

FSM

MAGAZINE

Franciscan Sisters of Mary

AN ENDURING PRESENCE



SPRING 2014

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 and Woman's Place and collaborate with four other religious congregations of women in The Sarah Community.

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BACK ON THE AIR!

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary are once again offering a monthly message on the radio airwaves!

The first of these new messages aired during the second and third weeks of December on the station of the Radio Arts Foundation of St. Louis (RAF-STL), FM 107.3 or 96.3 HD2 (the high-definition digital radio station).

The FSM monthly messages ceased in July 2010 when KFUE-FM Classic 99 was sold after 62 years on the air and classical music in St. Louis was silenced. In April 2013, the Radio Arts Foundation of St. Louis began broadcasting classical music once again.

Besides the FM and digital radio options, you can tune in to RAF-STL through their Web site, www.rafstl.org.

The sisters will present a message each month, usually during the second and third weeks of the month. A link to each will be posted on the home page of our Web site, www.fsmonline.org, after it has aired.

So tune in to RAF-STL to listen to our sisters!

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

Presence.

For the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, presence is essential. Presence is the very core of our mission—“to be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus.”

Over the past 142 years, the FSM have been privileged to minister to the needs of others in so many ways and in so many places. Always we have striven to be excellent—excellent nurses or technicians, excellent administrators or housekeepers, excellent in whatever profession or occupation to which we were called. But always there was more. Always we understood that the gift of presence was every bit as important as the gift of expertise.

Presence. It’s not so much about what I do as who I am as I do it. Does my presence as I minister convey the beauty of Gospel values? Does my approach to another reflect compassion and genuine care? Does my working with others express the love and truth of Jesus’ message?

It is this need to be present that we have tried to impart to those who over the years have shared our Mission and who now share this Mission with us. For years before we left our ministries in the competent hands of others, we consciously chose to empower those who ministered alongside us with a sense of responsibility not only to be excellent in their profession but also to deliver that excellent ministry with compassion and presence.

As you read the articles that follow, consider how one’s presence—your presence—can endure in your work, in your children, in your ministries, in the kind word you leave with another, even after you are no longer there.

Presence is a gift we can all give, anytime, anyplace, to anyone or to any part of Creation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose Mary Dowling, F.S.M.".



A Continuing Presence

Step into the corridor of any SSM hospital. You probably won't see any of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, who in 1872 began caring for the sick poor in St. Louis and who over the years founded the hospitals and other facilities that today serve countless patients throughout Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma.

You *will* see devoted lay professionals faithfully carrying on the sisters' work—heading hospitals and departments, setting policy, taking X-rays, providing physical therapy and outstanding nursing care, delivering babies, counseling patients on nutrition, health, or disease, cleaning floors, cooking and delivering meals. Their mission—"Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God"—beautifully echoes the heart of the FSM mission, "To be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus."

Each new SSM Health Care employee learns about the beginnings of the congregation and the ministry. Just recently the hospital system created the SSM Heritage Tour microsite, *Celebrating Our Legacy*, "... A legacy of sacrifice, compassion, and faith from 1872 to the present. What the Franciscan Sisters of Mary began, SSM Health Care continues." With new videos, historic photos, texts and reflections, new employees learn from the beginning about the vision and compassion that brought the sisters to St. Louis, and they are encouraged to commit themselves to following the sisters' example of sacrifice, compassion, and faith.



And so it is wherever the FSM have ministered. The sisters no longer maintain a physical presence in most of the ministries they founded and in which they served. But their presence continues nonetheless—the inspiration and the vision that give meaning and direction to all those who continue in their footsteps.

What follows are just a few of the instances in which the sisters' enduring presence continues in the ministries they founded over these past 142 years.



Empowering Women



A ministry that beautifully embodies and carries on the mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary — “to be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus” — is Woman’s Place.

In 1998, Srs. Irma Kennebeck and Jeanne Meurer first established a safe, welcoming drop-in center for women struggling with domestic violence and abuse. They envisioned a place where women could find not only safety but dignity, self-worth, and power.

