

FSM

MAGAZINE

Franciscan Sisters of Mary

A
COMPASSIONATE
PRESENCE TO THE
WORLD

SPRING 2018

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.

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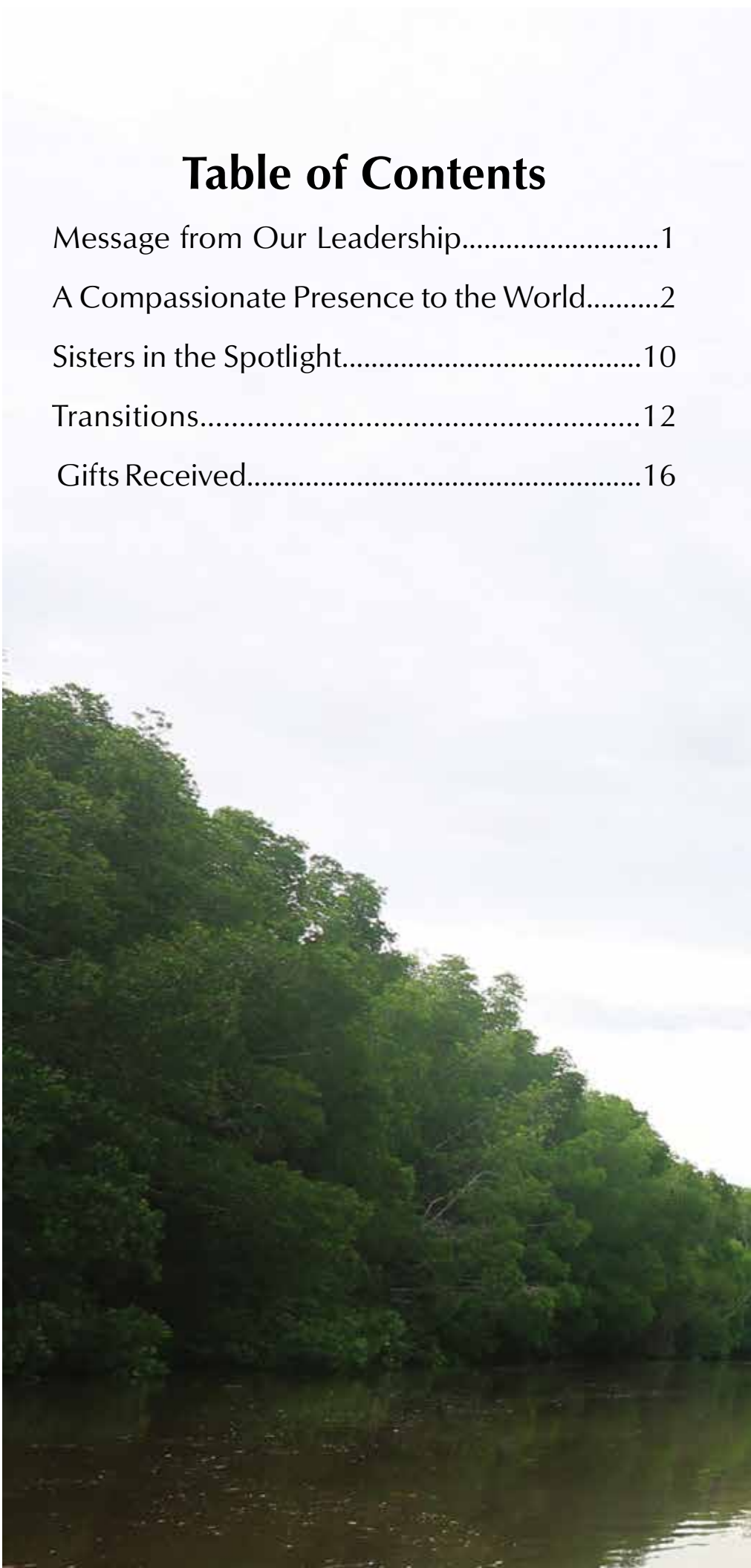
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**Message from
Judith A. Bell, FSM
Leadership
Franciscan Sisters of Mary**

Our Mission as Franciscan Sisters of Mary is one of Presence to God's people and all creation. Presence, a significant element of our Franciscan spirituality, is an intentional, purposeful relationship of interconnectedness for the good of all involved.

