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Franciscan Sisters of
Mary is a religious congregation
of women within the Roman
Catholic Church. Founded in
1872, the Franciscan Sisters of
Mary sponsor the following
ministries: SSM Health Care,
Almost Home, Woman's Place
(St. Louis); co-sponsor Holy
Family Services (Weslaco, TX),
and collaborate with four
other religious congregations
of women in The Sarah
Community.

#### President:

Jacqueline Motzel, FSM

#### Councilors:

Judith A. Bell, FSM Sherri Coleman, FSM Joanne Klenke, FSM

Franciscan Sisters of Mary 1100 Bellevue Avenue St. Louis, MO 63117-1826 www.fsmonline.org

FSM Magazine is published twice a year by the Public Relations/Development Department. For more information, to make any corrections to our mailing list, or to report the receipt of duplicate copies, please contact Joan E. Pace at (314) 768-1737, or e-mail: jpace@fsmonline.org.

Joan E. Pace Editor

**PPCT Research Publications** 

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### **Franciscan Sisters of Mary**

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

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



#### **Dear Friends:**

Go in to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation.

Mark 16:15

Ministry is the bridge that connects the Gospel to the needs of God's people. Through ministry we share with others a glimpse of Jesus, whose trademark behavior was to welcome and respect all peoples without exception. To everyone – family and foe, saint and sinner, child and ruler – he showed exquisite respect and reverence.

Jesus met people where they were on their life's journey.

The integrity of his person served to liberate goodness in them;
his presence touched them with a new awareness of their human dignity.

Today, in the here and now, we are called to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ.

In this issue of FSM Magazine, you will become acquainted with some of the ministries of our sisters. You will see a good deal of diversity among us, but more importantly you will observe a firm thread of continuity woven through our service to others. For us, the continuity is made visible through our presence, hospitality and compassion. These are our anchors — gifts entrusted to us by our founding sisters and nurtured by us through the years. Our ministries are the bridge that connects Gospel values to the needs of God's people.

For nearly 135 years the Franciscan Sisters of Mary have responded to God's beckoning voice: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for me?" And through the years we answered, each of us in our own way and from our own heart. "Here I am: send me."

Blessings to each of you,

Jaqueline Matel, form

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# "I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who shall go for me?"

And I answered, "Here I am. Send me!"

### Isaiah 6:8

"Send me!" said Sr. Agnes Reinkemeyer, Sr. Evelyn Marie Peterman, Sr. Mary irthing center of Send me!" said Sr. Angela Murdaugh, as she realized the need for better of under served was a side of a mell of the serve of the said Sr. Angela Murdaugh, as she realized the need for better of the said Sr. Mary Francis McRory, as she researched sickle cell anemia for the serve of the services of th

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unity volunteer "Send me!" said Sr. Geralyn Klenke, as she ministered to adults with tional director - congrego developmental disabilities . . .

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**"Here I am. Send me!"** erapist • mission associate • music director • nurse • nurse aide • nurse case manager • nurse coordinator • nurse n

 $\cdot$  president of a hospital  $\cdot$  prison minister  $\cdot$  provider of home care services  $\cdot$  receptionist  $\cdot$  regional director for Hisp $_{f 3}$ 

ance staff •

### . . for all we need is faith working through love."

Galatians 5:6

As assistant director of the Peace Council, Mary Ellen Lewis, FSM, feels there are always more needs than we could possibly respond to. However, "certain needs speak most loudly and clearly to some of our sisters."

The Peace Council, based in Madison, WI, supports the peacemaking efforts of many faiths; its mission is to demonstrate that peace is possible.

"My role with the Peace Council is really a natural, as it expresses our FSM identity and mission," says Sr. Mary Ellen. "Just about everything we do benefits the poor and those on the margins of society."

"In every war or armed conflict large numbers of civilians are killed, injured, and driven from their homes. Assisting refugees, promoting bans on landmines and networking with organizations that rehabilitate landmine victims are some of the ongoing concerns of the Peace Council."

Sr. Mary Ellen has been in her role for five years. She accepted the position shortly after retiring as Director of Pastoral Care at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, WI, a position she held for six years.

"The greatest difficulty for me," suggests Sr. Mary Ellen, "is the enormity of the needs and how little I can do to relieve the heartbreaking suffering of people throughout the world caused by war."

"Yet I know we are only called to do what we can."

"There are always more needs than we can respond to," Sr. Mary Ellen emphasizes. "But we must listen and discern and respond appropriately."

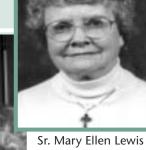
"If our discernment indicates we have a sister or sisters prepared, then her missioning to that area is a blessed match. In other instances, the FSM response would take another form, such as advocacy or assistance to other groups ministering in that area."

"I do know," adds Sr. Mary Ellen, "that the people we help are so grateful."

(Sr. Mary Ellen's ministry has included nursing and hospital administration; she also served as Treasurer General, Councilor and General Superior of the

congregation).





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ator  $\cdot$  fsm prayer program minister  $\cdot$  health care educator  $\cdot$  home visiting nurse for newborns  $\cdot$  hospice nurse  $\cdot$  info

Kathleen Marie Buchheit, FSM, serves as Director of Mission Integration at SSM St. Joseph Health Center, St. Charles, SSM St. Joseph Medical Park and SSM St. Joseph Health Center – Wentzville, MO.

