

# FSM MAGAZINE

Franciscan Sisters of Mary



COMPASSIONATE  
*care of*  
CREATION

FALL 2013

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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*FSM Magazine* is published twice yearly by the Public Relations and Development Department. To obtain more information or make a correction to our mailing list, please contact us at (314) 768-1824 or e-mail us at [info@fsmonline.org](mailto:info@fsmonline.org).

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

## A Spirituality for Our World

The spirituality of the past—“*fuga mundi*” or “flight from the world,” as it was called—encouraged our separation from the world. We became obsessed with redemption and salvation.

As Franciscan Sisters of Mary, we now embrace a spirituality that recognizes that we are an integral part of life on Planet Earth. We see that we are intimately connected with every living creature we encounter. We live with a greater reverence for all creation and feel a deep bond with Mother Earth. This spirituality fosters compassion and care for all life, human and nonhuman alike.

The spiritual practices we choose to perform are the outward expression of what we believe. We connect with God, as revealed in our natural world, through practices such as showing gratitude for the food we eat, consciously taking a breath and experiencing the Spirit’s presence in the air, listening to the song of birds or crickets, drinking a glass of water slowly and praying for those who do not have clean water. We also make conscious practical choices to care for Earth, such as recycling and refusing to purchase bottled water.

Some of our spiritual practices are on a larger scale, such as planting trees or collaborating with groups to address problems that place the Planet in danger, groups involved in reducing the effects of climate change and groups—like the ones you’ll read about in this magazine—that are collaborating to resolve a threatening sort of presence . . . that of radioactive waste and other toxins in a highly populated area.

As we live out the rest of our days, such spiritual practices help us continue to live with meaning and purpose. We can appreciate each precious moment of life as a one-time opportunity to give and receive love, a moment to be savored with gratitude.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose Dowling, F.S.M." The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.



# COMPASSIONATE *care of* CREATION

## *Fulfilling the Promise*

During the April 2011 FSM Chapter, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary heard the call of the Holy Spirit to initiate a new vision for the years ahead: Compassionate Care of Creation.

With unanimous voice they agreed to dedicate their efforts, individually and as a congregation, to this Focus:

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

In a special ceremony the sisters solemnly planted seeds, each pledging to allow the seeds, planted and nurtured in the days of discernment during Chapter, to mature and bear fruit in her.

Several months later the FSM formed three Focus Implementation Groups to help the congregation live out its commitment:

**The Spirituality Implementation Group**, comprising, from left, Srs. Kathy Buchheit, Marge O’Gorman, Marita Anne Marrah, Marilyn Jean Davis, and Jacqueline Motzel, strives to help sisters “explore and deepen the spirituality underlying the congregational Focus.”



**The Internal Implementation Group**, including, from left, Srs. Vicki Ewers, Lenita Moore, Jacinta Elmendorf, Sherri Coleman, and Judy Bell, helps the FSM “as individuals, groups, and the congregation as a whole, to engage in spiritual practices to deepen their experience of ecological issues related to the congregational Focus.”



**The External Implementation Group**—from left, Srs. Jeanne Meurer, Sara Schnurbusch, Mary Chaudet, and Jeanne Derer—works to engage the FSM with groups outside the congregation involved in specific efforts intended to protect and heal the environment and all creatures.



In the Spring 2012 issue of *FSM Magazine* we made this pledge: “The call we 99 sisters hear today is the call of a creation burdened. In the months and years ahead we will be seeking concrete ways we can relieve the distress of our Sister Earth. We will be striving to live more simply and responsibly, to enlighten others about the plight of our world, to find ways to support those who can make a positive difference. We will use whatever influence we have to urge corporations to use clean energy and manufacturing processes as well as recycling programs. We will insist that government officials on the local, state, and national levels preserve, conserve, and clean up. We will urge our country to support action against climate change.

“ . . . In our words and in our actions, in the way we live and in the initiatives we sponsor, we will try to live the change we want to see.”

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary remain faithful to the vision. They have deepened their appreciation for God’s presence and revelation in all creation, and they have renewed their commitment to protect, heal, and care for the cosmos we hold as a gift and a legacy for those generations who follow us.



## Looking into the Eyes of God

Strengthening our understanding of Creation as the fifth gospel—the Word of God made flesh in creation, which illuminates the other four Gospels—has been a major goal for the Spirituality Implementation Group.

Compassionate care of Creation calls forth a new approach to humans’ relationship to creation. Rather than domination, we are called to care and responsibility.

