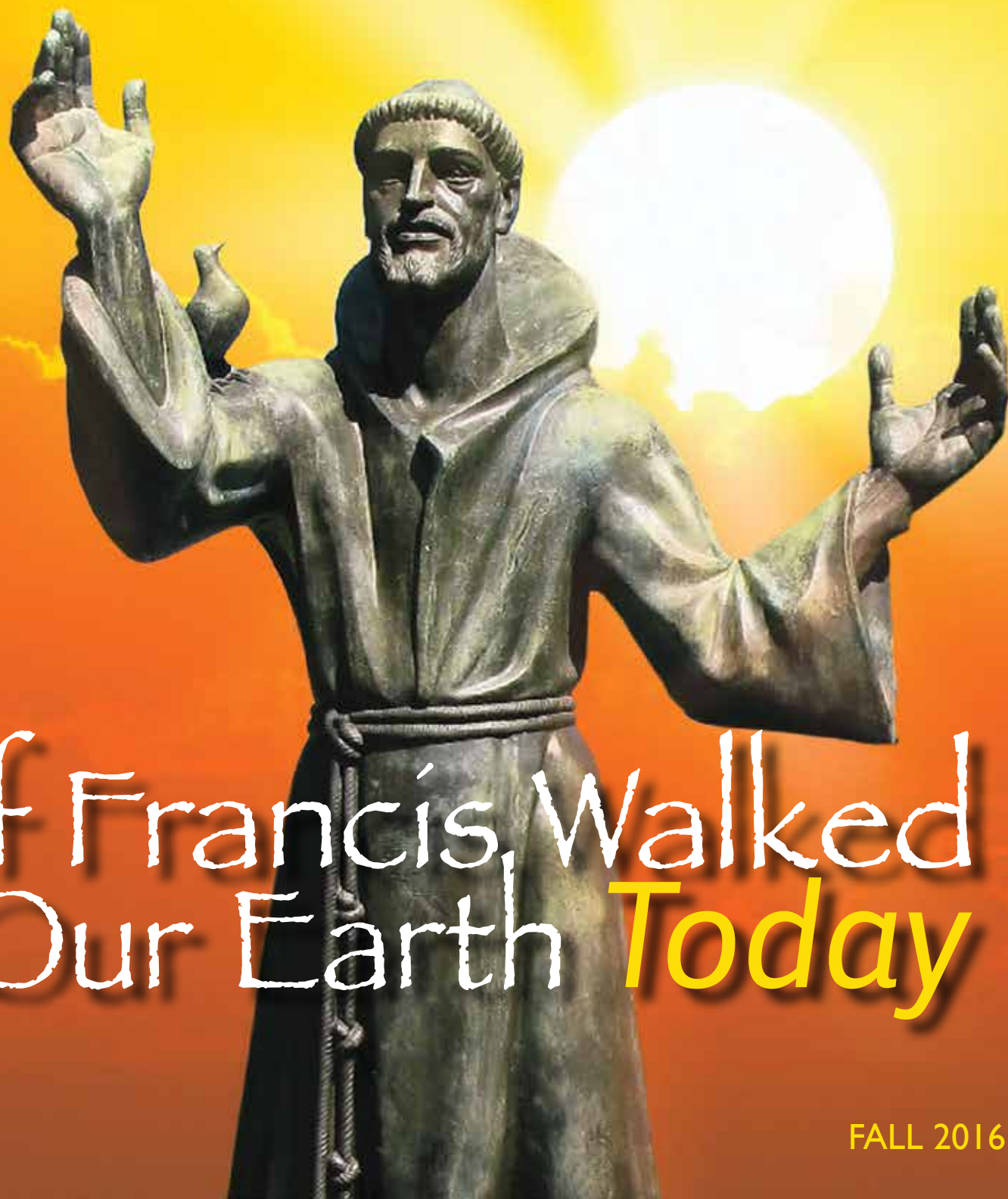


FSM

MAGAZINE

Franciscan Sisters of Mary



If Francis Walked
Our Earth *Today*

FALL 2016

Founded in 1872, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary is a religious congregation of women within the Roman Catholic Church. Committed to their mission to be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary focus the power of their intention on compassionate care of Creation in collaboration with others.