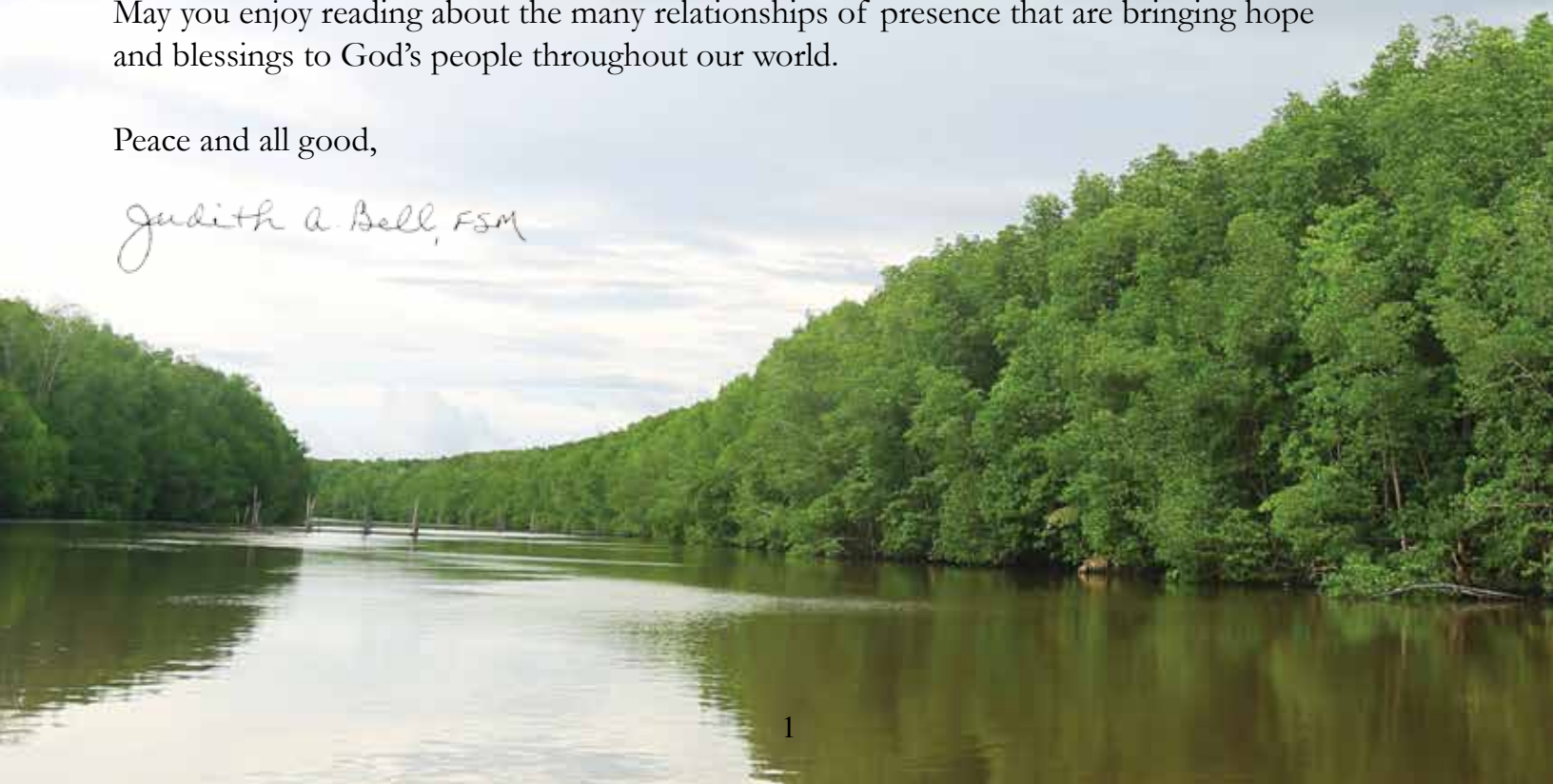
St. Francis reminds us, "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words!" The Gospel message is choosing to stand and be with our sisters and brothers made in the image and likeness of God, especially those who are disenfranchised, poor, on the margins of society, suffering injustices and inequities at the hands of governments and power-filled organizations. They deserve respect and meaningful opportunities to improve their way of life.

While our physical *doing* is not as active as has been throughout our congregational history, our presence of responsible stewardship to and for others is very much a part of our *being* FSM. This presence is expressed collaboratively through many committed, dedicated individuals within organizations who understand the Gospel message and share the common value of compassionate care for all God's people and creation.

May you enjoy reading about the many relationships of presence that are bringing hope and blessings to God's people throughout our world.

Peace and all good,

Judith A. Bell, FSM





FSM: A COMPASSIONATE PRESENCE TO THE WORLD

For eight weeks this spring, in conjunction with Catholic Sisters Week, St. Louis celebrated 200 years of sisters' presence in our area. *Catholic Sisters: The Spirit of St. Louis*, the exhibit at the St. Louis Public Library downtown, highlighted the contributions of fifteen congregations of sisters—and many other sisters—who have had a tremendous influence on education, healthcare, social services, and many other arenas in the metropolitan area—and who continue to lead the way forward today.