"Mission is to be integrated into every aspect of our endeavors at St. Joseph," says Sr. Kathy. "Mission sets the cascade and impetus for all else."

Part of Sr. Kathy's ministry involves working with a "wonderfully creative and energetic" Mission Awareness Team.

"We plan activities for St. Joseph Day and Heritage Days, and we're in the midst of beginning FOCUS, our annual employee retreat days," says Sr. Kathy. "But these are just a few examples."

"Through our efforts we serve as champions and cheerleaders for mission in our work place. We each bring unique qualities to the team, and often take the time to discuss and reflect upon those qualities and their importance to the strength of the team. I want to bring energy, enthusiasm and leadership to the group."

"I have always felt keen responsibility for mentoring younger people," Sr. Kathy adds. "I catch glimpses of those individuals I see having capacity currently and as future mission leaders, and I want to make sure I encourage them."

Sr. Kathy sees her present ministry as one of compassionate presence.

"Our employees are very generous, committed to our healing work and likewise, overextended. Sometimes, it is just very important to stop, listen, affirm and express gratitude. I visit various departments. One day it may be to encourage employees to take time, and to attend retreat days; another day it may be a more intentioned question around the SSM Health Care mission statement: Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God." Sometimes, it is finding an opportunity to laugh at the incongruities of the day."

Sr. Kathy most recently ministered as a massage therapist.

"It provided me the opportunity to be one on one with individuals. I was truly amazed how, unsolicited, people shared very personal stories. Loss was a rather common theme."

"I think that how I respond to God's invitation to minister is so important, as something unique is asked of each of us," reflects Sr. Kathy. "I love being Franciscan. It is very energizing and life-giving. The more I learn, the more it seems to fit."

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"Preach the gospel always, and when necessary, use words."

St. Francis

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"In fact I believe that as Franciscan Sisters of Mary, we are able to be about many facets of ministry.

because of one another. We encourage and affirm one another. We support one another. I also know I have the prayer support of our senior sisters and that is most essential."

"All of us have many experiences. It's actually pretty amazing to see how many sisters have moved into a particular ministry because of specific needs. Yet, somehow too, even if we are not directly a part of particular ministries, we are somehow a part because our sisters are involved."

Sr. Kathy sees her challenge to stay fresh and committed.

gregational lett can sometimes be a challenge to not be judgmental. It can also be overwhelming to see all inator of miss the needs and to know I can do just a piece.

"My challenge also, is to take the time to pray and discern. It can be very easy to get caught up in the work of the day and forget God's part in it."

(Sr. Kathy's ministry has included nursing, midwifery, vocation ministry, and education).



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Sr. Kathleen Marie

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upport staff for elderly sisters ullet social worker ullet speech pathologist ullet spiritual director ullet student ullet teacher in school

author • board member • card maker • catechist in correctional setting • ceo of hospital system • chaplain • director Rosanna Marie Carter, FSM, has ministered for SSM Health Businesses for eleven years.

"As receptionist and switchboard operator, I minister by being attentive to and aware of all who come to my desk seeking information or help, by answering the telephone and directing the callers to the proper persons, and by offering a listening ear and open heart to many employees," offers Sr.

h care educator  $\cdot$  home visiting nurse for newborns  $\cdot$  hospice nurse  $\cdot$  information desk clerk  $\cdot$  laboratory supervisor

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"I seek to give my life by being present, hospitable and compassionate to each person I meet."

What are the challenges of her work?

"Remaining calm and open to hear each person's request....being patient and cheerful when some people tend to be demanding or upset....attempting to remain positive when some people may seem to be negative..."

Sr. Rosanna enjoys her work. And she appreciates the employees she works with, especially "their friendly smiles and concern for how I am and their interest in what I do."

In fact, she has been described by some of her co-workers:

"She is an inspiration to us as she serves others on a daily basis, because of her commitment to the Lord and to those around her;"

"Her presence at work helps make the SSM mission real each day;"

"She is someone who is fun to work with. Very efficient, level-headed, who gets the job done. Sr. Rosanna is truly a mentor from whom I have learned a lot."

Aside from being an FSM, Sr. Rosanna doesn't see much difference in her role were she a layperson. "I don't think there would be any difference in the amount of work accomplished. Maybe there would be a difference in my reasons and the manner in which I serve others."

Sr. Rosanna has ministered in various ways over the years, as have many of the sisters.

"Our challenge has always been," offers Sr. Rosanna, "to read and to be open to the signs of the times."

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pastoral (Sr. Rosanna's ministry has included accounting and hospital administration; she has served as councilor and Superior General of the congregation).

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Sr. Rosanna Marie

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Mary Elmendorf, FSM, ministers as a volunteer patient advocate at St. Francis Hospital, Blue Island, IL, and as a volunteer at Washington Jane Smith Retirement Home, also in Blue Island.

"It gives me great satisfaction to minister to my sisters and brothers," says Sr. Mary. "I feel I'm giving of myself in serving them, especially if I am the only person to visit them.

"At this time in my life, volunteering at the hospital and retirement home provides many opportunities for me to make our Franciscan values real. Besides being present, it is really important for people to know that I am listening to them. Listening is so important."

"I volunteer two days a week at the hospital, one day at the retirement home," continues Sr. Mary. "As patient advocate at the hospital, I visit with patients and ask if they are satisfied with their care. If they have concerns or complaints I follow up with them. Patients frequently ask me to pray with them."

