

FSM

Spring/Summer
2008

MAGAZINE

Franciscan Sisters of Mary

*We're weighing
our options*

*and choosing
our responses*

as we continue

Courageously!

She reunited
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: Almost Home,
SSM Health Care, 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:

[Rose Mary Dowling, FSM](#)

Councilors:

[Marita Anne Marrah, FSM](#)

[Susan Scholl, FSM](#)

[Sandra Jean Schwartz, FSM](#)

Franciscan Sisters of Mary

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St. Louis, MO 63117-1826

www.fsmonline.org

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or e-mail us at
info@fsmonline.org.

Editor:

[Joan E. Pace](#)

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OUR STORY OF THE BASKET

On the streets of St. Louis in the early 1870's, people often met a woman with a basket on her arm. She was clad in dark garments with a soft veil falling around her shoulders. She walked with a very purposeful step.

Every now and then she stopped to chat with someone in German. Sometimes the person would hand her a few coins or bills, and she would slip them into her basket.

She was a familiar figure with a basket on her arm, stopping at one house after another where her sisters were nursing, bringing them supplies of clean linens, food and medicine for their patients.

The basket on the arm of this woman - Mother Mary Odilia Berger, founder of the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary - became for her sisters a most significant symbol.

Today the basket is woven with the efforts of all people who minister and partner with us.



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



I am delighted to have this opportunity to welcome you to the Spring, 2008 issue of FSM Magazine. It is the hope of us on the leadership team, Susan, Marita Anne, Sandy and myself, as well as all the Franciscan Sisters of Mary (FSM), that you will find food for thought as you read through the articles that follow.

In this issue we invite you to reflect on two very important topics of our day. One is leadership. Our country, and that means you and I, are in the midst of "weighing our options and choosing our response" to those we believe are best fit to lead our country at this time. We, FSM, at our 2007 Chapter looked very seriously at what kind of leadership our world desperately needs today and are trying to live into this new paradigm in our lives.

We believe that all in leadership not only need to face the issues of our times, but need to look at how we are going to face these issues. Today, how we address the issues is of utmost importance. Being willing to sit with those who think differently and truly listen until we find common ground on which we can build is crucial. The stakes today are too high to continue to be "over/against". This is what we FSM are attempting to do in our small group so we can be relevant to our world today.

The second topic we share with you is the Franciscan Sisters of Mary's stand against the use of the Death Penalty. This is a very controversial issue but an issue that addresses the value and dignity of human life in a way that calls for great magnanimity. Because we believe so strongly in non-violence of any kind, we decided to take what to some is an unpopular decision. Whether you agree with our stance or not, we hope you will take time to read where we stand and why we do so.

Blessings on you and your loved ones from all of your sisters.

Rose M. Dowling, FSM



The new Leadership team consists of Sr. Rose, Sr. Susan, Sr. Marita Anne, and Sr. Sandra

Our 2007 Chapter was for us a truly meaningful experience as we affirmed our Charism, our Vision, our Identity and Mission, and our Declaration of Nonviolence, exercising leadership in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare.

We look to the future as counter-cultural women of the Gospel.

We anticipate creating various structures that will support shared responsibility and accountability.

Together, as leaders and members, we are committed to moving forward in a spirit of conversion and joy.

We ask God's special blessings on Sr. Rose, Sr. Susan, Sr. Sandy and Sr. Marita Anne – and on each of us as Franciscan Sisters of Mary!

We're weighing our options and as we continue



At our 2007 Chapter we articulated more clearly the way we want to be together and what areas of our congregational life and mission we want to address more deeply.

What our options are, weighing them and choosing our responses is a step-by-step process that will always be with us. We're in the beginning stages of implementing what we committed ourselves to at Chapter.

Serious issues confront all of us. We are all aging and can no longer do all that we once did nor with the energy we have had. So we need to accept reality and respond appropriately.

It's true that our congregation has certainly changed over the years. Outside forces and our own reality of aging members and diminishment in numbers have contributed to these changes.

But it doesn't mean that our life and our mission are over. In fact, these times call us to greater accountability to identify and follow what we believe God is calling us to through these circumstances.

We cannot sit by and not put 100% into this life and our call to "be the change we wish to see"! It's time for us to use the wisdom of our years and experience to truly make a difference!

There are so many needs in our world. Together we can effect positive changes as we develop ways to pass our charism to others when we are no longer around.

And, as an aging group of sisters, we have the luxury of years of experience. This experience has brought us to a deeper level of wisdom and a willingness to engage from this wisdom. Our prayer lives, individually and collectively, ground our experience and deepen our wisdom.

The wisdom of the years gives us the freedom to do and say what needs to be done and said without worry and concern for what others think. It's a wonderful freedom to know more deeply who you are, who God has called you to be and live from that depth.

Our diminishment puts us in the place of "what do we have to lose?" Let's use the wisdom of our

years and experience to truly make a difference!

...choosing to live counter-culturally...

Culture, in many ways, helps to define how we see ourselves and act in a particular ethnic group, corporate setting, country, family. It's a sort of "way we are," an expected way of behaving. Here in our country it's not unusual that individuals are highly individualistic, youth-oriented and focused on staying young and living forever, motivated to perform or produce and finding it difficult to be around people who, perhaps because of illness or disability, can't produce. In corporate America it's important to "work like a dog to become the top dog" and often it doesn't matter how one gets to the top. Status is favored; one's worth is often measured by what one does and how much money one earns doing it.

But the Franciscan Sisters of Mary choose to respond differently. Our life is focused on becoming the person God intended us to become; BEing is valued. We

choosing our responses...

courageously!





Rose Mary DOWLING

I was born and raised in the St. Louis area and got to know the sisters when I worked at SSM St. Mary's Health Center during my high school years. In my first ten years of ministry I served as an administrative dietitian. As times changed I created our first Mission Awareness Team at SSM St. Joseph Health Center, St. Charles. That experience was the beginning of an ever-expanding world that took me to South Africa for thirteen years, sharing my skills in organizational development and learning so much more!

Back in the "states" I continued to use these skills as well as walk with others in spiritual direction. Much to my surprise I was elected President of the congregation last June. We've been in leadership since September and I'm finding it very fulfilling and a wonderful experience of "team" among the four of us.

believe it is better "to be the servant of all, rather than lording it over others." We are about being present, hospitable and compassionate!