President:
Susan Scholl, FSM

Councilors:
Judith A. Bell, FSM
Kathleen M. Buchheit, FSM
Frances M. Haarmann, FSM

Franciscan Sisters of Mary
3221 McKelvey Road
Suite 107
Bridgeton, MO 63044
www.fsmonline.org

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Editor, Writer:
Sandra A. Ashby

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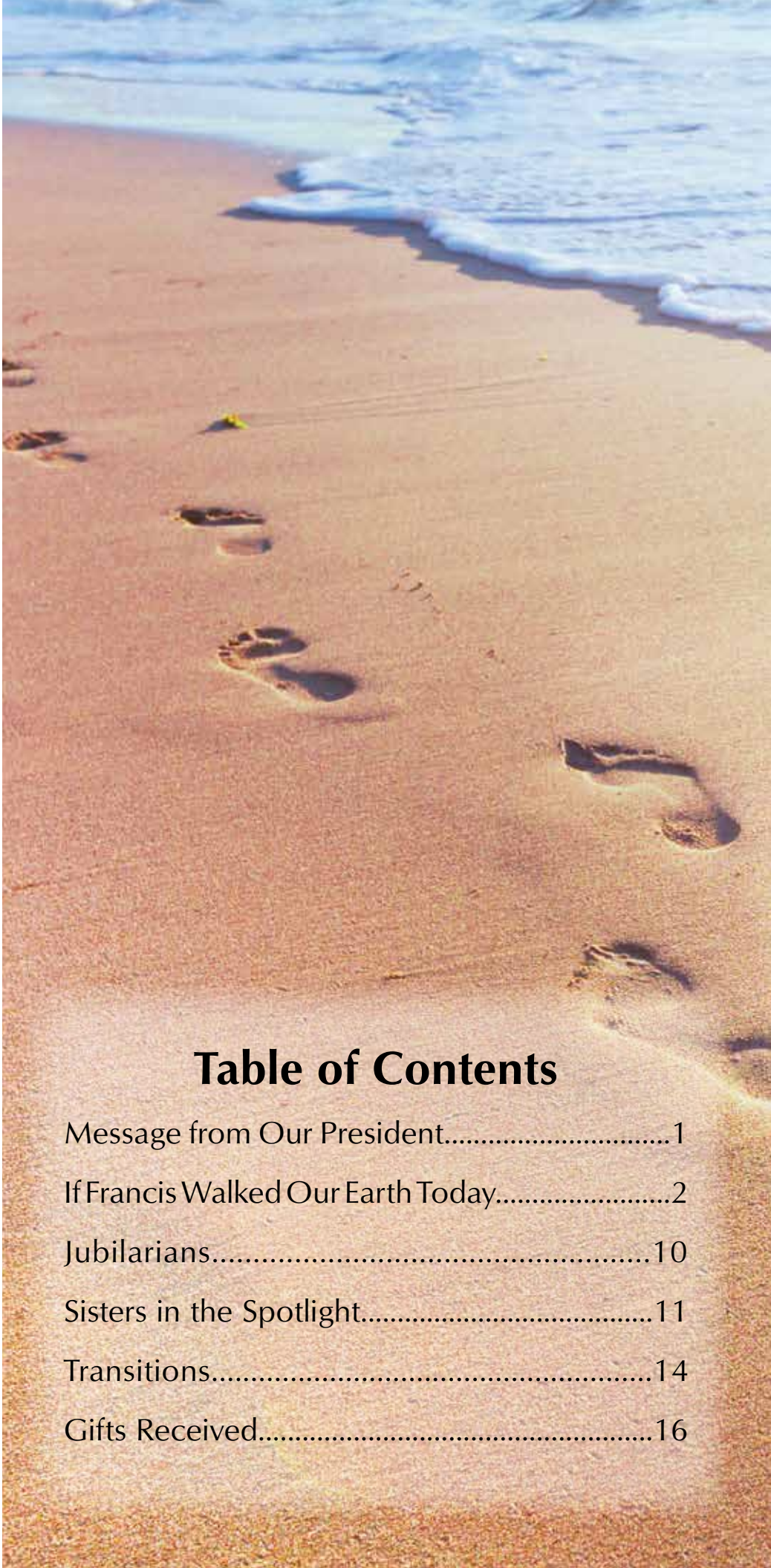


Table of Contents

Message from Our President.....	1
If Francis Walked Our Earth Today.....	2
Jubilarians.....	10
Sisters in the Spotlight.....	11
Transitions.....	14
Gifts Received.....	16



Message from Susan Scholl, FSM President Franciscan Sisters of Mary

Each of us has more than likely learned something about St. Francis in the course of our lives.

