Sr. Frieda has completed 65 faithful years of service as a Franciscan Sister of Mary.



Mary Jean Ryan, FSM, Chair and CEO of SSM Health Care, was once again (February 19–25, 2010 issue) named to the *St. Louis Business Journal’s* list of

“Most Influential St. Louisans” in the category of health care—one of those who was also featured in the inaugural list a decade ago. She is especially honored as “a powerful national voice for quality improvement” in her leadership of SSM Health Care since 1986. Sr. Mary Jean was also highlighted in the *St. Louis Business Journal’s* discussion (October 30–November 5, 2009) of sustainable employee programs in recognition of her successful promotion of recycling and elimination of both tobacco products and bottled water from SSM facilities.

Susan Scholl, FSM, designed and created the Franciscan Sisters of Mary quilt square for the SSM Health Care quilt. Each SSM entity cre-



ated a quilt square as part of the quilt, which was produced for the May 2010 SSM Health

Care Leadership Conference. The FSM square is the centerpiece for the quilt.

Transitions

Transitions

Sr. Mary Andrew Heuman

November 30, 1912 – January 30, 2010

Born November 30, 1912, to Andrew and Olga (Wangler) Heuman, Clara Heuman grew up in Pilot Point, Texas.

On November 17, 1934, after corresponding with her cousin Sr. M. Lambertine Dulle, Clara entered the Sisters of St. Mary, who in 1987 reunited with the Sisters of St. Francis of Maryville to become the Franciscan Sisters of Mary. She professed final vows September 17, 1940.

As Sr. Mary Andrew, she attended high school at the convent and worked at St. Mary's Hospital. In 1943, she traveled to Dillon, South Carolina, to help prepare for the dedication and opening of St. Eugene's Hospital. She served in St. Mary's Infirmary in St. Louis, and in Wisconsin at St. Mary's Ringling in Baraboo and St. Mary's Hospital in Madison.

In 1973 Sr. Mary Andrew began her ministry among the poor in Raymondville and Welasco, Texas, offering presence, hospitality and compassion as she visited the sick and frail. She loved children and especially enjoyed working with young people at Holy Family Services. She returned to St. Louis in 1989.

She valued ministering to the sisters with whom she lived. She prepared their evening meal and spent time with them. She served as a Eucharistic Minister. She loved caring for flowers and plants, sewing, crocheting, playing cards and games and wading at the beach.



A highlight was her 1975 jubilee trip to Europe. In Portugal she visited Fatima, where Mary appeared to the three children in 1917. She had her picture taken with the sister of Sr. Lucia dos Santos.

Sr. Mary Andrew was called to her eternal reward on January 30, 2010.

"God is faithful."

Sr. Mary Carmelita Hovenkotter

October 18, 1917 – February 25, 2010

Born Mary Frede Hovenkotter on October 18, 1917, in St. Joseph, Missouri, to Bernard and Anna C. (Frede) Hovenkotter, Sr. Mary Carmelita entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Maryville (OSF) on September 3, 1936. She professed final vows May 6, 1942.

She graduated from Saint Louis University with a B.S. in Medical Technology (1947), then completed an internship in the Saint Louis University Hospitals. She served as medical technologist and laboratory supervisor at St. Francis Hospital, Maryville; St. Joseph of the Pines Hospital, Southern Pines, North Carolina; and Alverno Heights Hospital, Guthrie, Oklahoma. In 1976 Sr. Carmelita studied Corporate Ministry at Seattle University, becoming director of Pastoral Care at St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma in 1977.

From 1970 to 1976 she served on the OSF Generalate Council. From 1980 to 1987 she was called once more to leadership, serving on the OSF Generalate Council during the challenging years when the OSF and SSM opened dialogue about reuniting as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

After the reunification in 1987, Sr. Carmelita directed pastoral care at St. Francis Hospital in Maryville until in 1999 she retired and moved to St. Louis.