At the January 2012 Gathering the group shared with the FSM Brian Swimme’s film *The Journey of the Universe*. The scientific discoveries of the past 30 years suggest that creation is based on connection and interdependence. The point of *The Journey of the Universe* is that creatures thrive—or fall—together. Our future as humans is intimately tied with the future of all creation. It is a message that St. Francis of Assisi proclaimed; as the sisters realized, it is clearly the message of Scripture as well.

The Spirituality Implementation Group asked each to share her favorite Scripture passage about creation. Their choices showed their vision for the interdependence of all creatures—and God’s presence in all creation. Here are several:

- “The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.”
- “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit because apart from me you can do nothing.”
- “This is what God asks of me: To act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with my God.”
- “When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in place—Who are we that you should be mindful of us? . . . O LORD, our Lord, how glorious is your name over all the earth!”

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary have discovered and explored more deeply the spiritual dimension of their commitment to compassionate care of Creation.

According to Sr. Marita Anne Marrah, this exploration has led to a new hopefulness among the FSM. “This hopefulness has helped us to be more *attentive* to the broader world; to *notice* more the connections between our lives and the life of the planet. By the power of our intention we are more present to the moment. We can see with fresh eyes how to find God in all things, allowing us to deepen the space within us where we can find God.

“And we hope that this deepening of our individual spirituality might have a ripple effect in the larger community, bringing others to a deeper awareness and a deeper hopefulness as well.”

## Living as Compassionate Caregivers

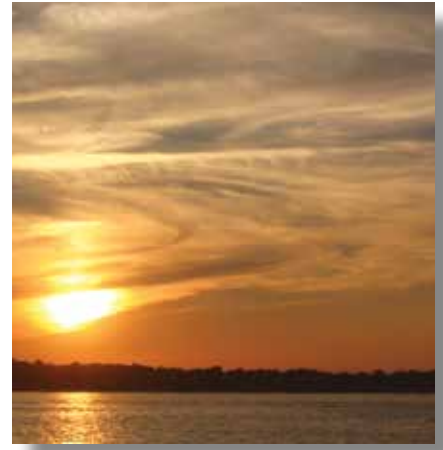
Encouraging sisters to find personal ways to live out that new appreciation for her role in the universe is the role of the Internal Implementation Group.

This group has invited the FSM to engage in spiritual practices that help further the congregation’s Focus. These spiritual practices include but extend beyond the traditional understanding of spiritual practices.

Many center on the practice of *mindfulness*: taking time to become more aware of our surroundings, the creatures around us and how we are connected with them. Some specific practices centered on eating, for instance, might include:

- Noticing the color, aroma, and taste of the food as we prepare and eat it—and thanking both God and the creature for the pleasure that food brings us.
- Remembering to give thanks for the people who grew and harvested the food, as well as those who handled it and prepared it.
- Becoming aware of and enjoying the abundance of summer’s fruits and vegetables, rejoicing in their variety of flavors, aromas, colors and textures.
- Choosing organic, less processed, locally grown foods when possible.

From mindfulness—awareness—of the goodness of God’s creation, gratitude is just a step away. This too is a powerful spiritual practice.



Photos courtesy of  
Sr. Mary Joan Meyer, FSM

But even more important is finding a way to act on the insights and the gratitude. Where does this appreciation lead?

The Internal Implementation Group has encouraged each Franciscan Sister of Mary to find specific ways she can live out this commitment to compassionate care of Creation in her own life. Many sisters have chosen to live more simply, to reuse and recycle. Some have participated in “Earth Hour,” an international turning off lights for an hour one evening in spring. Some have prayed and meditated on a specific environmental issue, asking God to help bring about a good outcome. Many have found the time to be present to and mindful of nature. Others have taken time to be still and become aware of God’s presence. They take time to be grateful.

## Reaching beyond the Congregation

The External Implementation Group, on behalf of all the FSM, faced the challenge of finding specific viable ways for the congregation to care compassionately for Creation.

Of course, the real challenge is to narrow the focus enough to make a difference.

Early on, the External Implementation Group decided to care for and promote trees.

Why trees?

Trees are the lungs of the earth, absorbing carbon dioxide at night and by day releasing oxygen into the atmosphere—without which we humans and other forms of life could not survive. Trees help offset urban heat by creating shade and moisture in the air. Tree leaves trap pollutants. Tree roots filter pollutants from rain water and help retain moisture in the soil while resisting erosion. Composted fall leaves renew the soil. Many tree fruits are nourishing to humans and wildlife.

Living in a place with many trees is soothing and refreshing. People come outside and enjoy their neighbors. Such neighborhoods have less crime. Hospital patients recover more quickly when they can see trees outside.

So, on behalf of the FSM, the group has been collaborating with a number of organizations and initiatives.