Since then the center has changed sites several times — and even leadership. In 2011, Sr. Irma stepped down as executive director and Mary Burns, long-time lay staff member, stepped into that role. In November 2012, Woman’s Place moved from Maplewood to 8300 Morganford Road in Affton; almost a year later, Woman’s Place expanded to a second site at 4116 McClay in St. Charles.

What has not changed is the heart of Woman’s Place — the commitment of each staff member to help the women who come seeking help. “We live out the FSM charism — presence, listening,” says staff member Carla Maley. “We turn no one away. Woman’s Place is the door that opens. We always treat the women who come to us with compassion and respect.”

“Their resilience is amazing,” director Mary Burns says of their clients. “It’s a beautiful transformation. We walk with her through her journey, helping her through the pain and restoring hope and healing.”

The staff members at Woman’s Place strive to live out the FSM heritage and legacy in all that they do — and they are grateful for the solid foundation the sisters have left them.

Last October, through the nomination of Woman’s Place staff, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary were honored at the Women’s Champion for Social Change breakfast, sponsored by the St. Louis Ending Violence Against Women Network (SLEVAWN). The sisters were celebrated “For creating a work environment of kindness, inspiration, efficacy and self-empowerment that allows women in the process of healing to ‘give back’ to our sisters who still struggle for safety and healing, and for being committed to fair and just salaries and benefits.”



The presentation praised the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, not only for their vision and compassion in founding Woman’s Place, but also for their fair employment practices for women. “Their devotion to women’s empowerment, safety, dignity, well-being and social justice has been clearly demonstrated through their establishment of Woman’s Place . . .

Woman’s Place works to end violence against women by providing compassionate crisis intervention, facilitating women’s transition to safety and healing, and educating the community on these important issues. The Franciscan Sisters of Mary has upheld a legacy of hospitality and presence—which has helped sustain a culture of kindness, inspiration, efficacy, and self-empowerment. Employees of FSM are consistently valued for their passion, knowledge, skills, and abilities. Franciscan Sisters of Mary are committed to fair and just salaries and benefits that reflect the esteem with which all Woman’s Place employees are held.”



While Woman’s Place is gradually moving from FSM sponsorship to greater organizational independence, the mission that continues to give meaning and purpose to Woman’s Place is the mission that inspires its original founders: “To be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus” to women in crisis.



Almost Home: Remembering and Continuing Courageously

“It is with heavy hearts that we share with you the news that one of Almost Home’s beloved founders, Sr. Irene Radtke, passed away last week.

“... Sr. Irene, along with Sr. Jacinta [Elmendorf], started Almost Home in 1993. With hard work, faith, and compassion they built an agency that provides hope and inspiration to teen moms and their babies who have no place to go. While Sr. Irene is no longer with us in body, she has and always will be with us in spirit. It is now our charge to be great stewards of her legacy by taking Almost Home to the next level.”



Reprinted with permission from Ladue News.

More than twenty years ago, Srs. Irene and Jacinta began a ministry to provide shelter and education to homeless teenage moms and their babies. Besides gaining sound parenting skills, a sense of responsibility, and the recognition of the importance of completing their education and developing marketable skills to create a better future for themselves and their children, these young women also learn to value themselves and their little ones in an atmosphere of acceptance, accountability, and support.

Sr. Irene served as director of Almost Home until retiring in August 2002. During that time, Almost Home grew from a house that could provide shelter for five young women and their families to a custom-built facility, finished in 1999, with fifteen individual bedrooms to house these families, with communal areas that included a living room, fitness room, playroom, kitchen, classroom, and dining area. In 2004 Almost Home built an apartment building to provide low-income housing for Almost Home graduates.

While the director of Almost Home has not been a Franciscan Sister of Mary since Sr. Irene retired, the connections have remained strong. Almost Home employees learn about carrying on the mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary at Almost Home during special sessions with the FSM leadership team. Employees learn about the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, explore how they can carry out the mission and values of the FSM in their roles at Almost Home, and spend time strengthening the bonds with the sisters who laid the foundations for Almost Home.