Living counter-culturally is always about making choices...purposefully and deliberately out of values held dear and with the potential to change things and make a difference.

Dr. Sandy

The discrepancy between Gospel values and the values of various cultures is growing wider. So, no matter how small we are, we need to speak to and live out Gospel values in the face of this growing chasm.

It's really a prophetic stance. It's doing things and making decisions in a way that is based on Gospel values.

We are saying there is another way, there is a way based on values that could be seen as counter-cultural:

- treat each person and our environment with respect
- the environment is ours to steward, not use up
- each one needs to have a voice and each voice counts equally
- take time – which is a precious commodity in our day and age – to *listen*, slow down and hear what the situation, or others, or our own inner voice is telling us.

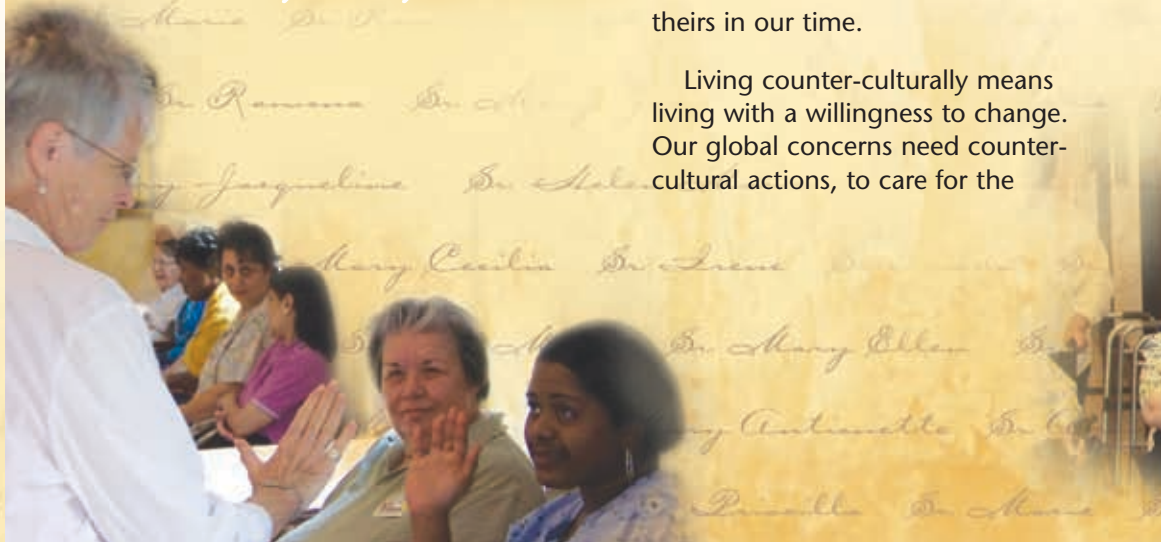
Dr. Susan

In fact, the very act of weighing our options and choosing our responses around issues of peace, justice and care of creation expands our counter-cultural thinking. And for me if we don't act on our responses then we really haven't freely chosen our responses. As I see it, choosing a response implies an action plan to go with it no matter how simple or complex the plan may be. If in the upcoming elections I do my homework of weighing the options by looking closely at what the candidates bring to leadership and then choose which candidate I will vote for, but I don't vote, then the process is incomplete. Action is essential.

As an example, care of the earth is one way in which the congregation is becoming more aware and willing to make changes. Sisters Irene (Radtke) and Judy (Bell), in collaboration with the Intercommunity Ecological Council, did a survey of sisters' use of bottled water. Once they did the survey, they used it as a tool to educate us on the ecological impact of using bottled water. We no longer serve bottled water at our FSM functions.

There are still many, many areas with regard to care of the earth that we FSM need to change in our lives individually and as a congregation. But there is no doubt among us that care of the earth is a deeply held value by both Jesus and Francis of Assisi and needs our voices to be added to theirs in our time.

Living counter-culturally means living with a willingness to change. Our global concerns need counter-cultural actions, to care for the



earth, to reduce the disparity between the very rich and the very poor.

If we choose to stand with those who are on the margins it cannot just be a cliché – it has to be a choice that makes a difference in the lives of people we serve.

Dr. Marita Anne

Sisters within our congregation have always been leaders, on the forefront, and did a lot in counter-cultural ways. But these days we are being much more deliberate in taking counter-cultural action because so many things in our society have changed that demand action.

Dr. Susan

My hope is that by the way we live our lives and as we speak with others of our lived experience we will be credibly able to invite others who become willing to take steps in their lives to become counter-cultural.

Dr. Rose

...and choosing to share leadership...

There has developed within our congregation, a willingness to “merge” the lines between membership and leadership, moving from a we/they mentality to an “us”. Sisters have become willing to step forward to assume responsibility for the ongoing life of the congregation as a whole.

Dr. Susan

FSM leadership is about empowering others...not exercising power over others. We believe that each person has a piece of the truth and part of designated

leadership is to help each and all speak their truth. Ours is a “shared leadership.”

Dr. Sandy

We all have a deep investment in the decisions we make and the implementation of these decisions because we all have a deep commitment to our life together. We’ve become more acutely aware of it at this time and are asking ourselves to engage in it more fully in these coming years.

Many of our sisters have agreed that each of us has her opinions and wisdom around any issue and is welcome to voice that opinion, experience, insight and wisdom. My experience of us now is that we trust the wisdom of the group more than we ever have. We’ve grown into this in recent years. But we still need more growth in the willingness to trust one another and the group as a whole. I believe that is why we called ourselves to what we did during the Chapter...shared responsibility and accountability.