### *Forest ReLeaf of Missouri*

This organization works with the Missouri Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources in reforestation. Its volunteers cultivate tree seedlings that they then give to nonprofit organizations throughout the state. After the devastating tornado in Joplin in 2011, for instance, Forest ReLeaf provided thousands of new trees and guidance on how to plant and care for them. Several FSM attended a seven-week program to learn to become treekeepers. The FSM continue to support Forest ReLeaf efforts.

### *St. Louis Earth Day Symposium*

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary became the first faith-based sponsor of the annual St. Louis Earth Day Symposium, which focuses on the effects of climate change in this region.





### *Earth Day at Sarah*

Nearly two-thirds of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary live at The Sarah Community, a retirement and extended care facility on the SSM DePaul Health Center campus in Bridgeton, Missouri. The External Implementation Group, along with FSM Justice-Ecological Coordinator Gale Thackrey, initiated an Earth Day celebration for residents at The Sarah Community, providing speakers, refreshments, informational displays, and prayer focused on compassionate care of Creation.

Sr. Jeanne Meurer, a member of the group, applied for and received a small Earth Day Action Grant from the St. Louis Earth Day Organization. The award, presented to Sr. Jeanne on April 21, 2013, during the Earth Day festivities in Forest Park, sponsors her efforts to educate residents and promote recycling at The Sarah Community. The group has formed a Green Team to make recycling a reality.



### *The Bridgeton and West Lake Landfills*

Less than two miles from The Sarah Community and the FSM administrative offices lies a 200-acre complex comprising two landfills—the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill, which for more than three years has had a fire burning out of control underground at temperatures exceeding 300° F, and the West Lake Landfill, in which 8,700 tons of radioactive waste has been buried for almost 40 years without any appropriate, federally approved containment system.

The stench from the Bridgeton Landfill fire is nauseating, and residents are deeply concerned about the toxins that may be present in the polluted air. But the silent danger from the West Lake Landfill is of even greater concern.

The massive amount of radioactive waste has been dumped in a well-populated area of St. Louis County. The landfill lies next to a Missouri River flood plain in an area vulnerable to seismic shifts in the New Madrid Fault, as well as frequent floods and tornados, placing the water supply for a large part of the county at risk for toxic and nuclear contamination.

Adding to residents' concerns, the underground fire is creeping toward the radioactive waste in the adjoining landfill. At last report, the fire was no more than 1,000 feet from the nuclear dump site.

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary have heard the cry of their sisters and brothers—human and otherwise—in this area.





Working with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and other groups of concerned citizens to raise awareness for this issue, the FSM are urging the Environmental Protection Agency to ask for removal of the radioactive waste through the Army Corps of Engineers' Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), which has cleaned up similar radioactive dump sites in the St. Louis area. The EPA, which currently has jurisdiction in West Lake, decided in 2008 to leave the contaminated soil in place and simply monitor the site.

At the June 2013 FSM Gathering, Gale and the External Implementation Group helped inform the FSM of the potential disaster brewing in their new neighborhood, bringing in area specialists to discuss the issues of radioactivity and other toxins. In the afternoon the sisters boarded a bus (Nuns on the Bus for West Lake) to tour the two landfills and to pause for a moment to pray for healing of the area—its land and all who live there.

The FSM have been faithful to their promise. They have called and written elected local, state and federal government officials, including state and U.S. senators and representatives, to seek their support for complete removal of the radioactive waste from the West Lake Landfill and control of the fire in the Bridgeton Landfill.

The FSM are a visible and vocal presence at town hall meetings for concerned residents, such as the one held June 25 by the EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

A small group gathered at the local fire department one morning to thank the first responders for their support; one of the firefighters had publicly put into words the looming disaster if the fire actually does reach the uncontained radioactive waste.

On the second and fourth Wednesday mornings of the month, FSM gather with residents and sisters from other orders on a vacant lot facing the Bridgeton Landfill to pray for the earth and for the crisis in Bridgeton. In spite of the stench and summer temperatures that at times reached into the mid-90s, the sisters and residents faithfully pray for the land and its inhabitants, tying ribbons to the chain-link fence as a sign of their continued presence, solidarity, hope, and compassion in this impasse.

In their efforts on behalf of the Bridgeton community, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary are living out their promise to be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus. They know that resolution may lie far in the future, and that outcomes may not be ideal. The path ahead is anything but clear.

But just as on that April day two years ago, they have heard the unmistakable clarion call of the Spirit to stand with their neighbors to bring about, as Sr. Irma Kennebeck once described it, “a slow and unglamorous miracle of change for the West Lake Landfill.”

