



FSM MAGAZINE

Franciscan Sisters of Mary

Convent of the Heart

FALL 2012

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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

A Convent of the Heart . . .

When I first saw this, I misread it—I saw it as “A Covenant of the Heart.” The more I thought about it, the more I enjoyed the connection. A covenant is an agreement, ordinarily formal, between two or more persons to do something specified. A biblical covenant is an agreement—generally between God and humanity. The FSM do have a formal agreement among us to do something specified, but God is an intimate and acknowledged part of that agreement. The something specified is to live as vowed women religious whose mission is to “be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus.”

When we entered, we thought we would live out that covenant based in a physical place called a convent . . . and we did for a while. But the Spirit had other ideas. We were invited to live that covenant from a convent of the heart. And so we continue, day by day, to explore, create, and respond to new ways to do just that.

My observations tell me that this is a universal experience. When we covenant with another—be it God and/or another person or persons—we have a vision about the place and circumstances where that covenant will be lived out. But when we listen and are led, more often than not we are taken places we never dreamed of. And that different place calls forth our abilities to be creative; to let go; to experience ourselves, our God, and the other person or persons in a whole new way.

May you find a connection between our adventure of covenant and convent and your own experience of covenant and place. With whom do you have a covenant? How has the change in where that covenant is lived out over the years brought you to a deeper place within yourself? How has it affected the other or others in your life?

And may all of our experiences with covenant bring us to the place of the heart where dwells the presence of God.

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



Convent of the Heart



Almost a year ago—December 1, 2011—
the Franciscan Sisters of Mary completed a brave new initiative:
They left behind their beloved convent, St. Mary of the Angels,
which had been their motherhouse for more than eighty years.

An unanticipated initiative as well. When the 2007–2011 FSM
Leadership Team took office, they expected to be planning for a
move some ten or twenty years down the road. The reality of the
sisters’ needs—and the convent’s failure to meet those needs
adequately—was startling: The time for action was NOW.

It was an ambitious undertaking. Fast-forward three years, through
moving sisters from the convent to The Sarah Community.
Relocating offices of those who met with clients at the convent to
new offices offsite. Packing up and transporting the FSM Archives
to its new location with SSM Archives. Saying good-bye to the
many dedicated employees who were a rich part of the FSM family.
Sorting through the convent’s many beautiful furnishings—saving
what we could use and holding auctions to share with others what
we no longer needed. Creating offices for the FSM Leadership
Team and administrative staff in Bridgeton, just a third of a mile
from the sisters at The Sarah Community.





By the end of 2011, it was finished.

For the first time in decades, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary no longer had a motherhouse—no beautiful chapel of their own, no Berger Hall for Gatherings and Chapters and assemblies, no central place for sisters to return from mission for rest, retreat, recuperation from illness.

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary have been gone from St. Mary of the Angels for a year now. How do they remain a community of religious women with no convent, with no place of the heart to call “home”?

Finding Community across the Miles

In her book *The Monastery of the Heart*,* Joan Chittister offers fresh insights about the nature of community.

“Community is a matter of the heart and the mind,” she says. “It cannot be created by place alone, and it cannot be destroyed by distance alone. . . . What we identify with, what gives us a sense of purpose, of belonging, of support is our community. . . . It is about drinking from the same well of belief and giving myself to the same life goals, and aims, and objectives as those with whom I have promised to make this journey” (pp. 67–68).

Throughout their 140 years, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary have maintained their identity as a community in spite of distance and other kinds of separation. They have not lived together in a single convent for many, many years.

Early in the history of the congregation, Mother Odilia Berger began sending sisters on mission to far-flung areas to extend the healing presence of Jesus to those in need. As the congregation grew in numbers, sisters traveled to Memphis, Madison, Oklahoma City, Pilot Knob—nurses, administrators, lab technologists, dietitians, nutritionists, doctors, teachers, sacristans, housekeepers.

Most lived in convents near their ministries—usually a group of sisters with a superior. Often one sister kept the house while the other sisters went out to work. Sisters typically gathered for meals, prayers and communal life outside work hours.

This model worked well enough for a while. Sisters who worked at St. Mary’s Hospital in St. Louis generally lived at St. Mary of the Angels Convent. Sisters at Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center had a small convent on the premises. Sisters in Madison or in Baraboo lived together—and so on. It made sense for sisters who worked together to live together.