Known for her compassion and sensitivity, she served others, "living, praying and working in the charismatic style of the saintly Francis of Assisi." She loved the outdoors, especially fishing, hiking, and clamming.



On Thursday, February 25, 2010, Sr. Carmelita left behind her earthly life for eternity.

"In everything be thankful."

Sr. Mary Cornelia Immegart

March 26, 1921 – April 1, 2010

Always a woman of grace and courage, Sr. Mary Cornelia Immegart led her congregation through the often painful yet inspired dialogue resulting in the 1987 reunification of the Sisters of St. Francis of Maryville (OSF) and the Sisters of St. Mary (SSM) as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary (FSM).

Born Holy Saturday—March 26, 1921—in Hannibal, Missouri, Catherine Therese Immegart was the only daughter of the four children of George Louis and Cecilia Theresa (McCaffrey) Immegart. She credited her Irish Catholic mother as being a great influence on her life.

After meeting with Mother Mary Augustine Giesen, OSF foundress and superior general, at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Hannibal, Catherine entered the convent September 8, 1939, receiving the name Sr. Mary Cornelia. She professed final vows May 6, 1945.

She loved being a nurse at St. Anthony’s Hospital, Oklahoma City; St. Francis Hospital, Maryville; and St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, Hannibal. She served (1955 to 1969) as assistant novice mistress and then novice mistress—a role made more challenging by the changes brought by Vatican II. During the 1970s she was assistant administrator of St. Anthony’s Hospital.

A gifted leader, she served on the OSF General Council, helping guide the congregation during the difficult years of the late 1960s and the 1970s. Then, in 1979, she was elected superior general; she guided the congregation through the challenges leading to reunification and the closure of Mount Alverno Convent in Maryville in 1987.

In the years following she served as spiritual director and worked in the FSM office for peace and justice concerns and the FSM archives. After retiring in 1999 she volunteered and was an active member of the prayer program.



Sr. Cornelia braved many challenges in her journey with the Lord, and on Holy Thursday, April 1, 2010, she reached her journey’s end and the arms of her beloved.

“It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”
(Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi)

A Blessing from Mary Cornelia Immegart, FSM

Written for Her Diamond Jubilee, 1999

I thank God who has gifted me in many ways. Most precious of all is my gift of Faith, supported by my upbringing in a faith-filled family and my Catholic school education. I am especially grateful for the gift of my Franciscan vocation, in which you, my sisters, have played a part these past sixty years. You have enriched my life far more than you will ever know; so I pray:

May God bless you and keep you.

May God’s face shine upon you.

May God grant you peace and all that is good.

Gifts Received

Gifts Received July 1, 2009–December 31, 2009 Thank you to all our generous donors!

Gifts Given in Memory of—

In memory of my husband, Antonio Alagao
Ms. Teresa Yu Lim Alagao

In memory of Joseph B. Alfermann
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Deeken

In memory of Lorene Sperandio Alhoff
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Waechter

In memory of Francis Marie Bettels, FSM
Mrs. Aladene Lesmeister

“Start by doing what’s necessary;
then do what’s possible; and suddenly
you are doing the impossible.”

—*St. Francis of Assisi*

In memory of my aunt, Marietta Bida, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Pahoski

In memory of Delores Borgmeyer
Ms. Alverna A. Buechter

In memory of Martha Borgmeyer
Ms. Alverna A. Buechter

In memory of Aloysius Marie Borst, FSM
Ms. Mary Lou Borst

In memory of Claire Marie Borst, FSM
Ms. Mary Lou Borst
Mr. and Mrs. Craig D. Ubbelohde

In memory of Claire Marie Borst, FSM
Our sister and aunt
Mrs. Helen F. Easley
Ms. Sharon Walsh

In memory of Claire Marie Borst, FSM
St. Clare Hospital and Health Services
Baraboo, Wisconsin
Ms. Sandra L. Anderson, President
SSM Health Care of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin
Ms. Mary Starmann-Harrison, President