## In the Spirit of St. Francis

Saving children from lead poisoning.  
Listening to prisoners and giving them hope for a better life.  
Advocating for foster children.  
Serving in a food pantry.  
Crocheting baby caps and blankets for poor mothers.  
Tutoring children who are struggling.  
Offering a sympathetic ear to parents in hospital waiting rooms.  
Raising money to allow poor women in Africa to start businesses.  
Praying for all who suffer.  
Intentionally investing in companies that offer a sustainable future.



Often compassionate care is a quiet ministry, without glory or fanfare. It can be plodding, slow, frustrating.

But like their beloved patron St. Francis of Assisi, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary have come to recognize in each creature the reflection and the presence of God. In a world so luminous with the brilliance of God, of love, compassionate care becomes the only response.

*“When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in place—Who are we that you should be mindful of us? . . . O LORD, our Lord, how glorious is your name over all the earth!”*

### ***A Step Forward***

*On Friday, September 20, Republic Services, Inc., the company that manages the Bridgeton and West Lake Landfills, released news of a plan to construct a fire barrier inside the West Lake Landfill that will prevent the underground fire in the Bridgeton Landfill from reaching the buried radioactive waste—exciting and encouraging news for nearby residents and businesses!*

*While this development won't prevent the possibility of the uncontained nuclear waste's leaching into the surrounding water, soil, and air—an even stronger threat because the area is prone to flooding, tornados, and earthquakes—it is a major step in the right direction and a great source of hope for the Franciscan Sisters of Mary and our neighbors in Bridgeton and the surrounding area.*

*We continue to pray—and to ask your prayers as well—for nothing less than the complete removal of the radioactive waste from the West Lake Landfill to a site where it can be stored safely.*

# Sr. Antona Ebo Awarded Honorary Doctorate at the University of Notre Dame



Photos by Matt Cashore  
University of Notre Dame.



On Sunday morning, May 19, 2013, Sr. Antona Ebo was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York and president of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, was principal speaker at the ceremony and, like Sr. Antona, received an honorary doctor of laws degree. Four others received honorary doctorates at the ceremony.

The University of Notre Dame praised Sr. Antona as “a lifelong pioneer in civil rights, . . . a prominent activist for human rights since she marched with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, Ala. . . . As the only black nun in the crowd three days after Selma authorities attacked a peaceful protest march, she became a key speaker and enduring image in King’s 1965 march to Montgomery. . . . Her trailblazing career in civil rights, hospital management and ministry has earned her a wide range of awards, honorary degrees and speaking opportunities.”

This award is the sixth honorary doctorate awarded to Sr. Antona. The other five are:

- Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, University of Missouri—St. Louis, December 2010
- Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*, Saint Louis University, May 2010
- Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, May 2009
- Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, College of New Rochelle, New York, May 2008
- Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, Loyola University—Chicago, May 1995

# The Sister Mary Jean Ryan Garden



On June 6, SSM St. Mary’s Health Center employees and the SSM Health Care—St. Louis leadership team dedicated the new garden at SSM St. Mary’s in honor of Sr. Mary Jean Ryan.

The beautiful garden, with flowing water and a pathway for patients and visitors, is located just east of the main entrance to St. Mary’s Health Center and offers a quiet place for reflection.

The garden is named after Sr. Mary Jean Ryan, who for 25 years led SSM Health Care as president and CEO. It honors not only her leadership but also her commitment to the earth through the many conservation and recycling initiatives she sponsored.

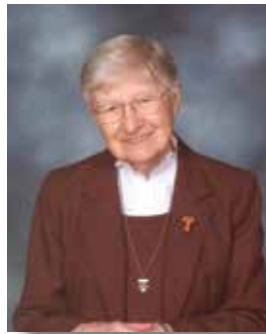
Todd J. Michaelson of SFP Landscaping, Inc., who designed the garden, said, “The goal was to create a tranquil environment that was full of life, a garden that reflected both her energy and sensitivity to the natural resources.” Besides the lovely waterfalls, flowing streams and quiet pools, the plants were carefully chosen to provide color and “invite butterflies, hummingbirds, and other wildlife.”

Those who attended the blessing and dedication were able to stroll through the garden and enjoy a reception in the main lobby of the hospital. SSM St. Mary’s Health Center Foundation provided funding for the garden.