"At the retirement home I visit with the residents. Many of them are lonely and seldom have other visitors. They love to have a sister visit with them. I often think that we are gifting each other as I see the relationships being very reciprocal."

"I feel that I'm received well and patients and residents confide in me more so than they would a lay person," Sr. Mary adds. "I think they are more comfortable with me, as a sister, and ask for me to pray with them."

"I try to reflect our mission and identity by being a compassionate, healing presence to patients, staff and physicians. We are hospitable with those persons who visit with us in our home, meeting them at the airport, preparing dinner for them, or taking them to the ballgame."

Sr. Mary says she feels a lot of support in her ministry.

"I feel a lot of support from my companion sister, Doris, with whom I live. I also know that our sisters are with me by their many prayers, correspondence and their interest in what I am doing. Attending congregational meetings in St. Louis helps me to continue to build upon my relationships with other sisters."

"As we grow older," reflects Sr. Mary, "it's an awakening to realize how fortunate I am and blest to be an FSM; I'm able to share our charism with the people I meet as I go about my daily activities of trying each day to fully live the Gospel."

(Sr. Mary's ministry has included hospital dietetics, dietetics instruction and administration; also retirement food service administration and activities director).





Sr. Mary Elmendorf

Sherri Coleman, FSM, ministers as a licensed, certified therapeutic massage therapist for PRISM.

"When I first began my massage education in 1993, I was not envisioning how this ministry would personally impact me," says Sr. Sherri. "Especially over the last five years, I've noticed a deepening in my own spirituality through this ministry. I sense God's energy, grace and healing as I'm with each client and I accept that in this most intimate moment, I am God's presence."

"To me, the essence of whatever way we choose to minister is knowing and acting as God's light in the world."

Sr. Sherri describes that with any new client, she emphasizes that she wants them to feel safe and comfortable in the massage environment. "As their bodies rest, their spirits are quiet and receptive to God's healing. They can't always put words on what they experience during massage. They just know that it feels renewing. I believe that this renewal is God's divine energy filling every part of their body with each breath."

"I'm privileged to be part of this and I thank God every day for this opportunity."

Sr. Sherri is open for ways to share the healing modalities she uses (massage, reiki, healing touch) with others besides the clients who pay for the service.

"In exploring options with other women who are involved in healing ministries, we've initiated 'Healers in Ministry' with the mission – To offer groups and agencies the gifts of different healing modalities to empower those who would not normally have access to them. This has opened up experiences with Bosnian, Hispanic, African American women as well as women with AIDS.

"I've found this to very much be a mutual healing experience."

Sr. Sherri believes that taking time to tend to "our broken bodies and sagging spirits" is an important step in making a commitment to nonviolence.

"In reverencing ourselves, we go about God's work with a healthy, wholesome attitude. I've noticed a peace and a calmness in myself when doing massage that carries over in other aspects of my life. I'm better able to put things in perspective and I return more easily to a peaceful, calm state."

(Sr. Sherri's ministry has included community relations director, public relations manager; in conjuction with her current role as councilor on the FSM Leadership Team, she serves as congregational secretary).

"Send me!" said Sr. Mary Beatrice Merrigan, who was the first certified x-ray technologist in the United States and Canada and was recognized nationally.

"Send me!" said Sr. Mary Servatia Risse, who was a pioneer in medical Sr. Sherri Coleman records science and, in 1938, received the first degree in medical records science.

"Send me!" said Sr. Betty Brucker, who has been a leader in the health care field for over four decades.

"Here I am. Send me!"

### How does our presence make a difference?

Woman's Place, a sponsored ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, is a drop-in center of hospitality and compassion for adult women who have experienced violence in their lives. The hospitality and compassion calls for acceptance of whoever comes or calls as they are welcomed with an open non-judgmental heart. Violent encounters are shared in the presence of nonviolence and somehow a healing balm is experienced.

Our nonviolent presence is witnessed by:

- -an open, non-judgmental heart
- -listening with the third ear the heart
- -empathy
- -compassion
- -acceptance of people as they are
- -affirmation
- -inclusion of diversity
- -patience
- -availability and accessibility to diverse communities
- -kindness, generosity
- -offering women tools for empowerment
- -advocacy
- -prayer/reflection
- -nature/beauty.

While this may appear a laundry list of virtues, in reality it's a listing of attitudes and behaviors which facilitate living our FSM mission and commitment of presence and nonviolence. Nothing is incidental.

A woman walks into Woman's Place overwhelmed, but is welcomed into an environment that is clean, bright and open with the beauty of live plants, art work and calming music, which all help to attune the mind, body and spirit. She is welcomed, recognized, affirmed and invited into the presence of other women. For a Woman's Place staff member or volunteer, it's time to sit quietly with the woman, listening to her story, giving space, encouraging her to make her own decisions, affirming her choices, referring to resources or simply offering a glass of water. Within this atmosphere of giving and receiving presence, an awareness of sacred presence occurs.

These sacred encounters of presence I call being – just sitting and being present to another person. It makes the woman feel important. It's an affirming grace. We're not trying to change them, judge them or tell them what to do – we just accept them as they are – God's Masterpiece. It's the simplest and most profound nonviolent act we can perform.

The profound act of being present is the embodiment of Woman's Place and it is making a difference in the lives of women who accept its affirming grace.

This is our gift as Franciscan Sisters of Mary. Just think of the difference we can make!