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary have been a strong presence in St. Louis for 146 of those 200 years, and their influence, especially in healthcare, has been monumental.

This small congregation of sisters based in the Midwest has gone on to be a vibrant presence not only throughout the United States but around the world.

From their beginnings sisters went out to serve the poor and sick, first in St. Louis, but then extending their reach well beyond the city. They established hospitals and healthcare facilities in Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma, as well as in South Carolina and Texas, many of which thrive today.

Individual sisters served in mission across the United States, in Florida, North Carolina, New Jersey, in Appalachia, Kentucky, on reservations in Arizona and New Mexico—and more.



Reaching beyond Our Borders

The second Vatican Council in the 1960s opened doors to new ways of thinking and serving others.

Congregations encouraged their sisters to explore new ways to use their gifts in service to God. For some of our sisters, that soul-searching led them to serve in places far from St. Louis and all that was once familiar.

In the 1960s, the FSM (then Sisters of St. Mary) built medical missions in Arequipa, Peru, and La Paz, Bolivia; Sr. M. Jeanice Speidel served in both places.



In 1970 and 1971, Sr. Thelma Mitchell sailed on the medical missionary ship, *Ship Hope*, spending a year in Kingston, Jamaica, and one in Natal, Brazil, combining missionary work, care for children, and teaching.



For 32 years (1972-2004) the FSM missions in Brazil flourished. Srs. Vicki Ewers, Jovita Stenger, and Mary Stenger ministered in Sento Se and Manacapuru, bringing medical care and education to thousands in the deserts and rainforests of Brazil. The sisters' influence is valued and remembered; Sr. Vicki has been invited to return to Coari to celebrate her role in establishing the Children's Pastoral Program there 30 years ago.



In 1980 Sr. Ramona Meurer established a medical mission in Wema, Kenya; she served close to a decade in Africa. A number of FSM served in Wema until the murder of Sr. Agnes Reinkemeyer in July 1989 led the FSM to close the mission. Others who served in Wema include Sr. Mary Chaudet and Sr. Evelyn Marie Peterman.



From 1982 to 1985 Sr. Jeanne Meurer traveled annually to Egypt as a nursing consultant to the United States Assistance International Development, teaching and providing consultation to doctors and nurses on midwifery and maternal and child health.



From 1987 until 1999 Sr. Rose Mary Dowling lived in South Africa, facilitating leadership teams and training organizational facilitators, working especially with teams from religious congregations and teaching skills for participative (shared) leadership.

Some of our sisters have a global presence even now.

An expert on leadership and continuous quality

improvement, Sr. Mary Jean Ryan has shared her expertise in venues that have included Singapore; Hong Kong; Sweden; Seoul, South Korea; Manila, Philippines; Bangkok, Thailand; Tokyo, Japan; Auckland, New Zealand; Sydney, Australia; Porto Allegre, Brazil; Shanghai, China; Delhi, India; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Tel Aviv, Israel; Tallinn, Estonia; and Nova Scotia.



Sr. Connie Fahey has traveled to the diocese of Solwezi in Zambia, offering retreats to religious and clergy there and gathering donations of shoes, books, clothes, school supplies, and money for this extremely poor diocese.



Sr. Kathy Buchheit and Sr. Fran Haarmann have traveled with SSM Health medical mission trips to Guatemala and Belize, bringing their nursing skills and caring hearts to many who would otherwise not receive medical care.

The international reach of this small Missouri congregation has been huge. The sisters have made their presence known across the globe.

A New Way of Being Present in the World

As the sisters have aged and dwindled in number, the possibilities for being physically present in far-off lands have also ebbed. But with the help of sound financial wisdom and strong commitment, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary have found new ways to extend their presence globally.

If you tap into the FSM website, www.fsmonline.org, toward the bottom of the home page you'll find a map with "pushpins." Each pin represents a place where the FSM have brought their presence and influence by creatively using the assets the congregation has gained over their many years in service to others.

Through impact investing and philanthropy that provide funding for entrepreneurs, companies, and organizations that actively promote FSM values of compassionate care for creation, our sisters have reached out to be present to neighbors across the globe they have never met but who will be forever blessed by their concern and with their prayers.

Some initiatives FSM supports through impact investing and philanthropy include:

- A company based in Nairobi has helped more than 600,000 households in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania purchase solar home lighting systems. Households without access to the electrical grid often use kerosene for lighting; solar lighting extends their productive hours and greatly reduces air pollution and CO₂ buildup in the atmosphere—not to mention the dangers of fire. Shopkeepers can stay open longer; students can study after sunset; families gain valuable hours of light that extend their days.
- A group in West Borneo, Indonesia, is helping communities establish viable businesses that don't degrade the environment, such as using traditional weaving methods to produce beautiful cloth. This group also guides communities in repairing damage caused by overfishing their rivers and in re-establishing the mangrove forests so valuable in absorbing carbon in the atmosphere.