# Congratulations to our 2013 Jubilarians



Sr. Mary Dismas Emerson



Sr. Eleanor Krieg



Sr. Evelyn Marie Peterman



Sr. Rose Ann Poetz



Sr. Mary Paul Schmidt



CARNELIAN



Sr. Victoria Ewers



Sr. Jacqueline Motzel



Sr. Irene Radtke



Sr. Sara Marie Schnurbusch



# DIAMOND



Sr. Margaret Mary O'Gorman



Sr. Frances Marie Haarmann



Sr. Mary Joan Meyer



Sr. Marylu Stueber



Sr. Mary Michelle Yates



# GOLD

# SISTERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**Mary Jean Ryan, FSM**, was honored June 6 at the blessing and dedication of the new garden in her honor, the Sister Mary Jean Ryan Garden just east of the main entrance to SSM St. Mary's Health Center in St. Louis. She was honored not only for her 25 years of exceptional leadership as president and CEO of SSM Health Care, but also for her commitment to the earth through the many conservation and recycling initiatives she sponsored.



**Jeanne Marie Meurer, FSM**, was awarded an Earth Day Action Grant, sponsored by the St. Louis Earth Day Organization, at the celebration in Forest Park on April 21, 2013. The grant will underwrite her efforts to promote recycling at The Sarah Community in Bridgeton, Missouri.



**Marylu Stueber, FSM**, retired from her position as FSM Archivist on May 31. She set up the Archives and administered them for 35 years. Sr. Marylu was honored at the June 2013 FSM Gathering. The FSM Archives are currently managed in conjunction with the SSM Corporate Archives.



**Ramona Meurer, FSM**, was featured in the article "She Serves with a Joyful Heart—Those Who Serve: Sister Ramona Meurer, FSM" by Rose Ybarra in the July 2013 issue of *The Valley Catholic*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas. The article focused on Sr. Ramona's long service in the Rio Grande Valley and the outstanding work she accomplished, especially as a volunteer with the local and national Red Cross, providing relief and recovery aid to victims in more than 80 disasters nationally, including floods, wildfires, tornados, and hurricanes. She served in New York after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Besides the Rio Grande Valley, she served for 10 years in Kenya. This spring Sr. Ramona moved to St. Louis after 63 years as a sister.



# IGHT



**Donna Marie Steinman, FSM,** presented “Through the Decades with St. Mary’s Health Center and St. Mary of the Angels Convent” as part of the Richmond Heights, Missouri, Centennial celebration. Her talk took place Sunday afternoon, September 29, in Kohler Auditorium at SSM St. Mary’s Health Center.



**Evelyn Marie Peterman, FSM,** was honored as a Woman of Achievement by the Zonta Club of Jefferson City at their Yellow Rose luncheon in early May. Sr. Evelyn, who has served as a sister for 70 years, was a registered nurse and pharmacist; she served as a chaplain for St. Mary’s Health Center and Villa Marie Rehabilitation Unit in Jefferson City. She ministered to prisoners at the Algoa and Jefferson City Correctional Centers. She was also featured in the May 13 article “Counting Her Blessings” by Olivia Ingle in the Jefferson City *News Tribune*, a tribute to Sr. Evelyn’s service in Jefferson City. She moved to The Sarah Community in June.



**Rose Mary Dowling, FSM,** wrote “Continue Courageously for the Love of God,” published in the Spring 2013 issue of *Human Development*. The article discusses the past and present decisions the Franciscan Sisters of Mary leadership team, along with the congregation, has faced in addressing the issues of an aging population. Sr. Rose was also part of a three-member panel presentation at the annual assembly of the Leadership Council of Women Religious, which took place in Orlando, Florida, August 13 to 17. The panel addressed ways congregations have found to plan for the future in the face of aging and dwindling populations.



**Antona Ebo, FSM,** received her sixth honorary doctorate on May 19, 2013, when the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana, conferred on her—and on Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York City—the honorary doctor of laws degree. She also was invited to offer the benediction to students ready to depart for volunteer ministries, and she spoke at the special pre-commencement celebration for Black graduates. In August she was featured in a TV interview with KSDK’s Mike Bush, focused on her participation in the March 1965 march in Selma and her later involvement in civil rights. On a Friday morning in early September she spoke with the children and other parishioners at St. Angela Merici in Florissant, Missouri, after the school mass; she encouraged the children to listen and walk with the Spirit.

## **Sr. Jovita Marie Stenger, FSM**

*September 20, 1930 – May 8, 2013*

An FSM for nearly 65 years, Sr. Jovita served the poor in Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil for 32 years. Cheerful and upbeat always, she was poised to play piano for The Sarah Community talent show when she fell ill.

She was born Verdine Frances Stenger in Glennonville, Mo., on September 20, 1930, seventh of sixteen children born to Joseph C. and Elsa Veronica (Meyer) Stenger.

On July 1, 1948, she entered the Sisters of St. Mary. She received the name Sr. Jovita Marie, and she professed final vows February 11, 1954. She is survived by three sisters in the FSM congregation—Srs. Ann Miriam, Mary Antoinette, and Mariella Stenger.