Three things that are necessary and important to making shared leadership work are:

- leadership and membership together create structures that support and aid the implementation of shared leadership
- everyone involved at any point in the process and content of these structures shares her insights, opinions, piece of the truth as a contribution to the truth of the whole

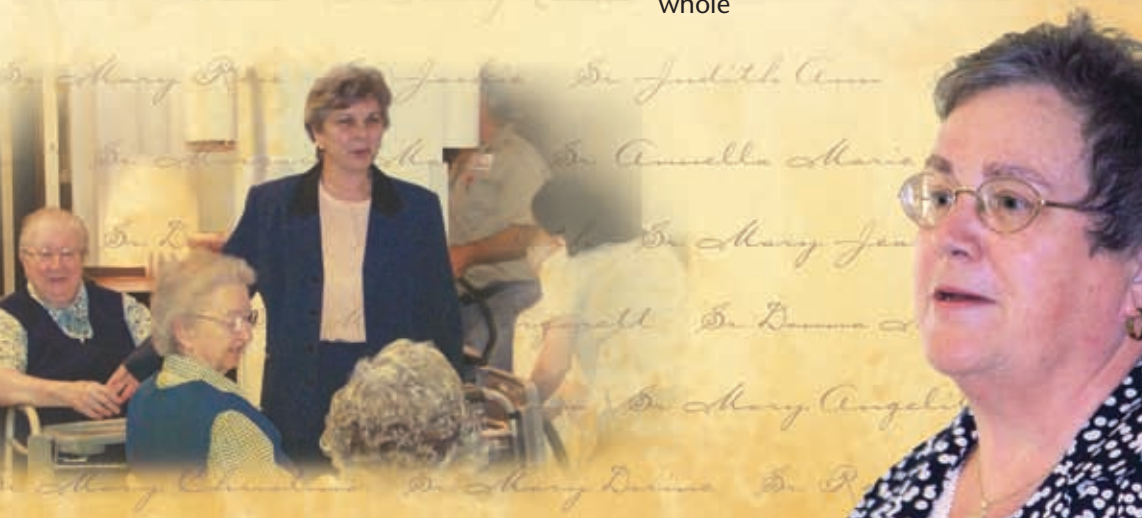


**Marita Anne
MARRAH**

I believe as a woman religious I am committed to discernment as a way of life. Prayer and reflection are an integral part of my life. I believe I am a committed team player who highly desires to be in a significant role in carrying out our chapter directions.

Prior to becoming part of the leadership team I was missioned at SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center where I worked for forty-one years with children with a broad range of communication disorders.

I earned Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Communication Disorders from Saint Louis University.





I've served in Oklahoma City on two occasions, in Kansas City, MO at the diocesan vocation office, in Maryville, MO and in Myrtle Beach, SC.

But I believe we are even more convinced than originally that this is our way of life and manner



of operating. Sisters are basically saying "we want to assume our responsibility for the whole and we will offer what we can." All and each utilize their individual gifts for the common good and together what is created is far better and richer than what might have been created alone.

And each of our sisters realizes that the shared leadership model is not just for our internal structure! It should strengthen and facilitate our ability to speak out and to stand as a congregation with the poor and marginalized!

All that we do should be focused outward, not merely on our own inner workings as an organization, as that is what we are called to this life for.

Certainly, there will be stages for us to go through.

I believe the expectation is that we will have acted upon our identified directions during our tenure and that they will be well on their way by 2011. This will enable us to see where we need to go next. I think the Gatherings we have four times a year is our present vehicle for moving the 2007 Chapter.

We have already been through the stage of evaluating where we are and identifying where we believe we are being called to by God in our life and mission at this time in our congregational history.

Now we are in the stage of describing more clearly what we believe God is asking of us at this time and then to actually

implement, putting into action this calling.

Letting go involves the loss/grieving stages: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. One does not complete one stage, move on and never return to a previous stage. It's rather like a gentle dance... movement here and there till the glorious moment of acceptance... deep down and grounding.

**...because now
is the time...**

Who can say how the Spirit works? When one looks back it can often be seen how the pieces just fell into place to create movement from one moment to the next. In this instance, our gatherings over the past two years led us, individually and together, to a deeper and richer understanding of our reality, to be open to the question of what is God asking of us in this circumstance and at this point in our individual and congregational lives. From there and with our increased and focused study on Franciscan life, these seemed to be natural steps, although no one was anticipating it!

These are times that call for bold moves, reality tests and deliberate choice!

What we do now will help us in passing our charism to others when we are no longer around.

Because, after all....we have promises to keep before we sleep.



Susan
SCHOLL

I'm a St. Louis native, although I've lived much of my FSM life "on the road" in ministry at various SSM Health Care (sponsored ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary) hospitals in other cities and states. Much of my ministry has been in hospital administration although my training is in nursing – truly a ministry that also gave me much joy.

Over the years I've received much more than I was ever able to give to those I cared for and worked with! I have been blessed to be a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary for 43 years and have trusted in the Spirit to lead me where God could best use me, trying always to live in the present moment. This has consistently brought me joy and peace of heart.





“...we stand for

justice

Justice

without
Vengeance”

THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF MARY HAVE TAKEN A CORPORATE STANCE AGAINST THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY.

In light of our commitment to the value and dignity of human life, we join our voices with those who oppose the use of the death penalty. Jesus Christ provides a guiding moral vision for us. He urged the disciples and us to abandon the law of retaliation, to love our enemies, to confront evil without violence, and to forgive our persecutors. As followers of Christ, we stand for justice without vengeance.

The rage, grief and anguish of victims and loved ones are understandable. Our prayers remain with them in their grief, but we believe that publicly legitimized killing is not a solution to pain or even to grave injustices.

We reject the death penalty and support other more appropriate means to assure justice and administer punishment more in keeping with the dignity of the human person, the Gospel vision of respect for life and Christ’s message of reconciling love.

...THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF MARY BELIEVE THE DEATH PENALTY TO BE
ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE UNITED STATES.

“I believe in the dignity of human life and nonviolence; I see the inconsistency and injustice and prejudice involved in the application of the death penalty; I think there are alternatives to keep society safe from those who are violent – such as life without parole” ... (Margaret Mary O’Gorman, FSM)

“... we adopted the following in 1994 and reaffirmed in Chapter 2007: To live out our Declaration of Nonviolence we commit ourselves to work for just and humane solutions in criminal justice and oppose the death penalty”
... (Mary Dismas Emerson, FSM)

“ We have an obligation to speak out on these major issues of social justice and peace and it is the right thing for us to do!”

.... (Susan Scholl, FSM)

WE BELIEVE

the death penalty diminishes all of us, and contributes towards a brutal cycle of violence because it teaches us that killing is acceptable. It denies the fundamental humanity of all people – including those who commit atrocious crimes. It perpetuates “the tragic illusion that we defend life by taking life.”

The dignity of life must never be taken away. Executions end lives, deny that dignity and remove any opportunity for forgiveness or repentance.