But following Vatican II, sisters heard the Spirit’s call to minister in many new ways, reaching out even farther into the world. Sisters established missions in Peru and Kenya, a birthing center in an impoverished area of Texas just north of Mexico, a hospice facility in South Carolina. They provided spiritual direction, counseling, and leadership training. They saw needs in the St. Louis area—teenage mothers falling through the cracks of the government’s system because they were too young to qualify for aid. AIDS patients too sick to go home who had nowhere to go. Women trapped in cycles of domestic abuse. The FSM listened to the call of the Holy Spirit, reaching out to those far and near who needed their care and their presence.

As the congregation changed and sisters engaged in more diverse ministries with schedules that rarely meshed with other sisters’, the convent model became more cumbersome.



The Reality Today

In October 2012, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary number ninety-seven. Fifty-five sisters live at The Sarah Community, a retirement community founded by the FSM and four other congregations of religious women. While the FSM have community rooms, they share meals with other residents—laypeople and sisters from other congregations.

Forty-two sisters live in other accommodations—apartments, houses, even a mobile home. Some live singly; others share their home with another FSM or a sister from a different congregation with whom she collaborates in ministry. Sisters live where they serve in ministry—two in Texas, two in Milwaukee, one in Janesville (Wisconsin), one near Chicago, one in Jefferson City, one in Marceline (Missouri), one in St. Charles, and others in the St. Louis area.

While the Franciscan Sisters of Mary have been scattered geographically for a long time, they have remained a community, firmly anchored by their commitment to their charism—“to be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus.” They have remained faithful to their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, striving always to live as women of the Gospel and listening to the call of the Spirit. United in their formation and vision, they have maintained an identity as Franciscan sisters caring for those who are in need and on the margins of society. “Turn no one away,” counseled Mother Augustine Giesen. “Continue courageously, for the love of God,” said Mother Odilia Berger.

“Community always means that we’re in this together,” said Joan Chittister (p. 69).



Taking Time for One Another

But, as Chittister also points out, central to maintaining community is “regular and meaningful interaction among the members . . . for the building of a common spirit” (p. 69).

Four times a year the Franciscan Sisters of Mary gather for a weekend. These meetings provide connection and support, camaraderie and vision. The sisters celebrate jubilees, learn about issues of concern for the congregation, work through problems, and set important goals together. Together they explore new ideas and fresh visions. They share valuable readings, as well as personal insights and reflections. At one Gathering the FSM viewed *Journey of the Universe* and engaged in the *Awakening the Dreamer* workshop. In October of this year, they invited Sr. Carla Mae Streeter, OP, Professor Emerita at Aquinas Institute of Theology, to explore possibilities for renewal in the Church. When it was time to begin the move from the convent, the FSM spent a weekend finding ways, both individually and as a congregation, to say good-bye to the beautiful building that held so many memories.

These gatherings build community for the FSM, giving the sisters a common vision and the encouragement to continue courageously in the ministry they do each day. They visit, catching up with one another, sharing stories, laughter, ideas, reflection, vision. At the end of the weekend they return to their lives, strengthened and nourished with food for the journey.

The twenty-first century offers the possibility for a much broader sense of community than was possible in the Middle Ages. With airplanes and trains, e-mail, telephones, Skype, fax, and social media, geographical distance has ceased to be much of a barrier to staying connected.

For the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, what remains important in nurturing community is the building of a common spirit and common bonds—“the faith life that underpins a group, the personal life and affections of each member, the emotional life that forms and fluctuates and drives each of us at different levels at different times, and the undercurrents and ideas and concepts that stir our attitudes and hopes for the human enterprise” (p. 69).

A Convent of the Heart

As Joan Chittister so eloquently points out in *The Monastery of the Heart*, connection is based not so much on physical proximity as on unity of heart, of goals, of purpose. The Franciscan Sisters of Mary share a deep connection through history, charism, and vision. The community founded 140 years ago by Mother Odilia Berger continues to flourish, honoring her and all the sisters who have dedicated their lives and their whole beings to this brave endeavor. The sisters today are rooted in that vision and united in their commitment to their Mission—“to be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus” and to their Focus on “compassionate care of creation in collaboration with others.”