Irma Kennebeck, FSM Director, Woman's Place

### **EMBRACING NONVIOLENT PRESENCE**

I find that my new ministry is giving me more to ponder about nonviolence. As Director of Catholic Charities in Farmington, New Mexico, one of our four main ministries is with homeless street people. But one aspect is a new experience, despite having worked for four years in a large homeless shelter back in the 1990's.

Instead of a shelter, San Juan Catholic Charities has a Drop-In Center for homeless street people, where they are welcomed and treated with respect. Anyone can come in for a cup of coffee and a snack. They can make local phone calls, and we let them store belongings with us. Best of all, it is a safe, positive environment that creates a sense of community.

At least half of the street people I see are Native Americans, especially Navajo. In theory they may have a home on the reservation, which is 30 miles away, but in many cases their problems with alcohol and/or drugs have worn out their welcome with families back there. So they live on the streets, and during the winter months they can go to a night shelter called "The Roof", to prevent freezing to death.

The most common violence is fighting among themselves when they've had too much to drink. But I have heard that at graduation time for high schools and colleges, an old and ugly tradition handed down the generations can be a worse threat. For at least the past 80 years, young men drive down certain alleys of Farmington, looking to beat up a homeless (presumably drunk and worthless) Indian. It seems to be some kind of a "rite of passage." This year two young men under age 21 picked up an Indian, asking him to buy beer for them. Then they beat him badly, leaving the mark of a tire iron on his body. This time the police did find the young men, and the newspaper reported that "hate crime" charges are being considered.

I'm also very concerned about our homeless women. They are often in danger of violence and rape. At times some of them have been lured into a truck by a persuasive man with a six pack of beer, who then takes the woman away and rapes her. There seems to be an attitude among certain white men that homeless Navajo women are there to be used and abused. When I came to interview for my new ministry, I met and talked with a Navajo woman who had been raped a few days previously, but refused to get any kind of help. Later I heard that she finally did consent to being examined and began to see a counselor. After I began this ministry I saw her again, and she was doing much better. Apparently she is now living with her sister, whom she brought with her to visit the Drop In Center one day. Because she knew us and we knew her, it truly made a difference.

One of my dreams for Catholic Charities of Farmington is to start a shelter for homeless families. The caseworker at the Housing Assistance program estimates that on any given day there are probably three to five families living in a car, or "camping out," or living on the street in Farmington. There is a shelter for victims of domestic violence, but no real family shelter. Another shelter, geared to serving single men and women, does have one room for a family, which is usually full. This shelter does a lot of good, but prefers to help people who are able to get jobs, which is much more difficult for homeless street women. Impacting the system level, the attitudes, traditions and local politics, is more difficult, but also needs to be addressed, as I learn more about how all that really works here. Currently I am part of a group beginning to address the severe shortage of affordable housing in this area. As in many other places, developers often prefer to develop housing for the wealthy and those in the upper middle income category. I am hopeful that this group, which includes representatives from the City of Farmington and other professions, will bear fruit. Fortunately, I am also learning that there are many good hearted, generous people in our community.

## Franciscan Sisters of Mary to continue its boycott of WAL-MART

In the Fall 2004, publication of FSM Magazine, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary stated it would no longer make purchases from Wal-Mart or its subsidiary, Sam's Club. This decision was based on Wal-Mart's abuses of labor, discriminatory practices related to gender, payment of low wages, inadequate employee benefits and expansion into communities that do not want a Wal-Mart store. During this time, Wal-Mart has made some changes in how it does business but there is a real question whether they are substantive or cosmetic in nature.

A large part of Wal-Mart's changes pertains to a stepped-up public relations effort to improve its unfavorable image in a number of areas. According to Stephen J. Hoch, professor of marketing at the Wharton School of Business, Wal-Mart employs "a very simple marketing strategy. Give people really cheap prices and friendly employees." Wal-Mart maintains households saved \$2300 last year by shopping at Wal-Mart. The 2005 study that was performed by Global Insight was commissioned by Wal-Mart. However, another study conducted in June of this year by a labor-funded think tank, the Economic Policy Institute, found the savings to be negligible. A notable misstep in its public relations efforts was engaging high profile Andrew Young, the American civil rights leader and former Mayor of Atlanta. Mr. Young resigned his position with Wal-Mart after making derogatory remarks about Jewish, Arab and Korean smaller shop owners in an effort to promote Wal-Mart to African Americans.

Abuse of Labor. Wal-Mart claims that it has an agreement with the Department of Labor that ensures it won't violate child labor laws. However, the Department of Labor has made significant concessions to Wal-Mart. In breaking with Wage and Hours Division protocols, Wal-Mart is allowed I5 days notice "of any audit or investigation at the stores covered by the agreement." Its inspections are extremely lax. Out of the 12,500 internal inspections Wal-Mart performed in 2004, only 8 percent of them were surprise inspections – 11,500 of the overseas factories had advance notice. Furthermore, the factory inspections team at Wal-Mart is small. In 2004, there were 202 full-time staff members in the entire global ethical-standards and factory-inspections team – less than half the staff of a single Wal-Mart super-center. In contrast, the Gap – whose annual 2004 sales were \$16.3 billion compared to Wal-Mart's \$288 billion – has a 90 person factory-standards team. If Wal-Mart were staffed the same as the Gap, it would have 900 inspectors, not 200. (Charles Fishman, *The Wal-Mart Effect.*)

Gender Discrimination. According to Wal-Mart's own data, reported to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Wal-Mart lags behind the retail industry overall in terms of women holding management positions with the company. Although women make up more than 72% of the Wal-Mart sales force, in 2005, women comprised only 39% of Wal-Mart managers compared to the national average in retail of 48%. There is one woman among Wal-Mart's 20 top officers. It is currently in the midst of a major class action suit of 1.6 million women alleging discrimination against female employees.