She completed her bachelor's in Commerce and Finance from Saint Louis University in 1956. In 1962 she volunteered for a new FSM mission in Arequipa, Peru, serving there until 1967. In 1968 she served as chauffeur and in the laundry at the FSM mission in LaPaz, Bolivia.

Sr. Jovita completed her BSN through Saint Louis University (1971) and served as a nurse at St. Mary's Health Center until 1972. She and Sr. Victoria Ewers began a mission in Sento Se, Brazil, in 1972, and were joined by Sr. Jovita's sister, Sr. Mary, in 1974. For 14 years they provided nursing care and education, teaching, healing and training midwives and workers. In October 1986 they moved their mission to Manacapuru, Brazil. The missionaries returned to the United States in June 2004.

From 2004 to 2012, Sr. Jovita faithfully entertained the convent sisters with her beautiful piano playing. Moving to The Sarah Community in November 2012, she continued to bring good cheer to the residents through her music.

In late afternoon on May 8, 2013, Sr. Jovita Marie slipped away to join her beloved for eternity.



*"I Am with You  
on the Journey"*

## **Sr. Teresa Marie Schmitz, FSM**

*December 31, 1920 – May 13, 2013*

Anne Dolores Schmitz was born December 31, 1920, in Paul, Nebraska, youngest of six children born to Aloysius Raymond and Clara Anne (Kreifels) Schmitz. Her father died when she was only 2; her mother married William Meredith, and they had five sons, plus a son and daughter from his previous marriage.

Anne Dolores entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Maryville, Mo., on September 3, 1936. She received the name Sr. Teresa Marie, and she professed final vows May 6, 1942.

She studied nursing at St. Anthony's Hospital School of Nursing in Oklahoma City, Okla., becoming a registered nurse in 1943. She also became a certified x-ray technician in 1949. She served at St. Francis Hospital in Maryville (1943–1952); St. Joseph of the Pines in Southern Pines, N.C. (1953–1962); St. Mary's in Nebraska City, Neb. (1962–1967, 1970–1971); and Alverno Heights Hospital in Guthrie, Okla. (1967–1970). She was an employee health nurse at Mount Alverno Convent, Maryville (1971–1973) and St. Anthony's Hospital, Oklahoma City (1973–1997).

In October 1976 she began pastoral care ministry and was certified as a chaplain in 1979. She retired in May 1997 and moved to St. Louis, where she continued to care for others.

"I believe that living each day to its fullest is a way of being grateful to God for life," she said. Sr. Teresa enjoyed painting, drawing, reading, sewing, knitting, and crocheting, as well as cooking and baking for herself and sisters who lived nearby. She loved taking walks and resting in the sunshine, and she enjoyed being a companion to others. She moved to The Sarah Community at the end of June 2011.

On May 13, 2013, Sr. Teresa Marie left this earth to join her heavenly Spouse.



*"Praised and  
Blessed Be God—  
For All Things"*

## **Sr. Mary Geralyn Klenke, FSM**

*November 22, 1931 – June 22, 2013*

Named “Women of the Year” in 1991 by the Arcadia Valley Chamber of Commerce, in her 30 years of service there Sr. Mary Geralyn Klenke founded Ozark Valley Community Services and the Iron County Circle of Life Humane Society and ran the local ecumenical food pantry in Ironton. She was truly the presence of Jesus to those in need.

Theone Marie Therese Klenke was born in St. Louis November 22, 1931, to Vincent B. and Viola A. (Davis) Klenke.

She entered the Sisters of St. Mary August 10, 1954. She received the name Sr. Mary Geralyn, and she professed final vows February 11, 1962. Her sister, Joanne, entered the SSM in 1960.

She earned a bachelor’s in Commerce and Finance from Saint Louis University (1960) and a master’s in Pastoral Counseling from Iona College of New York (1973). She served as chief financial officer for St. Mary’s Health Center, St. Louis, until 1970, then as novice mistress and director of novices for five years.

In 1975 she founded Ozark Valley Community Services, Inc., in Arcadia Valley, striving to help those with disabilities live as normally as possible. Missouri Governor Bob Holden appointed her to the Board of Senior Services of Missouri; she also served on the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council. Upon retiring from OVCS, she founded Iron County’s humane society. She moved to St. Louis in 2006 and to The Sarah Community in May 2011.

Sr. Geralyn had a deep love both for the natural world and for the poor and challenged. She enjoyed gardening and caring for animals.

On June 22, 2013, having served God faithfully as a sister for nearly six decades, Sr. Geralyn celebrated the joy of the resurrection with her risen Lord.