They continue to serve God faithfully through their lives as women of the Gospel. Though their call may at times lead them far from one another, they remain connected in the deep bond of sisterhood in Christ to which they have pledged themselves—truly a convent of the heart.



Celebrating 25 Years The Franciscan Sisters of Mary



Sunday, August 2, 1987, was a day of great rejoicing: The Sisters of St. Mary (SSM) of St. Louis and the Sisters of St. Francis (OSF) of Maryville, Missouri, reunited after ninety-three years of separation.

And this year, 2012, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary celebrated the silver anniversary of that day of grace.

A simple barbecue in the cafeteria at the FSM administrative offices on Thursday, August 2, 2012, marked the actual anniversary. The sisters more formally honored the occasion during their Fall Gathering in a special celebration Friday morning, October 5, followed by brunch.

Two Roads Diverged

On November 16, 1872, Mother Odilia Berger and her five companions landed on the St. Louis riverfront and began a ministry of healing among the poorest of the poor. The community grew, attracting many young women who longed to serve God in this way. Mother Odilia died on October 17, 1880, appointing Mother Mary Seraphia Schlochtermeyer to succeed her as leader of the Sisters of St. Mary.

In January 1894, Mother Mary Augustine Giesen and six companions, for reasons which have long been lost to history, left the Sisters of St. Mary to form their own congregation, which became the Sisters of St. Francis of Maryville, Missouri.

For many years these two congregations with shared roots grew and flourished along parallel lines, the sisters caring for the sick and living lives of Gospel poverty. Although both congregations were aware of the presence of a sister community across Missouri, little communication took place for many years.



A Call to Return to One's Roots

In the years following Vatican II, religious communities took to heart the call to re-examine their beginnings. Slowly, the two congregations began to open dialogue about the possibility of reunifying.

On May 13, 1985, the sisters of both congregations voted to join once more as a single congregation of women religious. They chose to rename this reunited community the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

Celebrating Reunification — 25 Years Later

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the reunification, a number of FSM shared stories, reflections, and photographs from the years before, during, and following reunification, gathered into a special booklet of memories.

Throughout these reflections arose a common theme, a testament to the sisters' faith in God and in one another: "We may not know what the future holds, but we do know Who holds the future."

It is a theme that fits well for the coming twenty-five years as well.

That All May Be One



SSM St. Mary's—Madison Celebrates 100 Years of FSM Presence

The weekend of September 21–23, SSM St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wis., celebrated 100 years of care and presence for the people of the area.

All FSM who had ever served in Madison were invited to join in the festivities. The hospital sent a van to pick sisters up in St. Louis and bring them home again. The Mission Awareness Team at St. Mary's coordinated the sisters' visit.

Sisters attending included Srs. Marilyn Jean Davis, Antona Ebo, Mary Elmendorf, Connie Fahey, Mary Ellen Lewis, Jeanne Meurer, Evelyn Marie Peterman, Elizabeth Ruppert, Mary Jean Ryan, Susan Scholl, Sarah Sykes, and Priscilla Weber.

The formal gala Friday evening, sponsored by the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, was held at Monona Terrace, overlooking beautiful Monona Lake. "It was such a joyous occasion—the celebration of 100 years!" said Sr. Jeanne Meurer, who had served in Madison in the 1960s. "The program following the banquet was wonderful; it was such a highlight to see all those smiling and happy people."

Besides honoring the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, the gala included an auction to raise funds for several nursing scholarships, one of which was in honor of Sr. Mary Jean Ryan, who graduated from St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing. Sr. Mary Jean spoke briefly at the gala, honoring the nursing school alumnae. More than 900 guests attended.

On Saturday, the Mission Awareness Team took the sisters on a tour of the hospital. St. Mary's dedicated the afternoon Mass in the hospital chapel to the FSM, and a gourmet dinner followed.

The dedication to the FSM of a brick in the healing garden, which in 2010 had been dedicated to the FSM, took place Sunday morning. Following a short program, guests were free to mingle and tour the garden.

As the sisters were leaving, hundreds of people were arriving for St. Mary's Community Birthday Party in honor of all who had been born at St. Mary's during the past 100 years.

The sisters were deeply touched by St. Mary's generous hospitality and their strong commitment to maintaining the FSM presence in Madison.