Low Wages. While Wal-Mart will release the average hourly wage for full-time employees, it will not release its median which would provide a clearer sense of what its workers earn; they mask the fact that wages for management are significantly higher, and therefore skew the "average" wage of "store associates"; and they refuse to release wage levels for specific job functions. Furthermore, even at an average \$10.00 per hour wage, a fulltime Wal-Mart employee working 34 hours per week will earn less than the poverty line for a family of four (2006 HHS Poverty Guidelines). In addition, Wal-Mart's part-time workforce is larger than the national retail average – currently accounting for roughly 20% of Wal-Mart's workforce. Furthermore, Wal-Mart executives have acknowledged that the retailer will shift to a heavier reliance on part-time workers to 40%. It has a 50% annual employee turnover rate as compared to 24% of Costco's employees.

Inadequate Health Benefits. In another admission by Wal-Mart's Executive Vice President for Benefits for the Wal-Mart Board of Directors, Susan Chambers, "a significant number of Associates and their children receive health insurance through public-assistance programs. Five percent of our Associates are on Medicaid compared to an average for national employers of 4 percent. Twenty-seven percent of Associates' children are on such programs, compared to a national average of 22 percent." The percentage of associates covered by Wal-Mart health insurance in January 2006 was 46%. Sixty-seven percent of workers in large firms nationally receive their health benefits from their employer. While these percentage differences may seem rather small to some, the implications are not. Wal-Mart, as the world's largest retailer with over 4,500 stores worldwide is larger than the second, third and fourth largest retailers combined.

<u>Unwanted Expansion in Communities</u>. Although Wal-Mart says that communities invite it into its areas, it has spent millions of dollars on campaigns in local communities aimed at winning referendums and ballot initiative that push for the construction of Wal-Mart over local legislative or community opposition. In addition, Wal-Mart has filed and threatened numerous lawsuits designed to harass local communities that ban its stores.

Wal-Mart has a considerable amount of power because of its size. In 2003, it registered \$259 billion in sales and aims to have half a trillion dollars in sales by 2010. It can thus exercise great influence on many levels; suppliers, lobbying government legislation, wages, manufacturers and jobs to mention only a few. For instance, it has the ability to drive suppliers into bankruptcy and drive factory jobs overseas.

While recognizing that a business has a responsibility to its shareholders by making a profit, there needs as well to be a recognition that this should not be done by any means possible. Corporations, especially large ones like Wal-Mart, need standards that benefit the whole community. "The aim of a business is not simply profit, but to form a particular group at the service of the whole of society." (The Hundredth Year – Centesimus Annus – Pope John Paul II, 1991.)

In 2005, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary co-filed a shareholder resolution, requesting Wal-Mart to provide a sustainability report regarding environmental, social and governance issues. This is aimed to create long-term shareholder value by embracing opportunities and managing risks deriving from economic, environmental and social developments. On June 2, 2006, FSM Justice Coordinator Gale Thackrey attended the Wal-Mart annual stockholders meeting. The resolution was supported by 12% of Wal-Mart stockholders. "With so many progressive forces pushing the company to change, and with the company becoming more responsive than in the past, we have the opportunity for real systemic change as opposed to cosmetic change," comments Conrad MacKerron, director of the corporate responsibility program at the As You Sow Foundation.

Until Wal-Mart can demonstrate that it is paying a livable wage, offering adequate healthcare and developing eco-friendly policies, rather than merely showing cosmetic changes, FSM will continue its boycott.

Joanne Klenke, FSM Treasurer, Franciscan Sisters of Mary

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# Julilarians

### Congratulations to our 2006 Franciscan Sisters of Mary Jubilarians!

YEARS



Sr. Louise Hirner



Sr. M. Carmelita Hovenkotter



Sr. Mary Rose Monzyk



Sr. Regina Marie Pingel



Sr. Teresa Marie Schmitz



# YEARS



Sr. Claire Marie Borst



Sr. Mary Antona Ebo



Sr. Mary James Krieg



Sr. Mary Teresa Noth



Sr. Dorothy Rufkahr



Sr. Loreda Steinman



Sr. Mary Antoinette Stenger



Sr. Marie Therese Townsend

# YEARS



Sr. Clare Louise Droste



### Our Sisters Are in the Spotlight

Marie Christine Berner, FSM, was one of five nurses receiving top honors during Nurses Week activities in May by St. Mary's Medical Center, Blue Springs, MO. Sr. Marie Christine was recognized for Mentoring/Precepting.



As part of its 50th anniversary year celebration, SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center, St. Louis, MO, invited **Franciscan Sisters of Mary** to a Eucharistic liturgy and luncheon in thanksgiving for their service over the years.



St. Clare Hospital, Baraboo, WI, recently dedicated a Peace Pole in its Healing Garden. In her remarks, Sandra Anderson, President, St. Clare, noted:

St. Clare Hospital and Health Services is following the Franciscan Sisters of Mary lead in having a Peace Pole of our own. With an inscription that reads "May Peace Prevail on Earth," the pole will remind us each and every day of our commitment to bring peace and healing to everyone who enters our hospital.