- The acai berry grows only in the Brazilian Amazon River basin. A small group of environmentally caring entrepreneurs contracted with some 10,000 small-scale farmers to grow and harvest the berries through methods that nurture the local environment and protect the rainforest. This initiative protects the area's biodiversity and offers those who live there an alternative to logging, cattle ranching, growing soy, or producing charcoal—all of which are destructive to the environment and their area.
- In February 2016, FSM funded a post-Paris climate strategy session in Berlin to help participants plan specific ways to move toward the goals set during the Paris Climate Agreement—especially the goal of 100 percent renewable energy production.
- The FSM congregation has been a strong and early leader in the movement to divest from companies involved in extraction and sale of fossil fuels. By the end of 2014, FSM had totally divested and continues to encourage other faith-based organizations to explore that goal as well.

Other initiatives include sustainable farming and timber harvesting, promoting solar and wind energy, creating valuable commodities from items that would otherwise end up in a landfill, supporting local food distribution, and otherwise working to reduce or reverse damage done to our environment through human action.

By collaborating with entrepreneurs who live out their Franciscan, Catholic values, the sisters are using their available resources to care for creation and heal the devastating damage caused worldwide by global warming and climate change.

Bringing the Vision for Catholic Impact Investing to the World

In November 2014, led by FSM CEO/CFO John O'Shaughnessy, a small group of investors enthusiastic about the possibilities of impact investing for Catholic nonprofits formed the Catholic Impact Investing Collaborative (CIIC). Its mission, "Through sharing our relatable experiences and learning we expand Impact Investing among Catholic organizations," sets out an ambitious goal, but one gaining momentum worldwide.

At the *Laudato Si'* and Catholic Impact Investing Conference in Rome in January 2017, John presented the FSM experiences with divestment and impact investing to other Catholic investment managers keen to find ways to use their investments to live out the vision of Pope Francis's encyclical.

Catholic investors across the globe have sought FSM's insights and advice on impact investing and fossil fuel divestment. During 2017 John took part in several video conferences, suggesting next steps to build a foundation for impact investing, one with a Catholic investor group based in the south of London, and one based in Hong Kong. His FSM experience has been a valuable resource to help others find practical ways to implement impact investing.



Owen McCabe, Shane Cowley from L&P, John O'Shaughnessy, and Ronan Reid, CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland.

In December 2017, John was invited to present FSM impact investing experiences at the 30th anniversary celebration of the L&P Group, recently acquired by Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland. The L&P Group is unparalleled in the impact investing space, providing ethical investment management and stewardship

services to religious orders and not-for-profit organizations and having a real impact on communities, societies, and the environment. Through CIIC the group had heard of FSM's work in impact investing and had extended the invitation.

With the L&P Group's becoming an active collaborator, CIIC has extended its reach beyond the United States, and its influence is spreading even farther abroad.

On FSM's behalf, John has been invited to the Third Vatican Conference on Impact Investing in Rome this July—another opportunity to join others with vision and enthusiasm to use assets to have a global impact socially and environmentally.

The Global Catholic Climate Movement

John's work with CIIC also resulted in FSM's involvement with an exciting international organization working to enable the Catholic community to bring *Laudato Si'* to life: the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM).

FSM's leadership in impact investing led to John's invitation to be part of the new GCCM board of directors. The group's staff, steering committee, and invited board met in Assisi following the *Laudato Si'* conference in Rome. John serves as GCCM treasurer.



The Global Catholic Climate Movement, which is ecumenical in practice, focuses on helping individuals and groups find practical ways to live out Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'*, offering online training for parishes and other groups.

The GCCM Board is a working board. A lawyer from Ireland, for instance, is involved with policy—she has written the tool kit for Catholic investors who want to divest from fossil fuel production and sales, explaining what issues they as Catholics face and how to manage them.

As treasurer, John provides fiscal direction and has helped the organization set up an operational framework that allows them to receive donations, hire staff, and function efficiently—a complicated endeavor given GCCM's international nature. He helps the organization fund major initiatives and sustain itself through wise business practices.

John works primarily on divestment, promoting the need and explaining the reasoning for divesting. FSM has done divesting and impact investing very successfully, and by sharing FSM's experiences he can help others, especially international audiences, understand the possibilities open to them.

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary have provided substantial funding to the GCCM, and the growing organization stands poised to receive even more funding from Catholic foundations that support healing and nurturing our environment by mitigating climate change, protecting wildlife, and restoring ecological balance to habitats and communities.



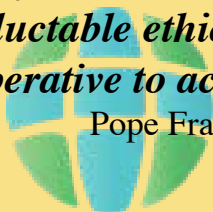
Joining with Others

By building relationships with others around the world who share our Catholic, Franciscan values and using the gifts God has given, the FSM continue to reach out to care for all creation.