These days he may come to mind even more frequently, given the presence of our current Pope who took the name of Francis. Pope Francis continues to model a Franciscan approach to life: through his care for those who are poor and on the margins of society; by his promotion of care of creation, especially through his encyclical *Laudato Si'*; and through his emphasis on mercy as one of the greatest virtues we can practice.

We hope this issue of *FSM Magazine* can provide both a fuller picture of who this man, Francis of Assisi, really was and the ways in which his life is influencing the life, decisions, and actions of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary today.


We often see Francis depicted in statues and birdbaths, with squirrels and rabbits at his feet and a bird on his shoulder. But as we reflect on Francis—and as you see in the main article—Francis was a strong and determined young man, one who made courageous decisions, one who acted with compassion. He identified with the “other” as brother and sister, seeing God’s incarnation in the world around him. He saw with the eyes of his heart and lived in solidarity with all creatures and all creation!

We hope you enjoy this glimpse into the life of the man we call Francis, how his presence might be felt were he alive today, and the ways in which FSM is following in the footsteps of Francis even now!

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Susan Scholl, FSM". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

If Francis Walked Our Earth *Today*





Perhaps the most beloved saint of all time is St. Francis of Assisi—patron of animals and of the environment.

His life is the fabric of legend. The son of a prosperous silk merchant, he threw off all trappings of wealth and power to join beggars in their poverty. As a friar he traveled to Egypt during the Fifth Crusade, gaining an audience with the Sultan and establishing a mutual respect that continued long beyond their meeting; for centuries, Franciscans were the only Christian religious order permitted in many areas of the Muslim-controlled Holy Land. Stories of his closeness to nature abound—preaching to birds that hovered close to listen, mediating a peace between a town and the wolf savaging the town’s people and animals, addressing plants and animals, moon and sun, even illness and death as his sisters and brothers. He lived in strictest poverty—but with deep joy.

Francis died at age 44 on October 3, 1226.

Nearly eight centuries ago, Francis set up this simple rule for his followers: “to follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps.”

St. Francis Today

Fast-forward 790 years. Imagine—what if St. Francis found himself in our world in 2016? How would he live in our society, in our era?

One image that springs to mind is his namesake, Pope Francis, who has taken St. Francis as his guide and model. His landmark encyclical *Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home* may not be as poetic as St. Francis’s “Canticle of the Sun,” but it echoes St. Francis as it urges all of us to assume an attitude of responsibility and care for, rather than of domination over, the earth and its creatures. The earth is ours not to conquer and subdue; rather we are called to nurture and protect it.

In our Mission and Focus, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary also strive to live out the vision of St. Francis, both as individuals and as a congregation.

Like Francis, we strive to “be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus,” and so we commit ourselves to “compassionate care of creation in collaboration with others.”

Caring for the Poor, the Sick, and the Outcast

St. Francis's concern for the poor and sick of his era was legendary; he overcame his deep revulsion of lepers to embrace them, to live among them and to serve them.

The FSM have a long history of caring for the poor and sick—Mother Odilia came to St. Louis with just that intention. The sisters cared for the poor through epidemics of yellow fever, smallpox, diphtheria, and more—putting their own lives at risk for others. Their early hospital ledgers recorded person after person as “ODL”—“Our Dear Lord’s”—because he or she could not afford to pay for care. FSM ministry to the poor and sick has extended to places as far-flung as South America and Africa.

Like Francis, the FSM have also ministered to the outcast and marginalized. Long before desegregation they were among the first to admit African Americans to their nursing schools and to provide a hospital and clinic for African American healthcare professionals to practice. They have welcomed and embraced our modern-day lepers—AIDS patients, immigrants, teenage mothers, those suffering from domestic abuse—who have nowhere else to go.

To be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus for all our sisters and brothers—especially the poor and marginalized—has been the heart of the FSM mission from our earliest days.



Caring for God's Creation

In the past decade or so, as the devastating effects of greenhouse gas emissions, loss of the earth's forests and rainforests, pollution, global warming, and all the threats to our world have emerged as crisis, the FSM have heard the cry of the earth. Our efforts have included recycling, living more simply, sending solar ovens to Third-World countries to prevent further loss of native habitat, having wells dug to provide clean water for remote villages, and many similar efforts.