Bridgid McNamara, FSM, and Mary Anne Murphy, FSM, were part of the dedication ceremonies.



Thelma Marie Mitchell, FSM, a volunteer at the Little Flower Clinic in Oklahoma City, OK and employee health nurse at St. Anthony Hospital, also in Oklahoma City, was featured in a recent issue of SSM Health Care's Network. "I feel like I'm carrying on Mother Odilia's work in going out to those in need," says Sr. Thelma.

Connie Fahey, FSM, was honored as one of the most powerful women in Myrtle Beach, SC. She was the focus of an article in the May 2006, issue of Coastal Business Life Magazine.



Jacqueline Motzel, FSM, received recognition as this year's Trustee of the Year by the Missouri Association of Homes for the Aging. Sr. Jacqueline,



who is President of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, is President of the Board of Directors of The Sarah Community, who, with St. Andrew's Management Services, nominated her for the award.

Mary Joan Meyer, FSM, was honored as a Peacemaker at the 2006 Franciscan Federation Conference this summer. Sr. Mary Joan was recognized as someone who has "gifted" the congregation through a ministry of spirituality, and retreat and prayer ministry. Sr. Mary Joan currently serves as chaplain at SSM St. Mary's Health Center, St. Louis.



Irma Kennebeck, FSM, and Jeanne Meurer, FSM, of Woman's Place, a sponsored ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, were selected to receive the Liberty Bell Award from the Young Lawyers section of the Missouri Bar. The award is presented annually to a nonprofit lawyer or non-legal organization engaged in public service activities to enhance the local community.





Mary Jean Ryan, FSM, President/CEO of SSM Health Care, a sponsored ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, received recognition as No. 21 on Modern Healthcare magazine's annual list of the 100 "Most Powerful People in Healthcare." This is Sr. Mary Jean's fourth consecutive year on the list.

Mary Antona Ebo, FSM, was honored by Jews United For Justice, during the 2006 Rabbi Heschel/Reverend King Celebration.

Geralyn Klenke, FSM, and her work with people who are economically disadvantaged, people with developmental disabilities, and with unwanted and neglected animals, was the focus of a feature article in the July 26, 2006 issue of The Mountain Echo.





Sr. Mary Mark Massman November 15, 1922 - January 18, 2006

An unknown destiny awaited Sr. Mary Mark when she intuited God's Presence to her, trusted in this Presence and left home to continue her journey of life with the congregation. Her vocation was not for herself alone but was to be a blessing for others with whom she came in contact.

Mary Gertrude (she was known as Marie) Massman was born on November 15, 1922, the seventh of eight children born to John and Anna (Weidinger) Massman. The family lived on a farm between Meta and St. Elizabeth, MO.

On July 16, 1945, the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, she entered the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary. Her sister, Sr. Regina, entered in 1940 and was her connection with the sisters. She professed her final vows on June 20, 1951.

Sr. Mary Mark ministered with the congregation and at SSM St. Mary's Health Center. She served in the dietary and mail room departments and also as a patient representative. In whatever task assigned, she quietly and generously gave of herself.

Sr. Mary Mark enjoyed reflective music and was an accomplished seamstress. She was a quiet and private person. Her family, especially Sr. Christine, CSJ, was dear to her. Sr. Christine spent time with Sr. Mary Mark and companioned her in her 60th jubilee celebration in 2005. This was a special time for the two sisters.

In the early evening of January 18, 2006, Jesus welcomed Sr. Mary Mark with open arms to an eternal home.

"My joy is the Lord"



Sr. Therese Marie Nathe November 27, 1904 - January 21, 2006

While a hearing impairment limited her communication with others, her presence has been a witness in community life. For years Sr. Therese Marie's life has been hidden in God. Perhaps she is making up for all of this as she gives vocal praise and thanks to her God for having called her to eternity.

Edmunda Cecilia Nathe was born on November 27, 1904, in St. Louis, a daughter of Henry and Josephine (Orf) Nathe. The family, which included her older sister Antonia, (who became Sr. Mary Agneta), lived in Flint Hill, MO. She entered religious life in 1922, and professed her perpetual vows in 1928.

Sr. Therese Marie primarily had chapel responsibilities and was missioned to the former St. Mary's Infirmary, St. Louis; the former St. Mary's Hospital, Kansas City, MO; St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center, Madison WI and St. Mary of the Angels Convent. Serving in chapel, she recognized the presence of God in her life and knew God was with her always.

In later years before her retirement, she served her sisters as a seamstress, making and mending habits. After her retirement, Sr. Therese Marie prayed for the many needs of the congregation, her family and the world.

We can be thankful that Sister knew the peace and satisfaction of those who know and love God. For her life, we are thankful in the knowledge that God has blessed her in ways we cannot imagine.

"God's love is everlasting."



Sr. Mary Monica Klubertanz

May 3, 1917 - July 4, 2006

The journey of Sr. Mary Monica Klubertanz began in Bristol, WI on May 3, 1917. Born Eunice Helen Klubertanz to Elmer and Florence (Pfaff) Klubertanz, she had a brother and sister who were older.

The family attended St. Joseph's Church and the children went to the parish school. After completing eight grades, she did housework at various homes until she was 18 years old, when she began working at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison as an aide.