Even as our congregation grows smaller, God continues to open doors that invite us to do what we can do to bring about social and environmental healing—and to trust that God will summon others to the table as well.

***“On climate change,
there is a clear,
definitive and
ineluctable ethical
imperative to act.”***

Pope Francis



The Global Catholic Climate Movement

The goal of the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) is to bring Pope Francis’s encyclical *Laudato Si’* to life and to turn the tide for climate justice.

The GCCM is “a community of thousands of Catholics like you responding to Pope Francis’ call to action in the *Laudato Si’* encyclical. We are lay people, priests, religious, bishops, and a global network of member organizations working together to tackle the climate change crisis.”

For GCCM, the climate crisis involves three dimensions for each individual:

- Spiritual Dimension—Undergo Our Ecological Conversion
- Lifestyle Dimension—Lead by Example, Shrink Our Footprint
- Public Sphere Dimension—Raise Our Voices for Bold Policies

Transformation needs to be both internal and external.

First, the movement encourages people to see themselves as consumers rather than stewards of creation, to see what is actually happening in the world instead of seeing themselves as they would like to be.

Second, people need to focus on how they can respond to the environmental crisis—what habits they can change, both as individuals and communities, to become more environmentally caring and responsible.

Third, the GCCM encourages people to public advocacy, to raise their voices for change through divestment and environmental concern—finding ways to make important issues part of the conversation in churches, communities, and the political sector.

The FSM are excited to be part of this global community and invite you to consider ways you can further these efforts.



Sisters in the Spotlight



Victoria Ewers, FSM, has been invited by Dom Marcus Piatek, Bishop of Coari, Brazil, to be part of the 30th anniversary celebration of the Pastoral da Crianca (Children's Pastoral Program), which works in the heart of the Amazon to diminish infant and child mortality and promote the emancipation of women so they can bring about social change in their families and society. In 1987, Sr. Vicki was appointed coordinator of the program and Srs. Jovita and Mary Stenger as members of the team. Srs. Vicki and Jovita began the CPP in the Prelacy of Coari, with Manacapuru being one of the first parishes involved. In 1988, the CPP served 27 children a month, of which 40 percent were malnourished, 22 percent had diarrhea, and none were vaccinated. In 1997, CPP served 598 children a month, of which only 14 percent were malnourished, 5

percent had diarrhea, and 73 percent were vaccinated. Srs. Vicki and Jovita were involved until leaving Brazil in 2004. FSM and Chiara financed the construction of Casa Clara so CPP would have a permanent place of its own.

The celebration honoring Sr. Vicki will take place at St. Alphonsus Retreat House and Missionary Formation Center of the Diocese of Coari on August 10 through 12.



Margaret M. O'Gorman, FSM, received certification from the Haden Institute, completing a two-year course in Dream Work training that involved three intensive sessions annually as well as monthly long-distance assignments. As her final project, she began a Dream Circle for women in the St. Louis County jail, helping them interpret and find inner strength and guidance from their dreams.

Marita Anne Marrah, FSM, received the National CASA Board Member of the Year award for 2018. The National CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) Association honors one individual each year “who exemplifies outstanding leadership and commitment to the CASA/ GAL [*Guardian ad litem*] Board of Directors or Advisory Council.” The award was presented during the National CASA Conference in Boston Sunday evening, March 11.



While Sr. Marita Anne was not able to attend the program in Boston, she was honored at the Jefferson County CASA's fourth Annual Gala for Children Saturday, March 24. The Jefferson County CASA Board nominated Sr. Marita Anne for the national honor: “Sister Marita has actively demonstrated a devoted passion for the CASA mission throughout her work for the abused and neglected children in Jefferson County. Her dedication to their welfare includes fundraising, strategic planning, and budgeting that led to program certification and improved support for children. . . . Sister Marita grew the Jefferson County CASA program from 10 volunteers to more than 60 who currently serve nearly 100 children. She has used her skills to increase the number of staff, build the Board, write grants, mentor, and raise funds. . . . Every board member, staff member and volunteer looks up to Sister Marita for advice, leadership, and inspiration. They endearingly call her ‘the little nun that could.’”

Mary Jean Ryan, FSM, has been named to Modern Healthcare's 2018 Health Care Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony took place March 25 in conjunction with the American College of Healthcare Executives 2018 Congress in Chicago. *Modern Healthcare* writes: “During her tenure leading SSM Health Care [1986–2011], Ryan was credited with championing programs to advance both gender and racial diversity. She also developed programs that gave young leaders experience in a variety of healthcare settings, from rural hospitals to urban locations. In 2002, SSM Health Care became the first health organization to win a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.” (January 20, 2018) In 2014 Sr. Mary Jean received the Harry H. Hertz Leadership Award from the Baldrige Foundation.