Rhonda Gray, executive director of Almost Home, said, “As one of the ministries founded by the Franciscan Sisters of Mary (FSM), Almost Home works to continue the long history of providing compassionate care to society’s most vulnerable members. With a focus on homeless teenage mothers and their babies, the agency has maintained FSM’s commitment to helping poor young women create a better life for themselves by breaking the cycle of poverty. The work remains challenging; however, Almost Home’s staff is encouraged by FSM’s continued support and prayers. We are proud to be part of the FSM legacy and to continue courageously to uphold the spirit of Mother Odilia.”

Even though the facility is no longer directed by the sisters, the presence and the mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary remain strong in Almost Home as it provides compassion, safety, direction, and inspiration for young women and their children who have nowhere else to go.



Sr. Mary Teresa Noth: An Enduring Presence

On October 30, 2013, more than thirty-one years after Sr. Mary Teresa Noth retired as dean, the Saint Louis University School of Nursing hosted a 90th birthday party for her.

Close to a hundred of Sr. Mary Teresa Noth's closest friends, colleagues, former faculty and students, and administrative personnel gathered in the Allied Health Building at Saint Louis University to honor the legacy of this Dean Emerita of the Saint Louis University School of Nursing. They came to celebrate the brilliant innovation and creativity of her visionary leadership as dean—on the occasion of her 90th birthday, two days earlier.

For sixteen years (1966–1982) she served as dean of the School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions. During the festivities the current dean, Dr. Teri Murray, announced that a nursing scholarship had been established in her name, honoring one of the most innovative programs of her stellar tenure as dean.

Meeting the Needs of the Students

While Sr. Mary Teresa would be the first to say that she was building on the excellent foundation laid by previous deans like Sr. Geraldine Kulleck and Sr. Agnita Claire Day, her quiet concern for what was best for the students inaugurated in the school a new excellence and professionalism—and secured a place in the hearts of all those who knew her. “Ours was not just a technical major, but a comprehensive program that educated thoughtful, competent, professional nurses.

“SLU’s mission was the development of the whole person,” she said. “The faculty spent years in planning and carrying out the programs. It was their attitude toward one another—the deep friendships they developed, that made such a difference. They just helped students become all they could become.”

At the celebration, Dr. Teri Murray, present Dean of the School of Nursing, particularly praised Sr. Mary Teresa for her amazing insight in inaugurating a program in 1971 for an accelerated BSN for students who already had a bachelor’s degree. Provided that prerequisites had already been met, students could attain a nursing degree in a mere eleven months. At the time, Saint Louis University’s program was the only one available in the country; now, many flourish.

“What made it so great was that in eleven months we could give them everything they needed for their nursing degree. The state board approved it, and it really caught on,” Sr. Mary Teresa observed.



Just two years before taking on the role of dean, Sr. Mary Teresa completed her Ed.D. at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. She returned with a vision—simple but profound—that guided her throughout her tenure as dean: “We meet the needs of the students.”



With that goal in mind, early on she began a continuing education program for nurses. It quickly became a nationally recognized program—and the only one in St. Louis at the time. “That has really bloomed at SLU, and it has perdured all these years,” she observed. “It has done such a favor to all the nurses we’ve had here in the St. Louis area—it just served hundreds of them. It went big right away. We planned courses and offered them at times, even weekends and evenings, to meet their needs.”

Sr. Mary Teresa took her commitment to her students very seriously. “Being the only baccalaureate program here in St. Louis, I thought we had the obligation and we had everything it took to meet their needs—the fine university, respect in all the clinical areas and public health agencies, and our St. Mary’s Hospital group, which gave us access to five hospitals (St. Mary’s Hospital, St. Mary’s Infirmary, Mount St. Rose Hospital, Firmin Desloge Hospital, and Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center) for clinical experience.”