The next step Eunice made was to enter the the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in St. Louis, MO, on November 5, 1940; June 5, 1941, she was received and became known as Sr. Mary Monica. Two years later she made her first vows and on June 5, 1946, her final vows. As a young professed Sister, her ministry was in food service at St. Mary's Hospital in St. Louis and then in housekeeping services at the convent.

From 1961-1983, she ministered at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison where she served her Sisters in food services. At St. Mary's Ringling Convent in Baraboo, she worked in housekeeping services and eventually began assisting with patient care.

In November 1983, she returned to St. Mary of the Angels Convent in St. Louis where she worked in the dining room, in chapel as an assistant and did a myriad of other tasks until illness slowed her down.

Sr. Monica's words of wisdom and advice were to "live one day at a time and appreciate all God's goodness." Sr. Mary Monica died in Our Lady of Victories on July 4, 2006, where she had lived for 13 years.

"My God and My All"



### Sr. Helen Marie McNamara

March 19, 1931 - July 31, 2006

Helen Marie McNamara, a fraternal twin, was born to Frank and Frances (Jackson) McNamara in Madison, WI, on March 19, 1931 at St. Mary's Hospital.

She first came to know the sisters of the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary when she worked at St. Mary's Ringling Hospital in Baraboo, while attending catholic school. Helen Marie entered the congregation in 1947 and made final vows in 1953. While in novitiate and afterwards, she ministered at St. Mary of the Angels Convent in the chapel, food service and housekeeping.

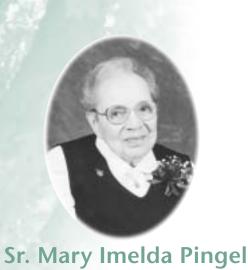
Sr. Helen Marie ministered at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, WI, from 1956 to 1961. She served at St. Francis Hospital in Blue Island, IL, and St. Mary's Hospital, Kansas City, MO, before returning to St. Mary's in Madison in 1968. In 1977, Sr. Helen Marie began her ministry as food services supervisor and later as food services and bakery relief at St. Mary's Ringling Hospital in Baraboo, WI. In 1998, she was missioned to St. Mary of the Angels Convent, Richmond Heights, MO, where she served as a congregational volunteer.

She was a person of cheery disposition who exemplified Franciscan joy and had many creative gifts. She delighted in baking bread, pie shells, birthday cakes and cookies. Until her sight began to fail she enjoyed making latch-hook rugs, pictures, and covers for cedar chests; she embroidered quilt blocks with perfect stitching. Sister enjoyed playing cards and visiting with people and caring for the birds in residence at St. Mary of the Angels.

A woman of gratitude, Sr. Helen Marie was thankful for her religious vocation, for the kindness and helpfulness of others, for creation in all its beauty, for music and for her companion sisters.

Certainly when Jesus called Sr. Helen Marie to eternity, on July 31, 2006, she no longer had vision difficulties, but could see what she longed for while on earth.

"Taste and see the goodness of the Lord."



Sr. Mary Imelda reflected light in many ways. She delighted in watching the reflection of light from a prism she had in her room. A very Franciscan light that was part of Sister was the moon and the stars which she enjoyed observing. In so many ways Sr. Mary Imelda was a light to others in her gentle, caring ways, with family, Sisters, students and colleagues. A special devotion of hers was to Mary, the mother of the Light of the World. The rosary was her favorite prayer.

July 13, 1911 - July 31, 2006

Lillian Victoria Pingel was born July 13, 1911, in Crete, North Dakota, to Bernard J. and Victoria (Unterreiner) Pingel, the second of five children.

Lillian began working full time at St. Mary's Infirmary at the age of 13. She attended Roosevelt High School in the evening.

She began thinking about religious life during her early school days. She knew the School Sisters of Notre Dame, but was more attracted to the sisters at the Infirmary. She entered the congregation in 1933, at the age of 22. As a novice she was given the name Sr. Mary Imelda.

Sr. Mary Imelda earned her degrees in physical therapy and education from Saint Louis University. She often said she would have chosen physical therapy "many times over any other profession". She ministered with polio patients and opened a cerebral palsy and rehabilitation center at (the former) Firmin Desloge Hospital. Sister was named Director of the Physical Therapy program at Saint Louis University and remained the chairperson through 1977, having served 33 years.

Although Sr. Mary Imelda's life journey ended on July 31, 2006, she has left her imprint on her students, her colleagues, her Sisters in community, and all who knew her. Now Sister experiences the true light of the world in eternity.

"Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come."

### continued from page 11

When we FSM's are present with people on the margins of society, violence of one kind or another is often present, too. We may not always know what to do, but at least being with them puts us where we can hear the Gospel and our Mission Statement challenging us to respond in a nonviolent way:

We give our life by being present, hospitable and compassionate, choosing to stand with our sisters and brothers who are poor and on the margins of society.

Finally, I would like to leave you with something I heard recently from Megan McKenna, a theologian and storyteller who lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She says there are four ways to "stand":

- 1) Stand up, as a witness;
- Stand behind, being willing to fall into the arms of God;
- 3) Stand with, in solidarity;
- 4) Stand against, the injustice we are faced with.

I find this expands the meaning behind "choosing to stand with our sisters and brothers" and can give all of us food for thought about how to respond with nonviolence, as Franciscan women who are sister to all.