In memory of John W. Bowyer
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Jelle

In memory of Herman Buechter
Ms. Alverna A. Buechter

In memory of Regina Esther Warnick Cain
Col. and Mrs. Lloyd R. Cain

In memory of Margaret Mary Coens, FSM
Ms. Dolores Weekly

In memory of William J. Deeken, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Deeken

In memory of Esther Dixon
Ms. Maria Raback
Mr. Tony Raback

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

In memory of Richard O. Durban
Mrs. Mildred F. Durban

In memory of Frank J. Fick
Mrs. Edna Fick

In memory of Richard H. Frueh
Mrs. Sandra J. Frueh

In memory of Mary Jeanne Gollither, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Will

In memory of Leo Marie Gollither, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Will

In memory of Therese Grelle
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Czarnecki

In memory of Joseph and Marie Haarmann
Ms. Rita Habing

In memory of Mary Eloise Haberstock, FSM
Ms. Karen A. Votava

In memory of Mary Rosina Higgs, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Fred McCubbin

In memory of Maria Hinkebein, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hinkebein

In memory of my mother, Ethel M. Hurley
Mrs. E. F. Schulenberg

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

In memory of Donald M. Jelle
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Jelle

In memory of Russell L. King
Ms. Otie L. Fraser

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1100 Bellevue
St. Louis, MO 63117-1826

In memory of Charles W. Kull, Jr.
Mrs. Ernestine C. Kull

*In memory of the living and deceased members of the
Laratta Family*
Ms. Victoria F. Laratta

Presence

Hospitality

Compassion

*We're the Franciscan Sisters of Mary,
standing with those who need us most.*

In memory of Teresa B. (Semtner) Lezon
Ms. Mary Helen Perlman

In memory of Mary Joan Lueckenhoff, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. James Lueckenhoff

In memory of Mary Mark Massman, FSM
Sr. Christine Massman, CSJ

In memory of Mary Regina Massman, FSM
Sr. Christine Massman, CSJ

*In memory of my great-aunt,
Mary Agnes Charles May, FSM*
Mr. James Michael McGowan

*In memory of my aunt,
Mary Felicia McGalloway, FSM*
Mrs. Ellen Ericksen

In memory of Mary Wilbur McKenzie, FSM
Mrs. Sally A. Dreher

Mr. and Mrs. William J. McKenzie
SSM Health Care of Wisconsin,
Madison, Wisconsin

Ms. Mary Starman-Harrison, President

*In memory of our aunt,
Mary Carmella Mossinghoff, FSM*
Beloved "Vincie"