Transformative Leadership

Before becoming dean, she spent five years as assistant to the dean, coming to understand how the various schools, including Nursing and Allied Health Professions, functioned within the university as a whole and working with the deans of other schools and vice presidents of the university.

As dean, she strove to develop a strong faculty who were also committed to meeting the needs of the students. Throughout her years as dean she was responsible for building and implementing innovative academic programs and curricula.

Sr. Mary Teresa also credited Fr. Edward J. Drummond, SJ, vice president for the Saint Louis University Medical Center, with providing support—he often told her that she could promote any program or issues she saw fit, provided she had the revenue to support them. Dr. George Thoma, MD, followed Fr. Drummond as vice president and equally supported Nursing and Allied Health.

She took Fr. Drummond’s advice to heart. She was always writing grants and encouraging her faculty to write grants to supply the funding for programs the school hoped to initiate—programs like nurse midwifery. One of her most visible accomplishments was getting the nursing school a building of its own; for the first fifty years, the nursing school had offices and departments scattered all over the medical center campus. With the help of construction grants and fund-raising efforts, the nursing school building became a reality.



An Enduring Legacy

Sr. Mary Teresa Noth certainly left a strong legacy at Saint Louis University School of Nursing—the nursing programs themselves, and the focus on students and on academic excellence that she promoted.

But what enduring presence of hers led the school to throw a birthday party for this extraordinary dean some thirty-one years after she retired?

Perhaps it has to do in part with her down-to-earth humility and her kind heart.

“It was never about you,” she said. “All the graduates speak for themselves. It was a faculty and staff that worked together that brought the School of Nursing to where it is today.

“I enjoyed working at SLU, following in the footsteps of our sisters. I am fortunate to follow those great women—Sr. Agnita Claire, Sr. Geraldine. I was impressed by the sisters who headed the departments—Sr. Alacoque Anger, director of Radiologic Technology; Sr. Servatia Risse, director of Medical Record Science; Sr. Carola Sellmeyer, director of Dietetics; and Sr. Imelda Pingel, director of Physical Therapy—they were fine women, great educators, great sisters. They influenced me. And the caliber of the students was high. I was involved; you did all you could to help!

“Maybe I was able to make the nursing school more about education,” she said. “It helped us to become all that we could become—just a little better all the time.”

A special scholarship fund, the Sr. Mary Teresa Noth, FSM, Endowed Accelerated Nursing Scholarship Fund, has been created to provide tuition assistance for accelerated BSN students at the Saint Louis University School of Nursing—a fitting tribute to honor Sr. Mary Teresa’s transformative leadership as dean.



The Power of Presence

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary continue to have a strong presence in the ministries and in the hearts of the people they have served for 142 years.

Take Holy Family Birthing Services in Weslaco, Texas, for instance. Eleven miles north of the Mexican border, Holy Family was founded in 1983 by Sr. Angela Murdaugh, FSM, and four sisters from other congregations to provide prenatal, maternity, and postpartum care for poor women in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Sr. Angela served as executive director for 25 years before retiring in 2008.



Throughout the years, Holy Family has made a huge difference in the lives of the families they've served. Area infant mortality rates have plunged, due to the individualized care and education mothers receive throughout pregnancy. Even now, though no FSM has served there since 2008, the birth center reflects Sr. Angela's vision and her legacy—midwifery “in a family-centered, culturally sensitive, holistic environment that provides thorough, individualized care and teaching to its patients.” Sr. Angela's presence remains in the vision, the orientation, and the commitment to impoverished families that Holy Family continues.

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary have always cared deeply about the poorest of the poor.

Friends of the Earth

But it isn't just in the ministries the sisters founded that you will find their continued presence and influence.

In 2011 the FSM committed themselves to a congregational Focus of compassionate care of creation in collaboration with others. Over the years the sisters, as individuals and as a congregation, have strived to educate themselves about the threats to the environment and to devote themselves to possible solutions.

The FSM have worked to promote the planting of trees, which help limit the buildup of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. They have supported and sponsored Earth Day events to help others get on board with recycling and other efforts aimed at healing the Earth.