We believe the death penalty is one of the most serious human rights abuses in the U.S. In fact, the United States is the only western industrialized country that still relies upon this punishment.

We believe that to allow the state to commit murder serves no societal value. There are alternatives to capital punishment that maintain public safety and preserve our humanity.

Our Franciscan Sisters of Mary Declaration of Nonviolence, adopted in 1994 and reaffirmed by our 2007 Chapter, states,

Catholic teaching offers a unique perspective on crime and punishment. It begins with the recognition that the dignity of the human person applies to both victims and offenders. It affirms our commitment to comfort and support victims and their families. It also acknowledges the God-given dignity of every human life, even those who do great harm.

“because of my belief in the dignity of human life as outlined in our Corporate Stance Statement.... I oppose the use of the death penalty and reject it in favor of respecting human life, love and reconciliation”

...(Claire Marie Borst, FSM)

“We commit ourselves to: work for just and humane solutions in criminal justice and oppose the death penalty.” This action of publicly stating our opposition to the taking of human life by the state is a step towards implementing this directive of our Declaration of Nonviolence and of living out the spirit of the Declaration:

- to live the gospel call to love one another, choosing to be the compassionate, healing presence of Jesus to all, in recognition of the dignity afforded the children of God.
- to value the sacredness of life and respect the dignity and freedom of each person.
- to accept the challenge of the poor calling us to conversion, service and solidarity.
- to commit ourselves to take corporate and public stands to effect systemic change for the common good based upon our deeply held belief that love of neighbor and justice cannot be separated.

A corporate stance request was composed jointly by the congregation’s Cultural and Woman’s Issues Committee and Justice Ministry. Before committing to the proposed actions, sisters were asked for their individual approvals.

97% of the sisters responded in support of the congregation’s corporate stance in voicing opposition of the death penalty.

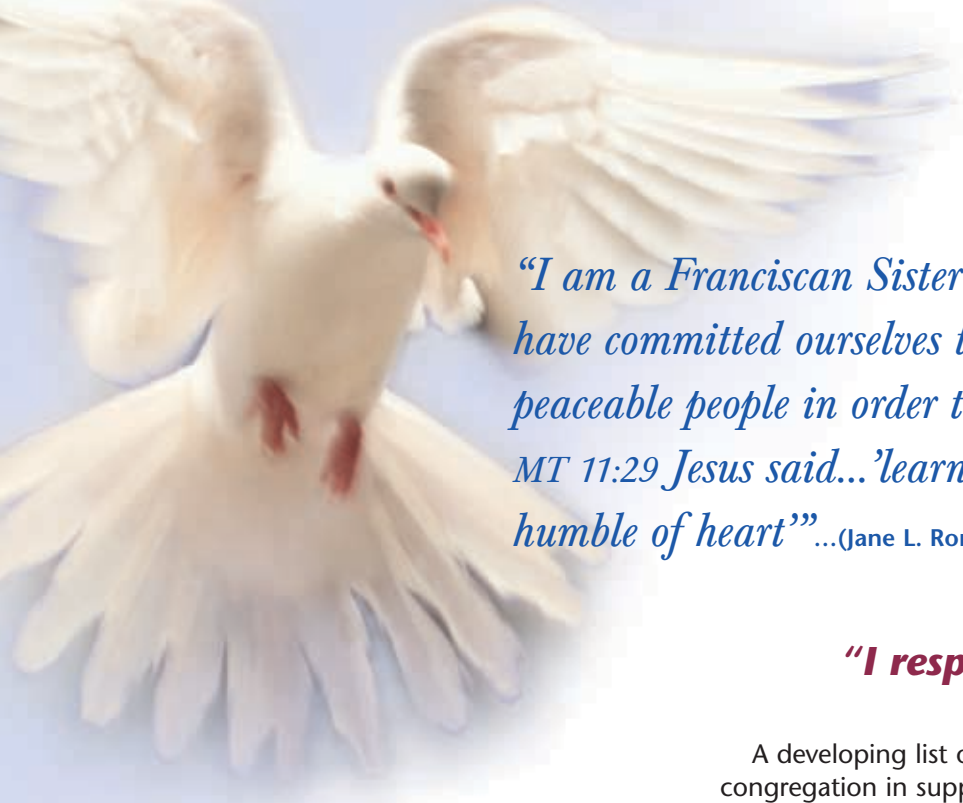
*“It’s not for us
to judge and take
action into our
hands. Life is
always sacred.
The issues are deep”*

....(Kathleen Marie Buchheit, FSM)

*“... as followers of
Christ, we stand
for justice without
vengeance”*

...(Nora Therese Buckley, FSM)

“We cannot overcome crime by simply executing criminals, nor can we restore the lives of the innocent by ending the lives of those convicted of their murders. The death penalty offers the tragic illusion that we can defend life by taking life.”



"I am a Franciscan Sister of Mary and each of us members have committed ourselves to become nonviolent and peaceable people in order to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. MT 11:29 Jesus said... 'learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart'"...(Jane L. Rombach, FSM)

"I respect human life"...(Irene A. Radtke, FSM)

A developing list of actions to be undertaken by the congregation in support of the corporate stance includes:

- news releases
- radio messages
- wristbands
- letters to governors in states where our sisters minister
- engage support of sponsored ministries and others
- calls to governors on execution dates of death row inmates
- death penalty kits
- declaration of life forms for sisters (stating that if they are killed by a violent act , they ask the perpetrator not receive the death penalty)
- tolling of chapel bells on execution dates of death row inmates.

Leading the effort were members of the Cultural and Woman's Issues Committee, comprised of Mary Chaudet, FSM, Marilyn Jean Davis, FSM, Margaret O'Gorman, FSM, and Sherri Coleman, FSM. They worked closely with Gale Thackrey, Justice Ministry Coordinator.

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary will join with others who work in opposition to the death penalty.

(The Cultural and Woman's Issues Committee of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary expresses its appreciation to the School Sisters of Notre Dame for their strategic assistance.)