The FSM have also worked to influence the policies and practices of large companies through shareholder advocacy. Through our efforts and in collaboration with others, we have persuaded a number of major corporations to consider ecological and social objectives as well as the bottom line.

Since 2012 the FSM have been deeply involved in an environmental issue of great local significance—an unlined landfill not two miles from our homes and offices where 48,000 tons of radioactive waste was dumped more than 40 years ago, with an underground fire in the adjoining landfill that is moving steadily toward the radioactive waste. A number of agencies are jockeying to avoid responsibility for cleanup and containment. The FSM have been actively working to get the government to contain the nuclear waste and make the area safe for residents.





If Francis were living in our present, would he find himself addressing corporate boardrooms or congressional hearings? No one knows for sure. But he risked life and liberty to meet with the enemy Sultan in hopes of negotiating a peace settlement. Who knows where his courage and his love of his fellow creatures might have led him!

Through our congregation's 144 years, we've striven to walk in the footsteps of Francis and of Jesus, caring for those in need regardless of their wealth, status, or worthiness, cherishing all creatures as God's children.

Living Out the Vision of St. Francis through Philanthropy and Investment

How might Francis live out his vision for intentional poverty in today's world?

Intentional poverty involves living simply, not becoming tied to "things." Certainly our decision to sell our convent and move to simpler, more appropriate homes reflects this good stewardship. Using resources wisely is the truest meaning of being poor in spirit.

Like St. Francis, we could simply give away all we have to the poor.

But imagine—what if Francis had had the resources of mission-driven investment and philanthropy at his fingertips?

In collaboration with others who share our dreams, goals, and values, we support those who promote real climate solutions. What we might do by ourselves is little compared to what we can achieve in the company of others with similar hearts and minds.



*Windmills atop Medicine Bow Hilltop, Wyoming.
Photo courtesy of North Sky Capital. Used with permission.*

Through impact (mission-related) investing we invest in individuals, companies, and institutions that share our Catholic, Franciscan values, allowing us to achieve strong social and environmental benefits as well as a solid financial return. Since 2012, for instance, we have invested in companies that

- preserve ecologically important forestlands and species,
- practice sustainable timber harvesting,
- help low-income families purchase solar lighting for their homes,
- promote sustainable organic agriculture,
- further the use of clean, renewable energy sources (such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power), and
- encourage energy efficiency.

Some of our investments have helped companies transform trash like worn-out tires or plastic bottles into usable commodities.

By the end of 2014, the FSM had also freed ourselves from any investments in the fossil fuel industry.

Our philanthropy similarly reflects our care for creation.

Mission-related investing has given hands and feet to our FSM Focus on compassionate care of creation in collaboration with others.



Lyme Adirondack Forest Company practices sustainable timber harvesting in New York. Photo used with permission.

Spreading the Word of Jesus as Francis Did

Enhanced 21st-century communication and technology give us the opportunity to have an immense impact—for good or for evil—on our world and all of creation. Living in 13th-century Assisi, St. Francis changed the world. We can only imagine the good he might have accomplished with the financial and communication resources available today.

We are excited—on fire!—to spread the word about impact investing, mission-driven philanthropy, and divesting from fossil fuels to reinvest in sustainable energy options. Since getting under way in 2012, we have seen great success on our triple bottom line—environmental and social gains as well as sound financial return on our investment.



FSM CEO and CFO John O'Shaughnessy is often called to share the FSM success story with others, especially faith-based organizations.

- In June 2014, he was invited to participate in The White House Roundtable on Impact Investing, where he pledged \$10 million of FSM assets for impact investing.
- In June 2015, he was invited to return to Washington as part of The White House Clean Energy Summit.
- In September 2015, John was a panelist at the “Divest and Reinvest Workshop” at the *Ecology, Economy, and Ethics: Mobilizing for a Just Transition* conference at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.
- In November 2015, John, with Sr. Rose Dowling (above), shared the FSM experience with divestment and reinvestment as part of the plenary session “The Mechanics of Divestment: Examples from the Field” at the conference *Acting on Pope Francis’ Call: Divestment and Investment in Care for Our Common Home*, held at the University of Dayton in Ohio—the first Catholic university in the United States to publicly divest its assets from fossil fuel production.
- In February 2016 John was part of the global climate strategy meetings in Berlin, sponsored by FSM and including 55 representatives of the Climate Action Network International. The meeting focused on identifying specific follow-through measures for the December 2015 Climate Accord reached at COP-21 in Paris.