In the fall, the FSM Leadership Team also allocated a portion of the congregation's surplus assets to provide donations to smaller local organizations to support programs whose values align with the FSM Mission and Focus. The organizations receiving the donations were:

- The Missouri Coalition for the Environment, which works to protect and restore the environment through education, engagement, and legal action. The FSM have been working closely with the Coalition to help resolve the crisis at the Bridgeton and West Lake Landfills.
- Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, which helps restore and sustain urban and community forests through planting trees.
- St. Louis Earth Day, which works year-round to improve the area's environment; it sponsors Earth Day and the Earth Day Symposium.
- Gateway Greening, which educates and empowers people to strengthen their communities through gardening and urban agriculture. It sponsors an urban farm, community gardens, youth programs, and a project to beautify the downtown St. Louis urban landscape.
- Rockhaven Ecozoic Center in House Springs, which offers programs, rituals, celebrations and sacred space intended to promote ecospiritual awareness, to create an environment and model a way of living that embodies our connection with Earth.

Healing for the Land and All Who Live There

In addition, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary have maintained a strong presence in the effort to convince government officials to remove the radioactive waste illegally dumped in the West Lake Landfill and to enforce control of the underground fire burning in the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill.

By July 2011, all the sisters living at the convent in Richmond Heights had moved to The Sarah Community in Bridgeton. In December 2011, the FSM administrative offices also moved to Bridgeton, near the sisters. And as the sisters have gradually learned more and more about the concerns their neighbors have about the two nearby landfills, they have strengthened their role in the effort to bring about a safe and fair resolution to the problem.

Besides urging elected officials to authorize the removal of the radioactive wastes from the West Lake Landfill, they have attended public meetings and held twice-monthly Wednesday morning prayer vigils at the landfill to pray for healing of the land and its inhabitants. Gale Thackrey, FSM Justice-Ecological Coordinator, has become deeply involved in working with environmental and neighborhood agencies to bring the dangers of both landfills to light and to insist that the health and safety of area residents and businesses take priority over other concerns.

The presence of the FSM in this crisis is making a difference. Missouri's U. S. Senators McCaskill and Blunt and Representatives Clay and Wagner are among those who have come forward in support of removal of the radioactive waste. More and more organizations are paying attention to the alarming evidence of radioactive materials well beyond the boundaries of where they were believed to be and of the potential danger to those who live and work here.

Once again, the FSM have responded in a new way to the call "to be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus."



Continue Courageously

From the very beginnings, Mother Odilia Berger and her companions made themselves present to the poor and sick who needed care. They were present for others during epidemics of smallpox, cholera, diphtheria, yellow fever, knowing they might fall ill and even die—and some did. They were present though they knew they might never see payment for their efforts.

St. Paul wrote to his followers, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside everything that impedes us . . . Let us run with perseverance the race laid out for us. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection” (Hebrews 12:1–2).

Throughout the years, the FSM have lived out their promise of presence. Those who walk in their footsteps, continuing their ministry to the poor and sick, find themselves “surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses”—the sisters who have shared in these ministries before them and who inspire them daily to “continue courageously, for the love of God!”





SISTERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Jeanne Derer, FSM, designed and painted two icons, one of Jesus and one of Mary, for the Marian Chapel at The Sarah Community. The icons were dedicated on August 15, 2013, feast of the Assumption of Mary into heaven. They are situated in the special alcoves on either side of the entrance to the chapel.



Elizabeth Ruppert, FSM, and Ramona Meurer, FSM, who crochet mats for the homeless in connection with the Mats for the Homeless initiative at The Sarah Community (TSC), were featured in two television news programs this past fall. On November 26, five TSC residents visited the KTVI Fox 2 studio to film a live segment for the Tim Ezell Show, which runs from 9 to 10 a.m. And on December 12, KSDK's Julie Tristan arrived with videocamera to film a dozen residents who take part in the program for *Show Me St. Louis*, scheduled to air in January 2014. The Mats for the Homeless program was organized at The Sarah Community by Sr. Cordula Wekenborg, SSND. Sr. Elizabeth spoke about the creativity involved in creating mats that the owners will value, and about the love and prayers that go into each mat.