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Murphy

In memory of Rudolf J. Pendall
Mrs. Joanne S. Pendall

Gifts Received

In memory of Mary Concordia Puppendah, FSM
Mrs. Joanne S. Pendall

In memory of Lloyd Reinkemeyer
Ms. Marie Reinkemeyer

In memory of Matt and Theresa Reinkemeyer
Ms. Marie Reinkemeyer

In memory of Dorothy Rufkahr, FSM
Ms. Joan Buhrman

Ms. Virginia Delia

Mrs. Sally A. Dreher

Ms. Sandra B. Edwards

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Evans

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Fitzpatrick

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Goodnick

Mr. and Mrs. George Kesting

Mr. Richard J. Krull

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas K. Langston

Ms. Rose Marie Leonhard

Ms. Lisa Malawy

Ms. Hildegard Retzlaff

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Rufkahr

Mrs. Beatrice Terbrock

Ms. JoAnn Terbrock

The Family of Sr. Marie Weiss

Mary, Judy, Peggy and Adele

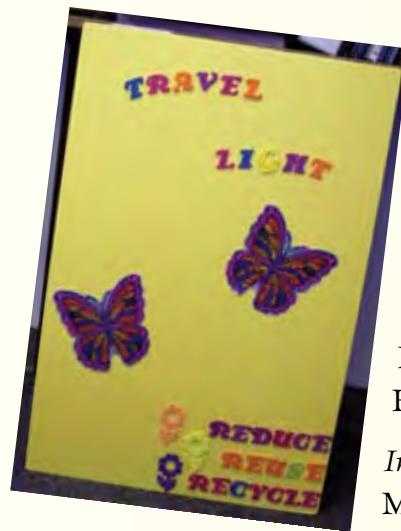
In memory of Gean A. Schiavitti

Ms. Janette Davis

Mr. Tim Deeken

Ms. Norma Doerhoff

Mrs. Imelda Riley



In memory of Kenneth E. Scholl
Mrs. JoAnn C. Scholl

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

*In memory of my Aunt Agnes,
Mary Elaine Schornak, FSM*
Mrs. Marilynn Barone (and
Family)

In memory of Mr. Wilford Schulte
Ms. Alverna A. Buechter

In memory of Mary Benigna Semtner, FSM
Ms. Mary Helen Perlman

*In memory of the Sisters of St. Mary's and
St. Joseph's Orphanage*
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer J. Silva

In memory of Ruth Speidel
Dr. and Mrs. Frank Cleary

In memory of Mary Henrica Strassmann, FSM
Ms. Helen B. Davidson

In memory of Mary Paulette Swoyer, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Ted L. Kelley

Have You Heard Our Sisters on Radio?

Each month, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary extend a short (one-minute!) reflection to listeners on KFUE-FM (Classic 99) radio in St. Louis. Whether a simple thought for the day, a scrap of poetry, or an invitation to join with us in supporting nonviolence or ecology, these messages offer FSM presence, hospitality, and compassion each month to friends and strangers (i.e., friends we just haven't yet met!) alike.

Whether you've heard us often or not at all, we invite you to tune into these messages! Each month's message is posted on our FSM Web site (www.fsmonline.org) in the area "Listen to Our Sisters" on the home page. The most recent messages are first, but you can find past messages online as well by clicking on the tab "Listen to Past Messages."

We hope you enjoy listening to our messages!

In memory of Norbert S. Teson
Mrs. Rita L. Teson and Family

In memory of Virginia Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Jay C. McCutcheon

In memory of Marie Charles Weber, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene H. Vogelgesang, Jr.

In memory of Mary Christina Wiederholt, FSM
Ms. Dorothy Archer
Mr. and Mrs. David D. Bryant
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Starke
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wiederholt

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

In memory of Mary Olivet Zielinski, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Downey

Gifts Given in Honor of—

In honor of my dear friend, Rita Clara Blau, FSM
Ms. Virginia Becker

In honor of Rita Clara Blau, FSM
Mrs. Mary C. Schmitt

In honor of Veronica Boss, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Sauerwein

In honor of Lorine V. Buchheit
On her 100th birthday
Sr. Kathleen M. Buchheit
Mrs. Verna M. Buchheit

In honor of my sister, Ruth Mary Costello, OSF
Mrs. Ellen Ericksen

In honor of Rose Mary Dowling, FSM
For her inspirational leadership over the years
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas A. Ries

In honor of André Evanisko, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene C. Zamboni

In honor of Constance Fahey, FSM
In support of her mission to African religious
Rev. Frederick C. LaBrecque



In honor of all the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Parham, Jr.
Mr. Andrew Sherlock

In honor of Frances Marie Haarmann, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Will

In honor of Patricia Haarmann, FSM
On her Golden Jubilee
Ms. Anne M. Weis
The Teutopolis High School Class of 1959

In honor of Mary Cornelia Immegart, FSM
On her Carnelian Jubilee, with my love!
Mr. Kenneth L. Dowden

In honor of Mary Cornelia Immegart, FSM
On her Carnelian Jubilee
Thank you for 70 years
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Hedrick

In honor of Mary Ellen Lewis, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Timm

Gifts Received

In honor of Jim Martin

On his birthday

Mr. and Mrs. George Kesting

In honor of Mary Noreen McGowan, FSM

Mrs. Elaine Rattunde

Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Will

In honor of the Medical Staff, past and present, of St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City

Mr. and Mrs. James J. Driscoll

In honor of Mary Angela Murdaugh, FSM

Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Clark, Jr.