"Jesus Christ provides a guiding moral reason for us, all of us need forgiveness"

...(Judith Ann Moyers, FSM)

"Taking one life for another is totally against our religious beliefs. Punishment should be given in keeping with the dignity of human beings"

...(Mary Anne Murphy, FSM)

(Excerpts from)

TESTIMONY TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND PROPERTY RIGHTS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
US SENATE

February 1, 2006

VICKI SCHIEBER

MOTHER OF SHANNON SCHIEBER (1975-1998)

BOARD MEMBER, Murder Victim's Families for Human Rights

...Losing a beloved family member to murder is a tragedy of unimaginable proportions. The effects on the family and even on the wider community extend well beyond the initial shock and trauma. The common assumption in this country is that families who have suffered this kind of loss will support the death penalty. That assumption is so widespread and so unquestioned that a prosecutor will say to a grieving family, "We will seek the death penalty in order to seek justice for your family." A lawmaker introduces a bill to expand the application of the death penalty and announces that he is doing this "to honor victims." A politician believes that she must run on a pro-death penalty platform or risk being labeled soft on crime and thus unconcerned about victims...

...My daughter Shannon was 23 when she was murdered in 1998 by a serial rapist in Philadelphia...

...Ultimately he pled guilty to assaulting, raping and killing Shannon. He also pled guilty to 13 other sexual assaults in the two state crime spree.

...My husband and I were both raised in homes with a deep-seated religious faith. We were both raised in households where hatred was never condoned and where the ultimate form of hate was thought to be the deliberate taking of another person's life. The death penalty involves the deliberate, premeditated killing of another human being. In carrying forth the principles with which we raised our daughter, we cannot in good conscience support the killing of anyone, even the murderer of our own daughter, if such a person could be imprisoned without parole and thereby no longer a danger to society...

...No one should infer from our opposition to the death penalty that we did not want Shannon's murderer caught, prosecuted, and put away for the remainder of his life. We believe he is where he belongs today, as he serves his prison sentence, and we rest assured that he will never again perpetrate his sort of crime on any other young women. But killing this man would not bring our daughter back...

...Had we bent to this natural inclination, however, it would have put us on essentially the same footing as the

murderer himself: willing to take someone else's life to satisfy our own ends...

...What kind of message do we convey to young people when we tell them that killing another human being is wrong but then impose the death penalty on someone with whom they have some direct or indirect relationship? Isn't there the possibility that the imposition of the death penalty sends a conflicted message about our society's respect for life?..

...decided that family members of the Oklahoma City bombing victims should be allowed to witness the execution...the experience would "meet their needs for closure...

...I can tell you that there is no such thing as closure when a violent crime rips away the life of someone dear to you... killing Shannon's murderer would not stop the unfolding of the world around us with its constant reminders of unfulfilled hopes and dreams...

...We have chosen to honor our daughter by setting up several memorials in her name...

...We also believe that we honor her by working to abolish the death penalty, because...working to oppose the death penalty is a way of working to create a world in which life is valued and in which our chief goal is to reduce violence rather than to perpetuate it...

...We must move beyond vague sentiments about being tough on crime and seeking justice for victims and look closely at what actions would truly prevent violence or help victims heal in the aftermath of violence...

...When the focus is on healing for the victims, instead of blind retribution against the perpetrators, we truly honor the meaning of justice.

Vicki Schieber and her family are relatives of our sister, Mary Joan Schieber, FSM.

(To read Vicki Schieber's testimony in its entirety, visit us at www.fsmonline.org and click Justice Ministry)

Our Sisters Are in the Spotlight



Antona Ebo, FSM, has been elected to the *Academy of Missouri Squires*. In congratulating Sr. Antona for her election to the Academy,



Sr. Antona Ebo

Missouri Governor Matt Blunt noted: *"Since the inception of the Academy in 1960, Missourians of all backgrounds have been recognized for their service and leadership. Your election continues this tradition."*

Betty Brucker, FSM, received the **2008 Marianist Service Award** in March, 2008. The award is given annually to *"those individuals who have made a significant contribution of their time, talent and resources for the betterment of our community."*



Sr. Betty Brucker

Evelyn Marie Peterman, FSM, was acknowledged as a **St. Mary's** (Jefferson City, MO) **Mission Exceptional Monthly Winner**, nominated for her exceptional pastoral care service.



Sr. Evelyn Marie Peterman

Sr. Evelyn retired from her position in December, 2007, marking the first time in St. Mary's history that the hospital will be without an FSM on staff.



Sr. Judith Bell

Judith Bell, FSM, has been elected president of *The Sarah Community Board of Directors*. The Sarah Community is a collaborative effort of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary and four other religious congregations of women, providing a continuum of care for senior and infirm religious and laity.

Mary Louise Jaegers, FSM, has received recognition from the **National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare**, for her steadfast support of efforts to protect America's social insurance programs.



Sr. Mary Louise Jaegers

Mary Jean Ryan, FSM, President and CEO of SSM Health Care, received the **Susan Blow Award** in January, 2008. The St. Louis Business Journal established the award to honor trailblazing women whose work has changed lives in St. Louis and the entire nation.

Sr. Mary Jean has authored a book entitled **On Becoming Exceptional SSM Health Care's Journey to Baldrige and Beyond**. For more information, visit www.ssmhmc.com.



Sr. Mary Jean Ryan

Patricia Haarmann, FSM, was honored as **Peacemaker** at the 2007 Annual Franciscan Federation Conference. Sr. Patricia ministers to elderly people in their homes through CSJ Care, St. Louis, MO. In addition, she beautifies the grounds of the St. Mary of the Angels Convent campus with flowering gardens and colorful indoor arrangements.



Sr. Patricia Haarmann

She began her ministry as a dietitian. Since 2003 Sr. Patricia has volunteered her time beautifying the grounds of Almost Home, an FSM ministry which provides residential care to teen mothers and their children who are homeless.

Susan Scholl, FSM, was identified as a **2007 Influential Business Women** by the St. Louis Business Journal. Sr. Susan left her position as president of SSM St. Mary's Health Center, Richmond Heights, MO, to become a member of leadership team for the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.



Sr. Susan Scholl

Marylou Stueber, FSM, Congregational Archivist, was invited to attend a **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) basic course training for deaf and hearing impaired citizens**, which she attended in Columbia, MO in December, 2007.