The Franciscan Sisters of Mary were honored October 17, 2013, at the Women's Champion for Social Change Breakfast by the St. Louis Ending Violence Against Women Network (SLEVAWN). Nominated by the staff at Woman's Place, the sisters were honored "for creating a work environment of kindness, inspiration, efficacy and self-empowerment." The breakfast took place at Wells Fargo Advisors. Srs. Irma Kennebeck and Sandy Schwartz accepted the award on behalf of all the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.



Mary Jean Ryan, FSM, received the 2014 Harry S. Hertz Leadership Award on April 9, 2014, at the 26th Annual Quest for Excellence Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Sr. Mary Jean, chair of the board of SSM Health Care, also was a keynote speaker at the conference. The Harry S. Hertz Award, which recognizes leaders who inspire their organizations to achieve performance excellence, is named for the director of the Baldrige Program from 1995 to 2013 and honors his leadership legacy. In accepting the award, Sr. Mary Jean credited not only SSM employees, physicians, and volunteers but also “the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, my congregation, who in 1986 entrusted me to begin SSM Health Care. In my 25 years as CEO, they provided support and encouragement for all of our efforts, they rejoiced with our successes, sympathized with our difficulties, and wept with our sorrows. They continue to pray for SSM every day; and some days they storm heaven depending on the needs. They have made all the difference.” Congratulations, Sr. Mary Jean, on this special honor!



Mary Teresa Noth, FSM, Dean Emerita of the Saint Louis University School of Nursing, was honored October 30, 2013, on the occasion of her 90th birthday by friends, former students, faculty, and administrative personnel. Dean Teri Murray and others spoke of the visionary leadership Sr. Mary Teresa showed during her sixteen years as dean. The School of Nursing has set up the Sr. Mary Teresa Noth, FSM, Endowed Accelerated Nursing Scholarship Fund in her honor.



Mary Joan Meyer, FSM, had five haiku published in Issue 4 of *Fireflies' Light: A Chapbook of Short Poems*, published by the Missouri Baptist University Department of English (November 2013).

Angela Murdaugh, FSM, was featured in the Diocesan Stewardship Appeal video for the Diocese of Corpus Christi.



Antona Ebo, FSM, introduced the film *Sisters of Selma: Bearing Witness for Change*, sharing her journey to Selma in 1965 as part of the Schlafly Branch Library Film Discussion Series on Monday, January 27, at 6 p.m. She also was the keynote speaker for the Friday Kickoff of the 9th Annual Educating for Change Curriculum Conference sponsored by the Educators for Social Justice. The theme of the conference was “Race, Class and Education in St. Louis”; the conference took place February 21 and 22, 2014, at the Maplewood-Richmond Heights Elementary School. Sr. Antona gave reflections on “The Welfare of the St. Louis Community.” On February 28, in honor of Black History Month, she led the opening prayer for the St. Louis Board of Aldermen at the St. Louis courthouse. On March 10, she attended the reception for Ambassador Andrew Young, who presented the keynote speech for the 96th Annual Dinner of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. Ambassador Young has been a minister, a U.S. Congressman from Georgia, Mayor of Atlanta, and United States Ambassador to the United Nations. He was a key activist and negotiator in Selma and Birmingham, helping to bring about the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Commissions

Sr. Rita Clara Blau, FSM

October 27, 1930 – September 29, 2013

Rita Clara Blau was born near Plain, Wis., on October 27, 1930, one of ten children born to Joseph M. and Catherine (Alt) Blau.

She entered the Sisters of St. Mary (SSM) March 1, 1954. She received the name Sr. Miriam Catherine, and she professed final vows September 8, 1961. She resumed use of her baptismal name in the early 1980s.