In honor of Regina Marie Pingel, FSM

On her birthday

Ms. Marjorie Pingel

In honor of Rose Ann Poetz, FSM

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Wisniewski

*In honor of my sister, Mary Cecilia Pribil, FSM
At Christmas*

Ms. Elizabeth Dinkler

In honor of Jane L. Rombach, FSM

Rev. and Mrs. Alvin H. Horst

In honor of Dorothy Rufkahr, FSM

Ms. Judy Ayers

In honor of Mary Jean Ryan, FSM

For her inspirational leadership over the years

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas A. Ries

In honor of Teresa Marie Schmitz, FSM

Mr. and Mrs. M. William Meredith

Mr. and Mrs. Roger E. Meredith

Mr. and Mrs. William Ramirez

Ms. Teresa L. Woods

In honor of William Schoenhard

For his years of service

Mr. and Mrs. David A. Kelch

In honor of Susan Scholl, FSM

Mr. and Mrs. Terry L. Scholl

In honor of Mary Jeanice Speidel, FSM

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Sweeney

In honor of Loreda Steinman, FSM

and all her family

Ms. Alverna A. Buechter

In honor of Loreda Steinman, FSM

On her birthday

Ms. Alverna A. Buechter

In honor of Ann Miriam Stenger, FSM

Ms. Laura Hamtil Klages

In honor of Mariella Stenger, FSM

Ms. Laura Hamtil Klages

In honor of Agnes Stottmann, FSM

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Stottmann

In honor of Marylu Stueber, FSM

Mrs. Deborah Ronzio

**If you or someone you know
has a special need,
please let us know.**

FSM Prayer Program

314-768-1748

(St. Louis area)

1-877-768-1299

(toll-free outside St. Louis)

www.fsmonline.org

In honor of Priscilla Weber, FSM

On her Golden Jubilee

Mrs. Margery A. Stoneman

Mr. and Mrs. James L. Weber

In honor of Marie Weiss, FSM

Ms. Judy Ayers

In honor of Mary Dorine Wittenbrink, FSM

*I'll never forget how kind she was to me in her prayers
and letters*

Ms. Lorena Reid

In honor of Mary Dorine Wittenbrink, FSM

On her birthday

Mrs. Sally A. Dreher

In honor of Mary Michelle Yates, FSM
Special thanks and appreciation
Ms. Mary E. Bickel

Donors—

Mr. and Mrs. David W. Armin
Ms. Linda A. Ballard
Mr. and Mrs. Steven M. Barney
Ms. Ann Becker
Mrs. Kathleen S. Belding
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Rev. Mr. William J. McKenna
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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Noonan
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen O'Hara

“Preach the Gospel at all times.
When necessary, use words.”

—*St. Francis of Assisi*

Ms. June Pickett
Ms. Janet Reed
Mrs. Louise Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Roger D. Reilly
Mrs. Mary Ann Reinkemeyer
Ms. E. Josephine Rodgers
Mrs. Violet M. Schaeper
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Baraboo, Wisconsin
Ms. Sandra L. Anderson, President
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Ms. Annette M. Stevenson
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Ms. Charlotte L. Weingartner
Mr. David G. Woods
Mr. Robert W. Zak

Planned Giving—

The estate of Theresia C. Burkart
The estate of Agnes Gahagan
The estate of Peter Dimo Gark
The estate of Jacqueline M. Niedert
The estate of Rev. James J. Quinn



Franciscan Sisters of Mary

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Identity and Mission

Identity and 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.*