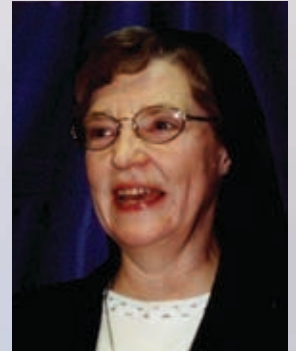


Sr. Marylou Stueber

CERT training is designed to prepare individuals to help themselves, their family and their neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster; the course was provided and funded by the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

Cecilia Lackman, FSM, was among several people within the St. Louis Archdiocese who have been recognized for selfless devotion to the gospel of Jesus Christ. In a letter Archbishop Burke wrote to Sr. Cecilia, announcing her as a recipient of the **Cardinal Rigali Service Award**, he said:

"As we do the Lord's work, we must also express appreciation for those who take up the burden of Christ's mission in an outstanding manner."



Sr. Cecilia Lackman

In July, 2007, over 160 people participated in the first annual **St. Clare 5K Walk-Run**, sponsored by St. Clare Hospital and Health Services, St. Clare Meadows Care Center and St. Clare Health Care Foundation in Barbaboo, WI.

Bridgid McNamara, FSM, and **Mary Anne Murphy, FSM**, operated a water stop for the walkers and runners in front of their home.



Sr. Mary Anne Murphy



Sr. Bridgid McNamara

Congratulations to our 2007 Franciscan

80 YEARS

IN RELIGIOUS LIFE
PEARL



Mary Louise
MAYER

70 YEARS

IN RELIGIOUS LIFE
CARNELIAN



Mary Damien
FRANCOIS

60 YEARS

IN RELIGIOUS LIFE
DIAMOND

Mary Bernetta
ARMSTRONG

(STANDING)

Marie
WEISS

(SEATED)



Sisters of Mary Jubilarians!

50 YEARS
IN RELIGIOUS LIFE
GOLDEN



Mary Bridgid
MCNAMARA



Cecilia
LACKMAN



Mary Catherine Ann
DAHMEN



Mary Anne
MURPHY

FRANCISCAN
SISTERS OF MARY
2008
Jubilarians

GOLDEN

Rose Mary Dowling

DIAMOND

Rosanna Marie Carter

Mary Inez Kennedy

Jeannie Marie Meurer

Jane L. Rombach

Jovita Marie Stenger

Mary Unterreiner

CARNELIAN

Veronica Boss

Helen Marie Norko

See our Jubilarians' photos
in our Fall/Winter issue
of FSM Magazine!



Sr. Mary Francesca Drees

October 20, 1920 – August 10, 2007

Jeanette Amelia Drees was born October 20, 1920, in St. Louis, to Frank and Ella Louis Reichmann Drees. She was one of nine children and loved her childhood experiences. Before entering the congregation in 1940, she lived in Immaculate Conception parish in Maplewood, MO.

Jeanette, received as a novice in 1940, was given the name Sr. Mary Francesca. Two years later she made her first vows followed by final vows on September 19, 1945. Sr. Francesca enjoyed the experience of religious life and the meaningful rituals she experienced.

During her days of active ministry, she served at several SSMHC hospitals: SSM St. Mary's Health Center, St. Louis, St. Mary's Ringling, Baraboo, WI, St. Francis Health Center, Blue Island, IL, St. Mary's Health Center, Jefferson City, MO, and SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center, St. Louis, MO. She delighted most in her ministry in pediatrics and the nursery, as she loved babies and young children.

After her retirement, Sr. Francesca moved to St. Mary of the Angels Convent and began her ministry of prayer.

Sr. Francesca enjoyed following the St. Louis Cardinals! She watched or listened when she could, and was an avid reader of the sports page to keep up with her team.

With eyes that twinkled and a heart filled with compassion, Sr. Francesca enjoyed making people happy. On Friday morning, August 10, 2007, Sr. Mary Francesca, a person who wanted to be at peace with everyone, was invited to enjoy eternal peace with God.

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"



Sr. Rosemary Reinhold

May 19, 1920 – September 25, 2007

Born May 19, 1920, Rosemary Reinhold was the oldest of seven children born to Oscar and Josephine (Scharfenberger) Reinhold. She was a tomboy who enjoyed swimming, fishing and camping. Years later, after getting a job in the pharmacy at Mount St. Rose, she decided to enter the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary. She entered the congregation in 1940; when she was received as a novice she was given the name Sr. Mary Tarcissa. She made her perpetual vows in 1946. (Sister resumed the use of her baptismal name after Vatican II).

Sister graduated from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 1950. Already working at SSM St. Mary's Health Center, St. Louis, she continued there before her transfer to St. Francis Hospital and Health Center, Blue Island, IL. While working at SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center she studied for her Master's degree, which she received in 1961. Other places of ministry in the pharmacy included St. Clare Hospital and Health Services, Baraboo, WI, SSM St. Joseph Health Center, St. Charles, St. Mary's Health Center, Jefferson City, and St. Elizabeth Hospital, Hannibal. Sister also ministered as Activities Director at Beth Haven Shelter Care, Hannibal, and in pastoral care and activities at Villa Marie Skilled Nursing Facility, Jefferson City.

She left Villa Marie to return to St. Louis, to live at St. Mary of the Angels Convent. Sister enjoyed life and laughter, and was a fun-loving person.

When time was available to go into the civic and church community, she found herself in new ministries as a volunteer. One program was Teens Encounter Christ (TEC). She also served over twenty years working behind the scenes in juvenile and prison ministry, bringing the healing presence of Christ, especially to those who are forgotten by society and, often, their families. Volunteering in prison ministry, she coordinated the Residents Encounter Christ program.

Over the past few years, Sr. Rosemary concentrated her ministry praying for the needs of the Congregation, her family and the world. She was called by God to life everlasting on September 25, 2007.

"God is Faithful"



Sr. Florence Kremer

September 4, 1913 – December 29, 2007

Born on September 4, 1913, in Frankenstein, MO, Florence Frances was the oldest of eight children born to Adolph and Anna (Samson) Kremer. When she expressed interest in entering religious life, her family's parish priest suggested she contact the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

She entered the congregation in 1935; having received the name Sr. Mary Adolph Ann, she professed her final vows in 1940. (Sister resumed use of her baptismal name following Vatican II).

Her ministry included assignments in patient care and as sacristan at SSM St. Mary's Health Center, St. Louis; working in the convent and assisting with nursing duties at St. Mary's Hospital, Jefferson City; as an assistant in the dietary department and chapel at St. Mary's Hospital, Kansas City; and as sacristan and general assistant at St. Mary of the Angels Convent.