She completed high school at St. Mary of the Angels Convent, its final graduate; she earned her LPN certificate in 1962.

She served at St. Mary's Ringling in Baraboo, Wis., as LPN supervisor and charge nurse, and at St. Mary's Infirmary in St. Louis as LPN charge nurse. She provided nursing care for sisters at the convent, at Mount St. Rose, and at Perpetual Help Home. She returned to Baraboo in 1978 as a nurse at St. Clare Hospital and St. Mary's Ringling. After studying pastoral care at St. Francis in LaCrosse, Wis., in the early 1980s she provided pastoral care and parish ministry for three parishes. She served as charge nurse at the Benedictine Convent, then as the convent's assistant community director.

From 1991 through 2006 she cared for seniors at Cardinal Ritter Institute in St. Louis. She cooked for the LaSalette Missionaries, and she provided home health care for seniors through CSJ Care, St. Louis. After retiring in 2006, she volunteered at the convent. She moved to The Sarah Community in August 2010.

Of her life and ministry she said the words spoken during her final vow celebration: "Behold, what I have coveted, I see already; what I have hoped for, I hold even now; to Him I am joined in heaven whom I, while on earth, have loved with all my heart."

On Sunday, September 29, 2013, Sr. Rita joined her beloved Lord in heaven.



*"Praise God's
Glory in Faith"*

Sr. Clare Louise Droste, FSM

January 10, 1940 – January 18, 2014

Clare Louise Droste was born January 10, 1940, on a farm in Godfrey, Ill., one of thirteen children (nine girls, four boys) born to Theodore and Mary Anna (Brinkman) Droste.

When Clare was 4, her sister Mary Anna (Sr. Mary Juliana) entered the Sisters of St. Mary (SSM). On July 22, 1956, Clare Louise entered the SSM also. She received the name Sr. Theodore Marie and professed final vows February 11, 1964. (In 1987 the Sisters of St. Mary reunited with the Sisters of St. Francis of Maryville, Mo., as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.)

She was certified in Professional Food Service by the Catholic Hospital Association (1973), as an accredited nurse aide by the Missouri Health Care Association (1984), and as a certified nurse assistant (CNA) by the Missouri League of Nursing Home Administration (1989).

From 1956 to 1970 she served in the dining room and dietary at the motherhouse and in the convent at St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Charles, Mo. She was food production supervisor at Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center (1970–1977), also caring for her mother until her mother's death in 1975.

From 1977 to 1982 she was a nurse assistant at the motherhouse. She then served as a CNA at Villa Marie Senior Center in Jefferson City through 1992.

In 1993 she moved to Arcadia Valley, serving as a CNA in home health care through Arcadia Valley Hospital until 1996. She volunteered at the Open Hearts Humane Society in Arcadia Valley and at the hospital's resale shop. She moved to The Sarah Community in October 2012.

She loved community gatherings with the sisters. She also enjoyed her ministries, learning a great deal from each.

Early Saturday morning, January 18, 2014, she slipped away into the arms of her beloved Jesus.



*“To Jesus through
Mary . . .
Jesus, I Trust in
You”*

Sr. Irene A. Radtke, FSM

November 24, 1928 – February 20, 2014

A leader and hospital administrator for many years, in 1993 Sr. Irene founded Almost Home in St. Louis to empower teenage mothers to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their children.

Irene Ann Radtke was born November 24, 1928, in Mineral Point, Wis., to Ernest and Mary Lylith (Gedy) Radtke. She graduated from St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing in Madison, Wis. On August 12, 1953, she entered the Sisters of St. Mary, receiving the name Sr. Mary De Montfort and professing final vows February 11, 1961.

She earned her BSN at Saint Louis University (1959), a master's in hospital and health administration at the University of Iowa, Iowa City (1972), and an MA in counseling at Santa Clara University, Calif. (1986).

She supervised nursing at St. Mary's and St. Mary's Infirmary, St. Louis; and St. Mary's, Kansas City. She was director of nursing service, then assistant administrator at St. Francis Hospital, Blue Island, Ill. (1966–1970). She was executive director at St. Clare Hospital, Baraboo, Wis. (1973–1976), then associate executive director at Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center (1976–1978).