Sr. Mary Jean has also received word that she will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Catholic Health Association assembly June 11 in San Diego, California.



*“Love God
and Love
One Another”*

Sr. Mary Doris Ashcraft, FSM

April 8, 1935 – January 26, 2018

Gwendolyn Sandra Ashcraft was born April 8, 1935, in Omaha, Nebraska, the only child of Glen Higgins and Sarah Jane (Sally) Wells. Her father died, and her stepfather, Arthur P. Ashcraft, adopted her.

Gwendolyn attended Mercy Academy in Marshall, Missouri, and became Catholic at the age of 12. She attended high school at St. Aloysius Academy in Kansas City for three years, then found work at St. Mary's Hospital. She entered the Sisters of St. Mary on March 4, 1955; she received the name Sr. Mary Doris, and she professed final vows September 8, 1962. She earned a certificate as a Patient Visitor through St. Mary's Health Center (1977) and a certificate in Healing Touch through the Colorado Center Healing Touch Institute (2001).

Sr. Doris served in housekeeping at the motherhouse until 1966, then in the bakery, housekeeping and dietary at St. Joseph Hospital in St. Charles, Missouri (1966–1975). In 1975 she moved to St. Francis Hospital in Blue Island, Illinois, as sacristan and patient visitor. Sr. Doris remained at St. Francis for 35 years as chaplain assistant, chaplain associate, pastoral mission advocate, patient advocate, and spiritual mission advocate, until the hospital became a for-profit institution in 2008. In May 2010 she moved to The Sarah Community.

In her 35 years at St. Francis Hospital she lovingly offered a listening ear and a caring hug to anyone who needed it, patient or staff member: “‘Step into my office’—and my office was everywhere,” she would say. She made a lasting impression on all who knew her.

She continued to be the loving presence of Jesus to all. She served as a Eucharistic Minister, listened to those who were lonely, and cared for those who needed an encouraging word. She often baked cookies as gifts, and she tried to be available to anyone who needed her. In her quiet simplicity, compassion and grace, she was a beacon encouraging others to live as Jesus lived.

Friday morning, January 26, 2018, Sr. Doris slipped peacefully away.

Trans

Sr. Mary Antona Ebo, FSM

April 10, 1924 – November 11, 2017

Sr. Antona Ebo was a pioneer of Civil Rights. On March 10, 1965, Sr. Antona, the only African American sister in the crowd gathered in Selma, Alabama, to march in protest against the brutality of Bloody Sunday days earlier, was thrust to the front. She told the crowd, “I’m here because I’m a Negro, a nun, a Catholic, and because I want to bear witness.” All her life she stood for justice and equality. In July 2017, the Missouri History Museum honored her in a “Celebration of Sister Antona Ebo, FSM,” as part of the exhibit #1 in *Civil Rights: The African-American Freedom Struggle in St. Louis*.

Elizabeth Louise Ebo was born April 10, 1924, in Bloomington, Illinois, one of three children born to Daniel and Louise (Teal) Ebo. When Betty was 4, her mother died. Her father lost his job and their home during the Depression; the children were placed in the McLean County Home for Colored Children in Bloomington. Betty lived there from 1930 to 1942. She was baptized a Roman Catholic December 19, 1942. In 1944 Betty enrolled in St. Mary's Infirmary School of Nursing in St. Louis.

On July 26, 1946, Betty became one of the first three African Americans to enter the Sisters of St. Mary. She received the name Sr. Mary Antona, and she professed final vows February 11, 1954.

Sr. Antona earned a bachelor's in Medical Records (1962) and a master's in Hospital

*“The Lord Is
My Light
and My
Salvation”*



Sr. Mary Antona Ebo, FSM *cont'd*

Executive Development (1970), both through Saint Louis University. She earned certification in Clinical Pastoral Education through Alexian Brothers in Elk Grove, Illinois (1976). She earned a master's in Theology of Health Care through Aquinas Institute of Theology (1978) and was certified as a chaplain through the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (1979).

She was awarded six honorary doctorates: from Loyola University of Chicago (May 1995); from the College of New Rochelle, New York (May 2008); from Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis (May 2009); from Saint Louis University (May 2010); from the University of Missouri–St. Louis (December 2010); and from the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana (May 2013).

She worked in Medical Records at Firmin Desloge Hospital, St. Louis (1955–1961) and at St. Mary's Health Center, St. Louis (1961–1962). She directed Medical Records at St. Mary's Infirmary from 1962 to 1967; during this time—March 10, 1965—Sr. Antona and Sr. Eugene Marie Smith flew to Selma to take part in the march. In 2007, a PBS documentary chronicled the events and prominently featured Sr. Antona: *Sisters of Selma: Bearing Witness for Change*.