Congratulations to SSM St. Mary's Hospital in Madison for 100 years of providing exceptional health care that reveals the healing presence of God!



Srs. Sarah Sykes, Marilyn Jean Davis, Elizabeth Ruppert, Antona Ebo, Connie Fahey, and Evelyn Marie Peterman pause by the history wall in the hospital atrium.



At the Friday evening gala: (from left) Srs. Priscilla Weber, Antona Ebo, Elizabeth Ruppert, Evelyn Marie Peterman, Mary Elmendorf, Mary Ellen Lewis, and Sarah Sykes with Dr. Frank D. Byrne, President, SSM St. Mary's Hospital, Madison



Steve Sparks, Regional Director of Marketing and Public Relations for SSM Health Care of Wisconsin, shows Srs. Marilyn Jean Davis, Elizabeth Ruppert, Evelyn Marie Peterman, and Sarah Sykes the view from the hospital's helipad.



At the gala: (from left) Mr. Gerald Lefert, former president of SSM St. Mary's Hospital, Madison; Sr. Susan Scholl, FSM Leadership Team; and Dr. Frank D. Byrne, president, SSM St. Mary's Hospital, Madison



At the gala: (front row, from left) Ms. Michel McGettigan, Sr. Mary Jean Ryan, Sr. Susan Scholl, Ms. Dixie Platt (Senior Vice President—Mission and External Relations); (back row, from left) Mr. Patrick McGettigan, Mr. William Thompson (President and CEO of SSM Health Care), and Mr. Michael Burke

Wisdom from Our Past

At the gala celebrating St. Mary's Hospital's 100th anniversary, graduates of St. Mary's Nursing School were given a copy of a letter written by Sr. Agnita Claire Day in 1955 when she was director of the school.

Most of the letter was devoted to school rules and regulations about chapel exercises, uniforms, house-keeping in student rooms, and procedures for being absent from the dormitory.

In the conclusion, Sr. Agnita Claire added an inspirational message that is worth pondering now, one that witnesses to themes that our Sisters have cherished through the decades.

“The real things in life, you know, are not found in this constant restless searching for change and excitement, forever searching for something new. Happiness is found deep in one's own heart—in the quiet peace of a moment in the Chapel before the tabernacle—in the breathtaking beauty of a sunset over the lake, in colors no human artist could ever hope to duplicate—in the soft warmth of a baby held in one's arms—in the ability to relieve the physical and spiritual pain of others—in the self-sacrifice for the welfare of others. . . .”

—Sr. Mary Ellen Lewis, FSM



SSM St. Mary's-Janesville Dedicates Healing Garden to FSM



*Everybody needs beauty as well as bread,
Places to play in and pray in,
Where nature may heal
And give strength to the body and soul.*

—John Muir

On Saturday, September 8, SSM St. Mary's Hospital in Janesville, Wis., dedicated its new healing garden to the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

Members of the FSM Leadership Team attended the evening garden party, hosted by SSM St. Mary's president Kerry Swanson and her husband, John Swanson, and planned by the St. Mary's Janesville Foundation Board.

The dedication plaque reads: *Trust in God, Be kind to the poor, and all will be well.
This Healing Garden is dedicated to the Franciscan Sisters of Mary,
who have provided loving and compassionate health care since 1872.*

Following the dedication, Sr. Rose Mary Dowling, president of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, spoke briefly, thanking St. Mary's for honoring the FSM by dedicating the garden to them. She said that the words on the plaque reflect well what the sisters have tried to be and do since their beginnings with Mother Odilia—trust in God, show kindness to the poor, and maintain courage for new beginnings.

Many thanks to all at SSM St. Mary's-Janesville who honored the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.



Sr. Mary Jean Ryan *Elected Chair of IAQ*

On Sunday, May 20, Sr. Mary Jean Ryan received the Distinguished Service Medal from the American Society of Quality (ASQ), the highest distinction accorded by the organization for service. The award honored her deep commitment to quality and improvement during her 25 years as president and CEO of SSM Health Care.

On June 15, her dedication to excellence was recognized even further when the Board of Trustees of the International Academy for Quality (IAQ) unanimously chose her to assume the Chair, effective immediately; she will serve until the next triennial meeting in 2014.