Devotion to the Eucharist and a spirit of prayer were hallmarks of her life. Her spiritual life was one of being actively present, waiting on God.

Sr. Florence was a quiet person; she had a distinctive chuckle and easily shared her smile with others. She enjoyed music and loved to play the piano.

When Sr. Florence died on December 29, 2007, she truly experienced the God-with-us as she entered a new relationship of intimacy with God. She now has a new beginning in eternal life.

"I Go to Prepare a Place for You"
John 14:2



Sr. Mary James Krieg

January 23, 1926 – February 25, 2008

A native of Rich Fountain, MO, Bertha Gertrude Krieg was born January 23, 1926, the middle child of five children born to George L. and Sophie (Reinkemeyer) Krieg.

Bertha entered the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in 1946. Her postulancy was a preview of her future ministry – she worked in the dietary department at the convent. Received as a novice in 1947, she was given the name Sr. Mary James, a name she requested after a dream. She professed her final vows in 1952.

Sister earned her Bachelor of Science and Masters' Degrees in Dietetics from Saint Louis University.

Sr. Mary James ministered at SSM St. Mary's Health Center, SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center and the former Firmin Desloge Hospital, St. Louis; she served at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, WI, St. Mary's Health Center, and Villa Marie Skilled Nursing Facility, both of Jefferson City, MO; she ministered at the St. Louis Agency for the Aging, and at St. Mary of the Angels Convent.

With her effervescent personality, Sr. Mary James was a guiding light for candy strippers at St. Mary's in Jefferson City; in 2002 she joyfully spoke to mothers and daughters at an annual Mother's Day breakfast, reminding them that God does not limit graces.

She missed farm life, for she held a great love of nature. She enjoyed music and sports, and Steak 'n Shake. She was close to her family, and they visited her faithfully.

Later in her life, during her dialysis treatments, she ministered as a compassionate presence to her companion dialysis patients.

Sr. Mary James, a most valiant woman, was welcomed to eternal life by her God on February 25, 2008.

"My Being Proclaims Your Greatness, Oh My God"

Gifts Received

January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007

Gifts Given In Memory Of:

In memory of John Achenreiner
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Spaeth

In memory of Mary Ludmilla Bauer, FSM, Mary Octavia Bertram, FSM, and Geraldine Kulleck, FSM "for kindness and support during nursing training"
Mrs. Florence Murphy

In memory of Alphonse Bax and Teresa Bax
Mr. and Mrs. Alex J. Reinkemeyer

In memory of Norbert Berendzen
Mr. and Mrs. James Lueckenhoff

In memory of Francis Marie Bettels, FSM
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In memory of Ludger Bierhaus
Mr. Walter H. Giepen

In memory of Bernard Marie Boland, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Leo F. Childers, Jr.

In memory of my husband, Dr. Robert A. Brennan, Sr.
Mrs. Lorraine Brennan

In memory of Joyce Britton
Mr. Bearl Britton

In memory of my mother, Regina M. Buchheit
Ms. Geraldine H. Stehlin

In memory of Mary Ellen Burmeister
Mr. and Mrs. Lorraine Burmeister

In memory of Regina Esther Cain "the mother of my seven children"
Col. Lloyd R. Cain

In memory of our grandson, Charles A. Calvert
Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Elmendorf

In memory of Capt. and Mrs. W. F. Carroll
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. McCarthy, Jr.

In memory of Frances Cerny
Mr. William Cerny

In memory of Mae Ellen Chaudet
Franciscan Sisters of Mary

In memory of Mae Ellen Chaudet "thinking of you at Christmas"
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Chaudet

In memory of Charles Coens
Franciscan Sisters of Mary
Ms. Dolores Weekly

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

In memory of Margaret Mary Coens, FSM
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In memory of Elaine Craft
Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Jacob

In memory of Harley and Sharon Davidson
Ms. Helen Davidson

In memory of my brother, Paul Debrecht
Mr. Carl Debrecht

In memory of Mary Helen Louise Deeken, FSM
Ms. Irene Deeken
Mr. and Mrs. William Deeken

In memory of my husband, F. Joe DeLong
Mrs. Betty Jo DeLong

You can share in the mission and ministries of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary through a tax deductible contribution, payable to:

Franciscan Sisters of Mary

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

In memory of my sister, Irene Jane Dickelman
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In memory of Doloris and Florence Dorlac
Mr. John J. Dorlac

In memory of Mary Francesca Drees, FSM
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In memory of my parents, Aaron and Billie Duncan
Mrs. Kathy Duncan

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In memory of Mary Roberta Ellerman, FSM
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In memory of my husband, Frank J. Fick
Mrs. Edna Fick

In memory of Michael J. Frank
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Frank

In memory of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary who served at St. Mary's Hospital, Kansas City, MO
Sr. Michele M. Donahue, SFO

In memory of Vera Gallio
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Parham, Jr.

In memory of our mothers, Josephine Gioia and Agatha Hogan
Dr. and Mrs. John Hogan

In memory of Jeanne Golliher, FSM
Mr. Martin Will
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Will
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In memory of Leo Marie Golliher, FSM
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In memory of Daniel Heagney
Ms. Dorothy J. Heagney

In memory of my aunt, Mary Maxelinda Heimericks, FSM
"to continue the great work she did"
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Lueckenotte

In memory of Mary Gabriel Henninger, FSM
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In memory of my parents, Rev. Josepha and Alma Henry
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"for your kindness to my mother"
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Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lacy

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In memory and loving honor of Robert P. Kleba
Rev. Gerald J. Kleba

In memory of my aunt, Agnes Marie Kleffner, FSM
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In memory of my parents, Art and Casey Krings
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Rev. James A. Krings

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Ms. Catherine McBride

In Christmas remembrance of Helen McCormick
and Marion Eichman
Mr. and Mrs. William J. McCormick

In memory of my husband, Robert McFarland
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Mr. Frank Moll

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Mr. Frank Moll

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Mrs. Joanne S. Pendall

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In memory of Agnes Reinkemeyer, FSM
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Mary Regina Schumann, FSM, and Mary
Romana Schumann, FSM
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In memory of our parents, Edward and Catherine
Schwartz
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Sinnock

In memory of Mary Carola Sellmeyer, FSM
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Evans