She served for a year as director of Medical Records at St. Mary's Health Center, St. Louis. From 1967 to 1971 she was executive director of St. Clare Hospital in Baraboo, Wisconsin, the first African American woman to administer a Catholic hospital in the United States. She was assistant executive director at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin (1971–1974), then for two years directed the Wisconsin Conference of Catholic Hospitals.

Sr. Antona was chaplain and pastoral associate at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin (1978–1981) and chaplain at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson (1981–1987).

From 1987 to 1991 Sr. Antona served in congregational leadership. She then served three-year terms (1991–1994) on the St. Louis Archdiocesan Human Rights Commission and the Missouri Catholic Conference on Social Concerns. She also served on the Board of Directors for Cardinal Ritter Institute (now Cardinal Ritter Senior Services).

Sr. Antona was a founding member of the National Black Sisters' Conference (1968) and served as its president. In 1989 the conference awarded her the Harriet Tubman Award for being “called to be a Moses to the people.” She received communion from Pope John Paul II and gave President Obama a hug after she offered an invocation at a dinner honoring him. A seminar room at the Cardinal Rigali Pastoral Center, St. Louis, is named in her honor. She was featured prominently in the “Voices of Civil Rights” exhibit at the Library of Congress in 2005; despite age and frailty she continued into her 90s to challenge listeners to live out the truth that all God's creatures are equal.

On Saturday, November 11, 2017, Sr. Antona crossed the final bridge to her eternal reward.



***“God Is
Near ... I Am
Confident and
Unafraid!”***

Sr. Evelyn Marie Peterman, FSM

December 7, 1928 – November 15, 2017

As a sister, she fulfilled two dreams—to become a nurse and to serve the poor in the missions. Through her later ministry at Algoa and Jefferson City Correctional Centers she also brought comfort and hope to prisoners.

Evelyn Marie Peterman was born December 7, 1928, in St. Louis, one of seven children born to Leo F. and Cecilia A. (Healy) Peterman. She entered the Sisters of St. Mary July 29, 1943; she received the name Sr. Cecilia Marie, and she professed final vows February 11, 1950.

She earned a bachelor's in Pharmacy (1953) and a master's in Manufacturing Pharmacy (1956), both from St. Louis College of Pharmacy. She completed her associate's in Nursing through St. Mary's College in O'Fallon, Missouri (1971) and her BSN through Saint Louis University (1979); she became a medical nurse practitioner in 1981, also through Saint Louis University. She was certified in Biblical Spirituality through Catholic Theological Union, Chicago (1991) and completed her residency for CPE certification through Saint Louis University Health Sciences Center (1995–1996). She was certified in Spiritual Direction in 2005.

She was a pharmacy aide at St. Mary's Health Center (1946–1950). As a pharmacist, she taught Pharmacology and Pharmacy at St. Mary's Infirmary and St. Mary's Health Center (1953–1956). From 1956 to 1962 she was chief pharmacist at the new Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center.

She set up the pharmacy at St. Eugene Hospital, Dillon, South Carolina, in 1961. As chief pharmacist at St. Mary's Hospital, Kansas City, she taught pharmacology at the school of nursing (1962–1969). She was a nurse and supervisor at St. Eugene's Hospital, Dillon, South Carolina (1971–1973); ICU nurse and nursing supervisor at St. Mary's Hospital, Jefferson City (1973–1978); and ICU nurse at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Hannibal (1981–1984). From 1978 to 1984 she directed the SSM Associates.

In 1984, while working in pediatrics at Cardinal Glennon, she learned Swahili so she could serve as a nurse at the FSM mission in Wema, Kenya (1984–1989). She was injured at the mission when her companion, Sr. Agnes Reinkemeyer, was murdered during a robbery. Traumatized by the tragedy, Sr. Evelyn returned to St. Louis, and the FSM closed the mission in Wema.

She was a nurse at Frances Warde Health Service, Rosman, North Carolina, then a home health care and hospice nurse for Incarnate Word Hospital, St. Louis (1992–1994) and for the Barnes-Jewish Visiting Nurse Association (1994–1995). She was chaplain for St. Mary's Hospital and Villa Marie Senior Center in Jefferson City, Missouri (1996–2007), then volunteered there until moving to The Sarah Community in July 2013. She also ministered to prisoners at Algoa and Jefferson City Correctional Centers and helped with retreats for Teens Encounter Christ, Residents Encounter Christ, and Cursillo.

Sr. Evelyn loved spending time with friends, enjoying nature, writing friends and family, crocheting, and singing in choral groups. She said, “Throughout my ministries I have enjoyed whatever I was doing because the work involved being of assistance to others who were in need and I was able to help them. My greatest joy and satisfaction during my years of ministry was when I was in Wema, Kenya, living with the poor and caring for their sick.”