A communication from Janak Mehta, president of IAQ, noted: “Sr. Mary Jean is eminently qualified for this role . . . a seasoned executive, chairman of a 24-hospital chain and strong on executive leadership experience. She is well recognized throughout the world as a quality advocate and has received numerous awards that recognize her in this capacity (e.g., her own organization, SSM Health Care, was the first healthcare organization to receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, and she is a personal recipient of the Grayson Medal from the American Quality and Productivity Center as well as the Juran Medal and the Distinguished Service Medal from ASQ). . . . We believe Sr. Mary Jean Ryan’s leadership would enhance the working and the image of the Academy.”

Sr. Mary Jean said, “To be the Chair of the International Academy for Quality (IAQ) is an honor and a privilege. It gives me the opportunity to continue the work begun at SSM Health Care, but within the broader global community, not only in health care but in every aspect of human life.”

Congratulations, Sr. Mary Jean!



(AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast) Used with permission

Mary Elmendorf, FSM, threw out the ceremonial opening pitch for the baseball game between the Chicago White Sox and the Detroit Tigers on September 17, 2012, in Chicago. Sr. Mary, who lives in Blue Island outside Chicago, has been an avid White Sox fan for more than fifty years.

Sisters in the Spotlight



Connie Fahey, FSM, received the 2012 Franciscan Federation Award for the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, presented at the Franciscan Federation Conference in Cincinnati July 29. She was chosen as especially embodying this year's federation theme, *Releasing Energies to Love: Creative Fidelity in the Church*.



Frances Haarmann, FSM, and Kathleen Buchheit, FSM, traveled to Guatemala August 4–12 as members of a Medical Mission Trip. They provided medical care to hundreds of people in rural villages. Nineteen healthcare professionals and support staff members made the trip.



Antona Ebo, FSM, was the 2012 honoree in the Arts and Issues Series of Union Memorial United Methodist Church. The congregation paid tribute June 24 to Sr. Antona for her participation in the 1965 march in Selma, Alabama, and her lifelong contribution to the civil rights movement.

Marita Anne Marrah, FSM, serves as president of the Board of CASA—Court-Appointed Special Advocates (for foster children)—for Jefferson County, Missouri. Currently more than 500 children in Jefferson County are in need of foster care.



Mary Jean Ryan, FSM, was awarded on May 13 the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, by St. Bonaventure University in St. Bonaventure, New York. The university honored Sr. Mary Jean for her significant contributions to the country's Catholic healthcare system through her "iron-willed competence and unblinking compassion."

On September 11, Sr. Antona participated in a panel discussing *Sisters of Selma: A Social Justice Premier* as part of the 2012 Smithsonian Ethics Education Series. The event took place at the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

On October 4, Sr. Antona traveled to Green Bay, Wisconsin, to take part in the day of reflection "See the Change, Be the Change" sponsored by the diocesan organization Pro-CLAYM (Professional Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministers), which includes most parish Directors of Religious Education, coordinators, facilitators, and youth ministers. Participants viewed the documentary *Sisters of Selma*, and Sr. Antona led them in a reflection that encouraged them to be the change they envision.

On October 18, Sr. Antona received a 2012 Fontbonne University Founders Award for Distinguished Service in Racial Justice and Integration. Each year, Fontbonne University recognizes alumni and friends "whose values-oriented service to society is outstanding and significant."



Ramona Meurer, FSM, was interviewed in late February by NBC-TV's Rick Diaz regarding her work with the national and local Red Cross. As she strives to help victims of disasters—floods, fires, earthquakes, even 9/11—Sr. Ramona tries to be the compassionate, healing presence of Jesus to those in devastating crisis.

Congratulations to Our 2012 FSM Jubilarians

50
years in religious life

Golden Jubilee



Angela Murdaugh, FSM

Marilyn Jean Davis, FSM

Diamond Jubilee



60
years in religious life

Diamond Jubilee



Jacinta Elmendorf, FSM

70
years in religious life

Carnelian Jubilee



Betty Brucker, FSM

Transitions

Sr. Mary Theodora Hoff, FSM

May 2, 1918 – July 25, 2012

An excellent nurse who loved to provide hands-on care and who took part in the earliest heart surgeries at Firmin Desloge Hospital in St. Louis, Sr. Mary Theodora Hoff brought to her profession the kindness and presence that encouraged healing of body, mind, and spirit.