## **Sr. M. Catherine Ann Dahmen, FSM**

*March 27, 1910 – July 28, 2013*

Susana Mary Magdalin Dahmen was born Easter Sunday, March 27, 1910, in Springfield Township, Wis., second of eight children of William H. and Catherine (Faust) Dahmen. She left school after sixth grade to help her mother at home.

From 1940 to 1952 Susana did housekeeping for a priest. She left to care for her father; when he was better, she worked at St. Mary’s Hospital, Madison.

She entered the Sisters of St. Mary July 20, 1957. She received the name Sr. Mary Catherine Ann, and she professed final vows February 11, 1965. (In 1987 the Sisters of St. Mary reunited with the Sisters of St. Francis of Maryville as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.)

She provided housekeeping at the motherhouse until 1964, then worked in the priest’s department at St. Mary’s Hospital, Madison, Wis. From 1966 to 1977 she was a nurse’s assistant at the motherhouse, then served as community director and assistant. From 1978 to 1985 she was a nurse’s aide and provided domestic help at St. Mary’s Ringling, Baraboo, Wis.; until 1991 she worked in the kitchen and crafted items to sell at St. Joseph’s Parish. In 1998 she returned to St. Louis. She was a faithful member of the FSM prayer program. She moved to The Sarah Community in July 2011.

She remained close to her family. Some 50 relatives traveled to celebrate her golden jubilee and her 100th birthday. She enjoyed young people, often entertaining visiting children. She was known for her joyous giggle.

A prayerful woman, she spent many hours in chapel. But she was also generous with her time, serving others and welcoming visitors. She remained clear of mind.

On July 28, 2013, God called Sr. Catherine Ann to eternal life.



*“In All Things May  
God Be Praised”*



*“Till the End of My  
Days, I Will Praise  
God!”*

# Gifts Received

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January 1, 2013 – June 30, 2013

## *Gifts given in memory of:*

*In memory of Leamond Onnie Allen*  
A New Year's memorial gift  
Mr. Leamond A. Allen

*In memory of M. Bernetta Armstrong, FSM*  
Ms. Lois Bollinger

*In memory of Dana Bertram*  
Mr. Joshua Bertram  
Ms. Deanna L. Moenster

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

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

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

*In memory of Normand Bourret*  
Ms. Doris Bourret

*In memory of William Bruemmer*  
Mel and Barbara Nicholson

*In memory of Phyllis Hope Clark*  
Mr. Robert E. Clark

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

*In memory of Margaret Mary Coens, FSM*  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Brandt

*In memory of Mary Martin Courtney, FSM*  
Ms. Cecelia M. Kress

*In memory of Harley and Sharon Davidson*  
Ms. Helen B. Davidson

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

*In memory of Debra Figge,*  
*My niece*  
Ms. Wilma E. Zarinelli

*In memory of all the Franciscan Sisters of Mary*  
*who passed away at the convent*  
*We think often of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary*  
Mr. and Mrs. Bua Van Le

*In memory of Leo A. Hallisy*  
Mary and Joseph Periard

*In memory of Rita Harty*  
Mrs. Mary Ann Eggleston

*In memory of Mary Hermine Heitman, FSM*  
St. Francis Hospital and Health Services  
Maryville, Mo.

*In memory of Mary Rosina Higgs, FSM*  
Ms. Janet G. McCubbin

*In memory of Mary Johnetta Hoffmann, FSM*  
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Hoffmann

*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 Mary Cornelia Immegart, FSM*  
Neil and Karen Immegart

*In memory of Sr. Innocente*  
Mrs. Mary Schoonover

*In memory of Mary Teresa Kern, FSM*  
*(1900–1981)*  
Ms. Regina Carrigan Howard

*In memory of my husband,  
Frank Kowalik  
Mrs. Evelyn J. Kowalik*

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

*In memory of Sr. Angela Lammert  
Mrs. Mary Schoonover*

*In memory of Richard C. Lawler,  
Father of Paula Friedman  
Ms. Lynn Bruchhof*

*In memory of Cesar Lim  
Ms. Teresa Yu Lim Alagao*

*In memory of Robert Marie Manthey, FSM  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Manthey*

*In memory of Mary Noreen McGowan, FSM  
My double cousin  
Ms. J. Connelly Netherton*

*In memory of Mary Noreen McGowan, FSM  
Ms. Elizabeth Colloton*

*In memory of Mary Wilbur McKenzie, FSM  
Mrs. Georgia A. George*

*In memory of Mary Carmella Mossinghoff, FSM  
Our beloved Aunt Vincie  
Charles F. and Rose Marie Murphy*