Early Wednesday, November 15, 2017, Sr. Evelyn heard God's call to eternal life.

***“I Am the
Handmaid of
the Lord”***



Sr. Marie Therese Townsend, FSM

July 24, 1927 – January 13, 2018

Pauline Catherine Therese Townsend was born July 24, 1927, in Washington, D.C., the older daughter of two born to Harry and Emma (Thomas) Townsend.

Hearing a call to be a nursing sister, she told her pastor, who had learned of a congregation accepting African American women as postulants. On July 26, 1946, she entered the Sisters of St. Mary as one of their three first African American postulants. She received the name Sr. Marie Therese, and she professed final vows September 8, 1952. She was certified as a laboratory technician, and in 1973 she completed her bachelor's in Medical Technology from Notre Dame College in St. Louis. She did a year's internship at Hunter Memorial in Washington, D.C.

She was a nurse aide, typist, and laboratory technician for the Pathology Department at St. Mary's Infirmary in St. Louis and a laboratory technician at St. Eugene's Hospital in Dillon, South Carolina. She worked in the laboratory at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Charles; Mount St. Rose in St. Louis; St. Mary's Hospital in Jefferson City; St. Eugene's Hospital in Dillon; and St. Mary's Hospital in St. Louis.

From 1976 to 1982 she was a nurse assistant at the motherhouse. From 1982 to 1989, she volunteered at the International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis, teaching English to refugees and immigrants and helping them work to become U.S. citizens. She also helped them with food, clothing, and money.

She volunteered at the St. Louis City Jail, watching children while their mothers visited men in the jail. She began visiting the inmates, teaching them and offering prayer services in the jail, encouraging them not to despair. She counseled them, helping them take responsibility for their lives.

In 1989 she moved to Baraboo, Wisconsin, where she worked in the Food Bank. Until the end of 1991 she served in Medical Records at St. Clare's Hospital in Baraboo. She retired in 1993, remaining in Baraboo until returning to the motherhouse in St. Louis in 1998, where she continued to help others as she was able. She moved to The Sarah Community in May 2011.

In her younger days Sr. Marie Therese enjoyed running track. As a pioneer African American sister she handled many challenges with grace and forbearance. Throughout her life she found beautiful ways to bring healing to others.

Late Saturday evening, January 13, 2018, Sr. Marie Therese finished her race and joined her beloved in eternity.

Transitions

JULY 1, 2017- DECEMBER 31, 2017 Gifts Received

Gifts given in memory of:

*In memory of the Denny and Jenny Bell family
and their son, Kenny Bell
Dee Ann and Tim Bell*

*In memory of Nora Therese Buckley, FSM
Janet C. Huenke*

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

*In memory of M. Antona Ebo, FSM
Mary Ruth Kettenbach*

*In memory of Louise Hirner, FSM
Our aunt
Chuck and Joyce Stone*

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

*In loving memory of Rose Maureen Mahoney, FSM
Frances A. McKnight*

*In memory of Jack Manthey,
nephew of Sr. Robert Marie Manthey
Donna S. Manthey*

*In memory of Robert Marie Manthey, FSM
Donna S. Manthey*

*In memory of Mary Noreen McGowan, FSM
Janet C. Huenke*

*In memory of my dear friend,
Mary Joan Meyer, FSM
Anonymous*

*In memory of Mary Joan Meyer, FSM
Dan and Karen Baumgartner*

*In memory of Mary Joan Meyer, FSM
My dearest friend in the world
Russ and Joann Beerman*

*In memory of Mary Joan Meyer, FSM
Janet S. Boblenz*

*In honor and memory of Mary Joan Meyer, FSM
Mary J. Funke*

*In memory of Mary Joan Meyer, FSM
Janice Lang*

*In memory of Mary Joan Meyer, FSM
Dr. Maureen A. Murphy*

*In memory of Mary Joan Meyer, FSM
Sr. Eileen O'Keefe
Sr. Anne Marie
Sr. Mary Ann
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word*

*In memory of Mary Joan Meyer, FSM
Elaine O'Sullivan and the friends and neighbors
of Ms. Jane Helfers, Sr. Mary Joan's sister*

*In memory of Mary Joan Meyer, FSM
Fred Weckenmann*

*In memory of Mary Joan Meyer, FSM
My dear friend and classmate
Sr. Rose Marie Weckenmann*

*In memory of Evelyn Marie Peterman, FSM
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*In memory of Evelyn Marie Peterman, FSM
Eugene A. Peterman*



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You can call us with your prayer requests:
St. Louisans can reach us at
(314) 768-1748;
people outside the metropolitan area can
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Or mail us:

FSM Prayer Ministry
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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.