Alice Benigna Elizabeth Josephine Hoff was born May 2, 1918, in Germantown, Ill., one of six children born to Henry and Mary Theodora (Micheel) Hoff.

She entered the Sisters of St. Mary on March 25, 1939, following in the footsteps of her aunt, Sr. Mary Benigna Micheel. As Sr. Mary Theodora (God's gift), she professed final vows September 29, 1944. She earned her B.S. in Nursing from Saint Louis University (1950). Her sister, Sr. Mary Regina (Catherine Henrietta Hoff), joined the SSM in 1943.

Sr. Theodora served at St. Mary's Hospital, St. Louis; Firmin Desloge; St. Mary's Ringling, Baraboo, Wis.; St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, Wis.; Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital; St. Louis City Hospital; and Missouri Pacific Hospital. She was nurse and clinic receptionist (1974–1988) at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital's Poison Control Center. She visited patients at St. Francis Hospital in Blue Island, Ill. She retired in September 1989, serving many years as a volunteer at St. Mary of the Angels. She moved to The Sarah Community in June 2011.

Sr. Theodora loved nursing and caring for others. She enjoyed crocheting baby blankets and playing pinochle. She and Sr. Regina were constant companions at the motherhouse. Throughout her life she valued staying close to God.

Early on July 25, 2012, Sr. Theodora slipped away peacefully to join her beloved Lord.



"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

Mary Noreen McGowan, FSM

October 21, 1914 – August 28, 2012

Her care for the little ones was legendary. When Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center opened in July 1956, she welcomed its first patients as director of Nursing. Fifty-four years later, on October 1, 2010, Sr. Noreen, 96, celebrated her final day of service there, receiving Glennon's cherished Crystal Wagon Award for embodying the true spirit of the hospital.

Anna Elizabeth McGowan was born October 21, 1914, in St. Louis, to John J. and Annie (Dowd) McGowan.

She entered the Sisters of St. Mary December 5, 1933. She clearly told Mother Concordia Puppenthal she did not want to be a nurse—but after working in the hospital, she changed her mind: "I enjoyed the people." She professed final vows June 29, 1939.

She became an RN in 1939; she completed her BSN (1944) and master's in Nursing Education (1954), all through Saint Louis University. She earned post-master's certification in maternal child nursing (University of Colorado, 1963) and became a pediatric nurse practitioner (SLU, 1971). She served briefly at St. Mary's and St. Mary's Infirmary, St. Louis, and at St. Mary's, Madison.

Her true love always lay in caring for children. She directed nursing at Glennon (1956–1962), then taught Pediatrics at SLU School of Nursing until 1986, supervising students in pediatric clinicals. For many years, she served in Glennon's surgery waiting room, listening, reassuring families, and taking parents to their children in recovery.

Glennon annually hosts the "Sister Noreen McGowan Pediatric Nursing Conference" and has named a conference room in her honor. Sr. Noreen loved reading, embroidery, and quilting—and was an enthusiastic Cardinals baseball fan.



On August 28, 2012, Sr. Noreen passed quietly away.

"Let the Little Children Come to Me"

Gifts Received

January 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012

Gifts given in memory of:

*In memory of Leamond Onnie Allen,
My father, on July 4, 2012
Mr. Leamond Anthony Allen*

*In memory of Jenny Bell,
Mother of Judith Ann Bell, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. William Rubino*

*In memory of Mary Ann Bode, FSM
(Sr. Bonaventure)
Ms. Caroline J. Stoll*

*In memory of Bernard Marie Boland, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. John Boland*

*In memory of Veronica Boss, FSM
My aunt
James and Wanda Woods*

*In loving memory of my mother,
Janet Maxine (Hunt) Brown
Ms. Linda Jean Brown*

*In memory of the deceased members of the
Clooney family
Mr. Vincent P. Clooney*

*In memory of Madeline Mary Coens, FSM
Ms. Dolores A. Weekly*

*In memory of Mary Martin Courtney, FSM
(Carol Courtney)
Ms. Debbrah Courtney*

*In memory of Dorothy Dahl
Ms. Phyllis L. Clinton*

*In memory of Mary Helen Louise Deeken, FSM
Mr. Steven C. Schulte*

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

*In memory of John James Driscoll
Ms. Mary Elizabeth Driscoll and Family*

*In memory of Richard J. Durban
Mrs. Mildred F. Durban*

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

*In memory of Mary Damien Francois, FSM
From her family
Ms. Kathryn F. Jancik*

*In memory of the deceased members of the
Gilligan family
Mr. Vincent P. Clooney*