- In September 2016 John shared the FSM experience with impact investing and divestment from fossil fuels as a panelist for the webinar *Caring for Creation by Divesting from Fossil Fuels and Reinvesting in Climate Solutions*, sponsored by the Global Catholic Climate Movement.
- In October 2016 John spoke on “Assets in Action: How FSM Uses Its Financial Resources to Focus on Compassionate Care of Creation in Collaboration with Others” at the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) conference in Anaheim, California.

In fall of 2014, John gathered others enthusiastic about the possibilities of impact investing to form the Catholic Impact Investing Collaborative (CIIC), a group devoted to getting the word out about the benefits of mission-related investing for Catholic nonprofit groups. The mission of the CIIC is “Through sharing our relatable experiences and learning we expand Impact Investing among Catholic organizations.”



The FSM are enthusiastic about sharing with others the ways our investments and divestments, our philanthropy and our advocacy are furthering our Focus of compassionate care of creation in collaboration with others. By telling our story we hope to motivate others to explore ways they can use their resources to heal the earth and live out their values.

As St. Francis often exhorted his followers, “Preach the gospel always. When necessary, use words.”

A Work in Progress

St. Francis of Assisi was an extraordinary man, living the call of the Spirit in simplicity and great love. The Franciscan Sisters of Mary strive to follow in the footsteps of Francis, learning from him how to be the presence of our loving, serving, compassionate, healing Jesus—just as Francis himself was in his world.

Congratulations to Our 2010 Jubilarians



Loreda Steinman, FSM



Mary Antona Ebo, FSM



Marie Therese Townsend, FSM



Mary Teresa Noth, FSM



in religious life CARNELIAN

Sisters in the Spotlight



Judith A. Bell, FSM, wrote a book review of *Essentials in Hospice and Palliative Care: A Resource for Nursing Assistants* by Katherine Murray (Victoria, British Columbia: Life and Death Matters, 2015); the review appeared in *OMEGA—Journal of Dying and Death*, Vol. 73 (2) (2016).



Antona Ebo, FSM, was featured in the *Women Witnesses of Mercy: Celebrating the Extraordinary Witness of Women during the Year of Mercy* education resource booklet produced by Future Church in Lakewood, Ohio. The booklet focuses on her involvement in Selma and her lifelong commitment to bearing witness to the need for real dialogue between races and cultures. She was also honored at a special reception with Archbishop Robert J. Carlson at The Sarah Community August 4 for her lifelong commitment to civil rights. The Archdiocese has celebrated Sr. Antona's accomplishments by naming a seminar room at the Archbishop Rigali Pastoral Center in her honor.



Rose Mary Dowling, FSM, discussed the development of collaborative governance as an option for diminishing congregations during her presentation at the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) conference in Anaheim, California, October 12, 2016. Her remarks were featured in the article "Religious Gather to Discuss Dealing with Declining Numbers and an Aging Population" by Dan Stockman for the *Global Sisters Report*, an online section of the *National Catholic Reporter*.

Stay Tuned!

In spring 2017 we will be rolling out our new updated Web site!

You will still be able to find us at www.fsmonline.org. But besides providing news about our sisters, we are planning to publish stories about our impact investment and philanthropy efforts and to share vignettes about people our resources have helped and ways we've found to collaborate with others in using our gifts to care for God's creation. We look forward to welcoming you soon!



Constance Fahey, FSM, was one of five panelists at the International Day of Peace in Janesville, Wisconsin, Saturday, September 24. Sr. Connie represented the Catholic community of Janesville; the other panelists included a Buddhist monk, a Methodist pastor, a Bhai member of the community, and the Imam from Janesville's Muslim Dawa Circle. The event was part of the Hedberg Public Library's annual celebration of International Peace Day.



Sandy Schwartz, FSM, was a featured speaker in the Pallottine Renewal Center's Summer Speaker Series. Her presentation, "Hospice 101," took place on July 13.



Lenita Moore, FSM, was honored March 10, 2016, by the St. Louis Local Development Company (LDC) for her nineteen years of service on the Board. The LDC provides financial assistance and expertise to start-up and expanding local businesses—often minority and neighborhood businesses. During her time on the Board, Sr. Lenita has served as assistant treasurer and secretary.