In memory of Mary Benigna Semtner, FSM
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Mr. and Mrs. Don D. Roberts
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Rodgers
Mrs. Bernie Semtner

In memory of my sister, Eunice Sherlock
Ms. Darlene A. Fellows

In memory of our parents, Dr. Charles F. Sherwin
and Mrs. Lillie B. Sherwin, and Mr. Charles E.
Stewart and Mrs. Emma A. Stewart
Dr. and Mrs. Charles S. Sherwin

In memory of Melba Slattery, FSM
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Ms. Mary Ellen Murnane

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"on her 81st birthday"
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In honor of Francita Barringhaus, FSM
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and Jill Brenden, Ashlyn, and Jeremy Taylor
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Mrs. Ramona Stalp

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In honor of Mary Catherine Ann Dahmen, FSM
"in celebration of her Golden Jubilee"
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Hellenbrand
Ms. Mathilda A. Ripp

In honor of Mary Catherine Ann Dahmen, FSM
Ms. Evelyn S. Schuetz

In honor of my friend, Hilde Degenhardt
"on her birthday"
Ms. Carla Baum

In honor of my mother, Hilde Degenhardt
"on her birthday"
Ms. Joan Pace

In honor of Rosaleen Dorlac, FSM
Mr. John J. Dorlac
Ms. Elizabeth D. Politte
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Sweeney

In honor of my husband, Carl J. Dreyer
Mrs. Rosemary Dreyer

In honor of Jacinta Marie Elmendorf, FSM
"for who you are and what you have given"
Ms. Elizabeth DeRum

In honor of Mary Elmendorf, FSM
"who trained me to be a dedicated employee of SSMHC 35 years ago."
Ms. Linda Breitbarth

In honor of Mary Pat Elsen
Sherri Coleman, FSM

In honor of Mary André Evanicsko, FSM
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In honor of Constance Fahey, FSM
"with thanks for her dedication and years of service to the end of life ministry"
Ms. Catherine I. Hafner

In honor of Patti Finnegan
"in recognition of her courage and her journey"
Ms. Carla Baum

In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
Ms. Mary Jo Bezdek
Lt. Col. Dorothea A. Courts
Ms. Dolores Weekly

In honor and appreciation of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald P. Mahoney

In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
"in honor of all the work you do"
Ms. Debbrah Courtney
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In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
"especially my Sister friends from Maryville"
Mr. Kenneth L. Dowden

In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary's 135th anniversary
"best wishes to you on your anniversary and thanks for all the good you have done"
Mrs. Sally Dreher

In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
"thanks for years of kindness and service"
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Hanley

In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
"for compassionate care"
Redemptoristine Nuns



*In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
"in appreciation for the good works and prayers"*
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ripp

*In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
"on the 20th anniversary of reunification as the
Franciscan Sisters of Mary"*
**St. James Congregation, Madison, WI
Msgr. Thomas Baxter**

*In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
"on the 135th anniversary of the founding of
the congregation and the 20th anniversary of
reunification as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary"*
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Sweeney

*In honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
"who currently live in Our Lady of Victories"*
Mr. and Mrs. Edmund J. Raback

In honor of the retired Franciscan Sisters of Mary
**Ms. Lucille E. Bintz
Ms. Flora J. Herndon
Mr. and Mrs. David Smith**

*In honor and memory of all sisters,
especially the original OSF sisters*
Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Smith

*In honor of the service of the Franciscan Sisters of
Mary 2001-2007 Leadership Team:*
**Judith A. Bell, FSM; Sherri Coleman, FSM;
Joanne Klenke, FSM; Jacqueline Motzel, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Eversgerd**

In honor of Gertrude Fruchtl, FSM
**Mr. and Mrs. David Mytyk
Mr. Kevin S. Young**

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"for her loving friendship"*
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Appleby

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"in honor of her and her work"*
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grellner

In honor of Mary James Krieg, FSM
**Ms. Marie Reinkemeyer
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grellner**

In honor of my wife, Lorraine Kunza
Mr. Joseph Kunza

In honor of Cecilia Lackman, FSM
Mrs. Pamela Williamson

*In honor of Cecilia Lackman, FSM
"in celebration of her Golden Jubilee"*
**Dr. Virginia Billian
Ms. Helen Gagen**

In honor of Rosalina Lejarde
Ms. Teresa Yu Lim Alagao

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"on her birthday"*
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Timm

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Dr. and Mrs. Eric Voss

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"on the occasion of their 35th Wedding
Anniversary"*
Ms. Joan Pace and Ms. Carla Baum

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Ms. Margaret L. Smith

*In honor of my daughters, Colleen McCormick,
RN, and Patricia Powell, RN*
Ms. Janet McCormick

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"in celebration of her Golden Jubilee"*
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Ms. Barbara Naidl
Mr. Ted L. Kelley**

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"for being there"*
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In honor of Mary Teresa Noth, FSM
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Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Evans**

*In honor of my daughter, Joan E. Pace
"on her birthday"*
Ms. Hilde Degenhardt

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

In honor of Regina Marie Pingel, FSM
Ms. Marjorie Pingel

*In honor and remembrance of all Pingel and
Snyder family members*
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Pingel

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**Mr. Richard J. Krull
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Wisniewski**

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Mrs. Elizabeth P. Dinkler

In honor of the Quarcini Family
Ms. Sharon L. Quarcini

In honor of Irene Radtke, FSM
"for who you are and what you have given"
Ms. Elizabeth DeRum

In honor of the family of Emilia and Juan Ramirez
Ms. Theresa Ramirez

In honor of Matt, Theresa, and Lloyd Reinkemeyer
Ms. Marie Reinkemeyer

In honor of Jane L. Rombach, FSM
Rev. and Mrs. Alvin H. Horst

In honor of Sandra Jean Schwartz, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Sinnock
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Trepagnier

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"on her recent election to the community's governing board"
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In honor of Marie Wittenbrink and (cousin) Cathy Schultz
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please let us know.**

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For the recovery of the health of Elena Maria Saffer
Ms. Theresa Ramirez

In honor of my husband, Don Schmit
Mrs. Phyllis Schmit

In honor of Constantia Schmitz, FSM
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In honor my sister, of Teresa Marie Schmitz, FSM
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For prayers for the family of Al Schulte
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choosing to stand with our sisters and brothers
who are poor and on the margins of society.

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