*In memory of Micki and Dick Harper
Mrs. Patricia Cullen Wirtz*

*In memory of Annemarie Hütter
Mr. Walter H. Giepen*

*In memory of Florence Mary Imhoff, FSM
Mr. Robert J. Baker*



*In memory of Mary Josepha Imhoff, FSM
Mr. Robert J. Baker*

*In memory of Harry E. Johnson
Mrs. Renner R. Johnson*

*In memory of Adelaide Joseph
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Koehl*

*In memory of Charles W. Kull, Jr.
Ms. Ernestine C. Kull*

*In memory of Bill Longust
Mrs. Susan M. Scalise*

*In memory of all the aborted babies
Dr. Thomas T. Mier*

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

*In memory of Mary Carmella Mossinghoff, FSM
Our beloved aunt
Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Murphy*

*In memory of Mary Carmella Mossinghoff, FSM
Mr. Vincent P. Clooney*

*In memory of Mary Carmella Mossinghoff, FSM,
who was at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Charles in
1949
Ms. Laura Elizabeth Mudd Rauch*

 *Thank you
to all our
generous donors!*

*In memory of Gene Niekamp
Sr. Sherri Coleman, FSM*

*In memory of Annella Marie Orf, FSM
Mr. Vincent P. Clooney*

*In memory of Mary Cecilia Pribil, FSM
Ms. Patricia A. Miller*

*In memory of Sr. Mary Prisca, SM
Mr. Vincent P. Clooney*

*In memory of Agnes Reinkemeyer, FSM
Mrs. Ann Marie Wyrsh*

*In memory of Hubert and Clara Reinkemeyer
Mr. and Mrs. Alex J. Reinkemeyer*

*In memory of Dorothy Rufkahr, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Bua Van Le*

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

*In memory of Andrene Schroeder, SSM
Mr. Vincent P. Clooney*

*In memory of my aunt,
Leona Schumann, OSF
Angie and Dan Urenda*

*In memory of my aunt,
Regina Schumann, OSF
Angie and Dan Urenda*

*In memory of my aunt,
Romana Schumann, FSM
Angie and Dan Urenda*

*In memory of Elizabeth Tatarsky
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*In memory of Norm Wirtz
Mrs. Patricia Cullen Wirtz*

**We join hands with those
who, like us,
are committed to stay this path
until it brings us—
wiser and more seasoned
than when we began—
all the way to God,
all the way home.**

**—Joan Chittister,
The Monastery of the Heart, pp. 28–29**

Gifts given in honor of:

*In honor of Francita Barringhaus, FSM
For her birthday
Ms. Ruth C. Barringhaus
Mrs. Norma J. Schraut*

*In honor of Francita Barringhaus, FSM
Ms. Roselyn Barringhaus*

*In honor of Kevin Berkgigler
Ms. Connie Marshall*

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

*In honor of Denine Caporde
For healing
Mr. Frank Latanzo*

*In honor of M. Catherine Ann Dahmen, FSM
On her birthday
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*In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
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*In honor of Dan and Mary Iannicola
on their 50th wedding anniversary
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*In thanksgiving for successful surgery for
Kathleen
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Koehl*

*In honor of my family
Mr. Frank Latanzo*

*In honor of Frank Latanzo II
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Mr. Frank Latanzo*

*In honor of Evelyn Marie Peterman, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Light*

*In honor of Rose Ann Poetz, FSM
On her birthday
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*In honor of Rose Ann Poetz, FSM
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*In honor of Dominica Scott
For healing
Mr. Frank Latanzo*

*In honor of Jovita Marie Stenger, FSM
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*In honor of my sister,
Mary Unterreiner, FSM,
and for the elder FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bextermiller*

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pray for all those who are most in need of God’s
loving care.

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Mission and Focus of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary

The Mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary is to be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus.

Flowing from our Mission, we focus the power of our intention on compassionate care of Creation in collaboration with others.