Margaret Ann Jackson, FSM Director, Catholic Charities, Farmington, NM

### STATEMENT OF THE FRANCISCAN FEDERATION ON THE OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Franciscan Federation, a national organization of Franciscan women and men from the United States, Canada and the West Indies, at their annual gathering, July 28-31, 2006 in Rochester, New York, decry the recent outbreak of violence in the Middle East.

We call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire by the Israeli army and Hezbollah militia. We call on President George W. Bush and his administration to work with the United Nations and the international community to bring an end to the attacks and the terrible suffering of the Lebanese and Israeli peoples. We call upon our members of Congress to join with the international community to end the violence now.

As followers of Francis and Clare of Assisi, we promote the use of diplomacy to restore conflictive situations; we believe that violence is never justified. We believe we are all sisters and brothers under one God who loves and cherishes all. We join our prayer with religious peoples of all faiths who long for peace, who believe in a God of peace and who are working to make God's dream for a world at peace in reality.

Franciscan Sisters of Mary
Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Franciscan Sisters of Jesus

### Gifts Received

January 1, 2006 to August 31, 2006

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In memory of Mr. Walter F. Anger Mr. James Giancola

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In memory of Francis Marie Bettels, FSM Ms. Eileen T. Sickman Mr. and Mrs. Roger Tilling

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*In memory of Mr. Isidor Kuchem* Mrs. Isidor (Dolores) Kuchem

In memory of Ms. Betty Paquette Kamenick, St. Mary's Class of '63 Mrs. Janet Shafer

In memory of my wife, Marcella Leible Mr. Joseph W. Leible

*In memory of Ms. Betty Lemley* Ms. Lenita Moore

*In memory of Mary Joan Lueckenhoff, FSM* Col. and Mrs. William R. Barnthouse

*In memory of Maureen Lutz, FSM* Gerald and Sharon Lutz

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Mr. and Mrs. Larry Johnson
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In memory of Ms. Leona Meili Mr. and Mrs. James Hemak

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In memory of Bernice Ruppert, sister-inlaw of Elizabeth Ruppert, FSM Franciscan Sisters of Mary

In memory of Mary Elaine Schornak, FSM, on the anniversary of her birth Ms. Rita M. Szarama

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*In memory of Elizabeth Voves, FSM* Ms. Marie A. Voves

In memory of Adolph Wyrwich, brother of Helen Wyrwich, FSM Franciscan Sisters of Mary

"... warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all."

Thessalonians 5:14

### Gifts Given in Honor of:

*In honor of Mary Doris Ashcraft, FSM* Ms. Phyllis Clinton

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In honor of Rita Blau, FSM Ms. Virginia Becker

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In honor of my mother, Hilde Degenhardt Ms. Joan E. Pace

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*In honor of Mary Elmendorf, FSM*Ms. Phyllis Clinton

*In honor of Franciscan Sisters of Mary* Mr. and Mrs. Terry Scholl

In honor of the (Retired) Franciscan Sisters of Mary Mr. and Mrs. John Slattery Ms. Theresa Ramirez

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In honor of Ms. Kay Martin Ms. Carla S. Baum

In honor of Mary Melania Myers, FSM Ms. Catherine Dougan

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Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Evans
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Ms. Janice A. Noack

In honor of Rose Ann Poetz, FSM, in celebration of her birthday
Mr. Richard J. Krull

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

In honor of Dorothy Rufkahr, FSM, in celebration of her Diamond Jubilee Mr. and Mrs. Jack Anthony Mr. and Mrs. Richard Boedeker Ms. Rosemary Slattery Ms. Sharon Bushdiecker

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

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*In honor of Mariella Stenger, FSM* Mr. and Mrs. Jay C. McCutcheon

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*In honor of Mary Unterreiner, FSM* Mr. and Mr. Charles Bextermiller

In honor of Mary Dorine Wittenbrink, FSM Ms. Geraldine A. Nestingen

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### January 1, 2006 to August 31, 2006

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**Gregory Harrison** 

Michael J. Steffen

Christine L. Thomas

Janet M. Storch

Mary A. Sutton

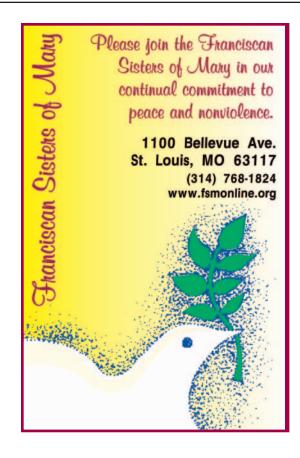
Peggy A. Weber Koso M. Weller Mariann R. Wipfli Joan E. Zingsheim

### **Planned Giving**

The estate of Ms. Agnes Gahagan The estate of Peter Dimo Gark



Please remember the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in your will.





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### **Identity & Mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary**

As Franciscan Sisters of Mary, we live the Gospel as sister to all. We give our life by being present, hospitable and compassionate, choosing to stand with our sisters and brothers who are poor and on the margins of society.

### **FSM Ministries**

Almost Home, St. Louis, Mo SSM Health Care, St. Louis, MO Woman's Place, St. Louis, MO

### **FSM Co-Sponsored Ministries**

Holy Family Services, Weslaco, TX The Sarah Community, St. Louis, MO

We also have Sisters serving in other ministries in Ohio, Arizona, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Illinois, and New Mexico.

www.fsmonline.org
. . . it's where to find the
Franciscan Sisters of Mary online!