She was vice president of the hospital board until 1980, then returned to St. Mary's, Kansas City, as executive director. She was in congregational leadership (1981–1985). She served as counselor at Child Center of Our Lady and at Catholic Family Services in St. Charles (1988–1993).

She served as executive director of Almost Home until August 2002. She found the ministry “most challenging, but one of mutually giving and receiving.” She moved to The Sarah Community in August 2011.

All her life she lived out her concern for the poor and the environment.

On February 20, 2014, Sr. Irene heard the words of her God: “Well done, good and faithful servant!”



“In You Will I Live”

Gifts Received

July 1, 2013–December 31, 2013

Gifts given in memory of:

In memory of Bernetta Armstrong, FSM
Ms. Lois Bollinger

In memory of Liesel Bierhaus
Mr. Walter H. Giepen

In memory of Rita Clara Blau, FSM
Holy Spirit Parish Prayer Group

*In memory of my dear friend,
Rita Clara Blau, FSM*
Mr. Eugene A. Haessig

In memory of my daughter, Diane
Ms. Doris Bourret

In memory of Margaret Mary Coens, FSM
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Ken and Mary Breunig
Mr. Aloysius L. Dahmen
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In memory of F. Joe DeLong
My husband
Mrs. Betty Jo DeLong

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Dawn Runge and Steve Eckstein

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Franciscan Sisters of Mary*
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*In memory of my mother, Ethel M. Hurley,
and of your kindness to her long ago*
Jean H. Schulenberg

In memory of Mary Cornelia Immegart, FSM
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In memory of Mary Amanda Kaiser, FSM
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My husband
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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!

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

In memory of Regina Marie Pingel, FSM
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In memory of Agnes Reinkemeyer, FSM
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In memory of Anne Soraghan Ries, my mom
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In memory of Mary Elaine Schornak, FSM
My Aunt Agnes
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In memory of my aunt,
Mary Ellen Sloan, FSM
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SEND US YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS.

**You can e-mail them by clicking
on the tab "We pray for you"
on our Web site
(www.fsmonline.org)
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submitting the form.**

**You can call us with your
prayer requests;
St. Louisans can reach us at
(314) 768-1748;
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*In honor of the continued courageousness
of the Sisters as SSM Health Ministries
is formed*
Paula Friedman

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On the occasion of her 60th jubilee
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A Note about Donations

Dear Friends,

You may notice that the donation envelope for this magazine (and those to come) looks a little different. We are removing the “retired sisters” account. Any donations we receive will go to help those in “greatest need.”

We came to this decision for the best of all possible reasons.

At this point in our history, for a variety of reasons, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary have enough to care for all our sisters, and for this we are truly grateful. So any gifts we receive can go to help those who are not so fortunate.

If you choose to send a donation to the congregation, we will continue to acknowledge memorials, honorees, and donors in the magazine as we have done in the past. We will use your gift to benefit those who most need our help—as the FSM have done since the days of Mother Odilia Berger.

FSM Magazine is our way of keeping in touch with our families, friends and colleagues. We always enjoy hearing from our readers, and we strive to be good stewards of gifts we receive. Our envelope is there for your convenience, but please don't feel a sense of obligation to return it. We value much more your friendship and your prayers.



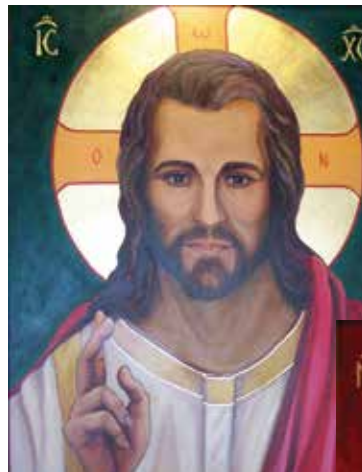
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Mission and Focus of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary

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.