Sisters in the Spotlight continued



Elizabeth Ruppert, FSM, and **Ramona Meurer, FSM**, were honored at a special mass celebrated by Bishop Robert J. Hermann of St. Louis on Wednesday, September 21, in the chapel at The Sarah Community. Bishop Hermann presented four Mercy Awards. Srs. Elizabeth and Ramona, as well as several other residents, received recognition for their ministry of crocheting mats for the homeless from used plastic bags. Both have been creating these mats for several years.





Margaret O'Gorman, FSM, participated in a panel discussion following the screening of *Radical Grace*, a documentary produced by Susan Sarandon that follows three sisters, including Sr. Simone Campbell of *Nuns on the Bus*, who in their ministry challenged the Church hierarchy in order to embody radical grace in their own lives. Sr. Marge and the other two St. Louis sisters on the panel described how they have expressed radical grace in their ministries to the marginalized, and they invited members of the audience to reflect on how they too are called to live radical grace in their own lives.



Jane L. Rombach, FSM, was featured in the article “SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Exceeds Founders’ Goals” in the May 30–June 5, 2016, *St. Louis Review*. Besides celebrating the children’s hospital’s 60 very successful years in St. Louis, the article highlighted Sr. Jane’s many years of service at Cardinal Glennon. She currently volunteers five days a week in the chapel and for the social service department.



Mary Angela Murdaugh, FSM, was honored as one of “two legendary ‘pioneer godmothers’ of Texas midwifery” by the Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse-Midwives when the group created a midwifery student scholarship fund for students in ACME-accredited midwifery programs who plan to practice in Texas. The consortium intends to award the scholarship in its second year in honor of Sr. Angela. Sr. Angela is honored especially for her work with the rural poor at Holy Family Birth Center in Weslaco, Texas, and for her promotion of nurse-midwifery in Texas.



Mary Jean Ryan, FSM, was awarded the honorary Doctor of Public Service degree by Saint Louis University at the spring commencement ceremonies May 14, 2016, at the Chaifetz Arena. University President Fred P. Pestello honored her as “a revered leader in health care. A true pioneer, she is known for her dedication to exceptional, compassionate care, and many owe their lives to her leadership. We are honored to have her among our alumni and are even more pleased to recognize her contributions, which have revealed the healing presence of God.” Sr. Mary Jean had earned her BSN from Saint Louis University. The honorary doctorate was Sr. Mary Jean’s fifth; she received the Doctor of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa*, from Webster University in St. Louis (1994); from Lindenwood University in St. Charles (2003); from the University of Missouri—St. Louis (2003); and from St. Bonaventure University in St. Bonaventure, New York (2012).



Transitions

“God Has Been So Good to Me; I Rejoice and Give Thanks”

Mary Inez Kennedy, FSM

December 20, 1930 – August 2, 2016

Mary Jeanette Kennedy was born December 20, 1930, in St. Paul, Missouri, oldest of six children born to Calvin and Eleanor (Hoeckelman) Kennedy. She entered the Sisters of St. Mary August 6, 1948. She received the name Sr. Mary Inez, and she professed final vows February 11, 1954. After completing high school at St. Mary of the Angels, she took classes at Saint Louis University in accounting and finance and worked in accounting at St. Mary's Hospital.

In 1958, she began supervising the admitting office at St. Mary's Infirmary, then was assigned to Admitting at Firmin Desloge Hospital. She completed her B.S. in Accounting through Saint Louis University (1962).

She was office supervisor at St. Mary's Infirmary (1962–1964), then trained in accounting at St. Mary's Hospital, Kansas City (1964–1967). After a year at St. Mary's Hospital in Jefferson City, she moved in 1968 to St. Mary of the Ozarks Hospital in Ironton, Missouri (later Arcadia Valley Hospital), to update the manual bookkeeping system. She then served at Arcadia Valley Hospital in Pilot Knob (1975–1977).

After nine months in accounting at Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center, Sr. Inez served with the convent's Bellevue Meals on Wheels program (1978–1980).

From 1980 to 1988 she was patient representative at St. Joseph's Health Center, St. Charles. She then worked in the business office (1988–1993). Sr. Inez assumed the new position as director of Mission Awareness (1993–2006). After retiring as director, she served on the Mission Awareness Team until she retired in August 2010. She moved to The Sarah Community in October 2010.