*In memory of the Petrelli Family and Friends  
Mr. Joseph G. Petrelli*

*In memory of Regina Marie Pingel, FSM  
My aunt  
Ms. Jeanette Pingel*

*In memory of Regina Marie Pingel, FSM  
Our aunt  
Ms. Julie Britt  
Ms. Mary Brown and Family  
Dottie and Pete Graham and Family  
Annette and Richard Hudson  
Ms. Marjorie Kolb  
Mr. William Kolb  
Ms. Dorothy Pingel  
Dr. Janine Pingel and Family  
Dr. Shaban Nazarian and Family  
Marjorie Pingel and John Odell  
Jane and Gary Protte*

*In memory of Rev. John Reinkemeyer  
Mr. and Mrs. Alex J. Reinkemeyer*

*In memory of M. Constantia Schmitz, FSM  
Mr. Michael Schmitz  
J. Kelly and Irene Tobin*

*In memory of Teresa Marie Schmitz, FSM  
Mr. Bernard J. Kreifels  
Ms. Esther E. Wyant*

*In memory of Kenneth Scholl  
Mrs. Jo Ann C. Scholl*

*In memory of the Sisters from St. Mary's,  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Sr. Michele M. Donahue, SFO*

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

*In memory of Margaret Stellhorn  
Dr. and Mrs. Frank Cleary*

*In memory of Jovita Marie Stenger, FSM  
Ms. Joyce M. Day  
Dr. Robert F. and Rosemary Emmett  
Patti and Marvin Eversgerd  
Carol and Lou Garr  
Carolyn and Anthony Kovac  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark V. Schaffer  
Don and Margaret Smith*

*In memory of John Warmbold  
Mel and Barbara Nicholson*

*In memory of Norm Wirtz  
Mrs. Patricia A. Cullen Wirtz*

*"More things  
are wrought by prayer  
than this world dreams of."*

*—Alfred Lord Tennyson*

## *Gifts given in honor of:*

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

*In honor of Shawn Bartalacci  
Ms. Wilma E. Zarinelli*

*In honor of my nephew, Joshua Bertram  
Ms. Deanna L. Moenster*

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

*In honor of Betty Brucker, FSM  
Dr. and Mrs. William J. Keenan*

*In honor of Beth Cullen,  
for her employment and financial needs  
Mrs. Kim Malone*

*In honor of M. Catherine Ann Dahmen, FSM  
Bob and Cathy Niesen*

*In honor of Joan Dockler  
Mr. and Mrs. James O. Malone, Jr.*

*In honor of Mary André (Shirley) Evanicsko, FSM  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene C. Zamboni*

*In honor of Debbie Figge,  
My niece  
Ms. Wilma E. Zarinelli*

*In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Hanley*

*In honor of Bill Gisi,  
My nephew  
Ms. Wilma E. Zarinelli*

*In honor of Karen Sue Heath, FSM  
David and Lin Kelch*

*In honor of Cecilia Lackman, FSM  
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Williamson*

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

*In honor of Mary Ellen Lewis, FSM  
Msgr. Thomas F. Baxter*

*In honor of Sar and Tim Masters  
and their family  
Dr. Thomas T. Mier*

*In honor of Mary Joan Meyer, FSM  
On the occasion of her 50th Jubilee  
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent H. Grelle*

*In honor of Margaret Mary O’Gorman, FSM  
On the occasion of her 50th Jubilee  
Mr. Kenneth L. Dowden*

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

*In honor of Rose Ann Poetz, FSM  
On her birthday  
Mr. Richard J. Krull*

*In honor of Agnes Stottmann, FSM  
Mrs. Lucy F. Bruehl*

*In honor of Marylu Stueber, FSM  
On the occasion of her 50th Jubilee  
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent H. Grelle*

*In honor of Priscilla Weber, FSM  
Msgr. Thomas F. Baxter  
Mr. and Mrs. James O. Malone, Jr.*

*In honor of Mary Dorine Wittenbrink, FSM  
Ms. Lorena Reid*

*In honor of Mary Michelle Yates, FSM  
Dr. Mary E. Bickel*

*In honor of Mary Michelle Yates, FSM  
On the occasion of her 50th Jubilee  
Mr. Kenneth L. Dowden*

Our sisters pray for all our donors, supporters, and friends, in addition to those who send us specific requests for prayer. We keep in prayer all those who care for others in our SSM Health Care entities—and for patients and families as well. We pray for all those who are most in need of God’s loving care.

Our sisters look forward to hearing from you!





## **Franciscan Sisters of Mary**

3221 McKelvey Road, Suite 107  
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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.