Sr. Inez especially loved her years in Arcadia Valley. Her thirty years' ministry at St. Joseph's Health Center in St. Charles was always close to her heart. She was a great fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, and she enjoyed traveling and being with family. A founding member of the Greater St. Louis Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association, she served as treasurer (1986–1991, 1993–2000) and secretary (2000–2004). She also belonged to the St. Charles County Historical Society.

On Tuesday, August 2, 2016, Sr. Inez entered into her eternal reward.



“Jesus, My Savior and God”

Sr. Mary Louise Jaegers

September 3, 1923 – September 16, 2016

Mary Louise Jaegers was born September 3, 1923, in Loose Creek, Missouri, one of nine children born to Matthias and Elizabeth (Haslag) Jaegers. She entered the Sisters of St. Mary on November 30, 1944; she received the religious name Sr. Mary Conradine, and she professed final vows June 5, 1950. She received her bachelor's (1952) and master's (1956) degrees in Dietetics, both through Saint Louis University.

Sr. Mary Louise directed Food Service at St. Mary's Health Center, St. Louis (1956–1958) and Dietary at Firmin Desloge Hospital, St. Louis (1959–1961). At St. Mary's Health Center, she taught Obstetrics and instructed patients in nutrition (1961–1962; 1969). From 1962 through 1968 she served as Dietary Director at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. She then was Director of Dietary at Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center, St. Louis (1969–1972).

From 1972 until 2012 Sr. Mary Louise lived in Ironton, Missouri. She was a dietary consultant from 1973 to 2008, in Red Bud, Illinois, and in hospitals and nursing and health facilities in and around Arcadia Valley near Ironton. She volunteered for Open Hearts Humane Society in Iron County for twelve years and was active in Ste. Marie du Lac Parish, Ironton. She moved to The Sarah Community in October 2012.

Sr. Mary Louise enjoyed organizing photo albums, reading poetry, walking, listening to EWTN, and visiting the sick. She loved teaching young managers to deliver good patient care, and bringing the healing presence of Jesus to the sick. She looked for the sign of God's presence in all situations.

Early in the morning of Friday, September 16, 2016, Sr. Mary Louise slipped away in the waiting arms of her beloved Jesus.

Gifts Received

Gifts given in memory of:

In memory of Francis Marie Bettels, FSM
My great-aunt
Freda A. Tilling

In memory of Marietta Bida, FSM
My dear Aunt Jenny
Joyce Ann Pahoski

In memory of Betty Brucker, FSM
Dr. and Mrs. John J. Kelly
Ms. Rita Lung

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

In memory of Mary Damien Francois, FSM
Kathryn Fitzekam Jancik

In memory of Mary Josephine Huhmann, FSM
Gary and Lynette Wages

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

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

In memory of Annie Raback
My wife
Edmund J. Raback

In memory of Mary Leo Rita Volk, FSM
Ms. Orley S. Morgan

Gifts given in honor of:

In honor of Francita Barringhaus, FSM,
on the occasion of her birthday, June 18
Mrs. Norma J. Schraut

In honor of and gratitude for Dr. Christopher Case, M.D.
Alex and Margaret Reinkemeyer

In honor of Leonor R. Denzon, FSM,
on the occasion of her birthday, March 2
Ms. Teresa Yu Lim Alagao

In honor of Cecilia Lackman, FSM
Mrs. Pam Williamson

In honor of and thanksgiving for Priscilla Weber, FSM
Kim Malone

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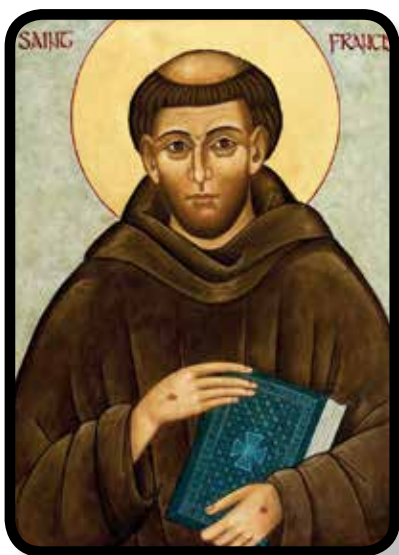


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Mission and Focus of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary



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

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

The 2015 Chapter affirms our Focus and calls us to widen, deepen and emphasize its collaborative aspects.