

Volume 25.2 Fall/Winter 2022

NEWS

A Publication of THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF PHILADELPHIA

Also in this issue:

- Franciscan Resources: Already in Our Hearts
- People & Places
- Foundation Annual Report

Religious Life *Still a Viable Option*

Commitment Statement

We recommit ourselves to “rebuilding the Church” by living the passion of the Gospel in the discerning spirit of our Franciscan charism and tradition.

We are willing to take the necessary risks to be a healing, compassionate presence in our violent world, especially with women, children, and those who have no voice.

We desire to reflect this commitment in our dialogue with the entire Church, in our own governing structures, and in our relationship with one another as sister.

Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, choose to live the Gospel in the prophetic spirit of Francis of Assisi and our Foundress Mother Francis Bachmann. With Jesus Christ as Brother, we live as sister with one another, with the entire human family, and with all creation. Calling ourselves and one another to continuous conversion of heart, we commit ourselves to a life of contemplation, poverty, and humility.

As vowed women of the Church, we respond with diverse gifts in a spirit of collaboration and of mutual service to the needs of others, especially the economically poor, the marginal, and the oppressed. Seeking to participate in the Spirit's action in the world, we direct our personal and corporate resources to the promotion of justice, peace, and reconciliation.

Filled with trust in the goodness of God, we move forward.

POINT OF VIEW

Your Heart Will Always Be Where Your Treasure Is

Matthew 6:21

The spirit of St. Francis of Assisi pleads with us to do what is ours to do. Although his mandate was almost 800 years ago, “the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth” (Laudato Si’) are getting louder and of critical urgency. Francis models for us compassion and gratitude toward all that God has created. How will we respond?

Our featured articles, “Religious Life Still a Viable Option” and “Franciscan Resources: Already in Our Hearts,” offer hope and inspiration. Nurturing relationships with God, self, and others is the common theme. Each story shares an awakening of what was hers to do and how the call continues to unfold through people and events.

Sister Kathleen Moffatt’s passion to find creative ways to disseminate the treasures of the Franciscan tradition is anchored in her desire to proclaim God’s extravagant love through the lens of the resources. The purpose of promoting the works is to encourage us to read, reflect, discern, and act so as to awaken our hearts. Then we will be grounded in our choice to respond to the pressing needs of this moment in time.

There is always more to discover in the plethora of materials that are easily accessible. The challenge? Choose one source that captures your interest! Read it! Live it! Thirst for more!

Sister Kathryn Ann Dutrow and Sister Anna Maria (Peaches) Dela Paz know the quest in slaking that thirst. The unique journey of each sister enfleshes the way life’s circumstances guided her to hear God’s invitation to religious life, inspired her to discern the specifics of a call within the call to choose the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, and motivate her to unite her heart with the Heart of God. As the relationship grows and deepens, she will know what is hers to do.

The path of each of these sisters—Kathleen, Ann, and Peaches—gives witness that it is possible to find meaning in life. It is within our grasp to live a life that embraces occasions of joy as well as the hardships, a life that is enveloped in the assurance that Love is a mutual relationship, a life incarnated to give of self, a life that has found her treasure.

May God Bless You Always and in All Ways!

Theresa Firenze, OSF



Sister Theresa Firenze, OSF
Congregational Minister



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The number of women entering religious life may be fewer; however, the spirit of entering into a life of service remains the same. For both Sister Maria Anna Dela Paz and Sister Kathryn Ann Dutrow, the call to religious life was clear and the result has been a life-giving vocation steeped in the love of God.

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For four decades, Sister Kathleen Moffatt has devoted herself to the creation, gathering, and sharing of resources explaining and spreading the Franciscan charism—a ministry only possible with the help of many.

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The purpose of *Good News* is to further the Gospel mission of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia by sharing the good news of the congregation with our friends, family, companions, and sisters. Through this publication, we hope to share the charism of our congregation and invite others to become involved in our mission.

Good News is published twice per year (spring/summer and fall/winter) by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. We welcome your feedback and comments; correspondence should be addressed to *Good News* at the address above.

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On the cover: Sister Kathryn Ann Dutrow processes into chapel, led by members of the congregational leadership team, on her way to profess final vows as a Sister of St. Francis. Entering the congregation will give Sister Ann a life with a community that is living the Gospel with the focus on a profound sense of who they are before God—a life she has been drawn to for much of her life.

After Sister Kathryn Ann Dutrow professed her final vows in Our Lady of Angels Chapel, the members of the congregation joined Father Cyprian Rosen, OFM, Cap., in raising their hands for the Solemn Blessing over their newest member. Having known the sisters for many years, Sister Ann was ready to enter into religious life in a community of prayerful Franciscan women, "living the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience, in loving relationship with God, one another, and all that God has created."

Religious Life

Still a



Viable Option

“IT FEELS LIKE I GET UP EVERY MORNING AND IT’S CHRISTMAS. EVERY DAY’S A GIFT, SOMETHING YOU DON’T EXPECT.”

When Sisters Kathryn Ann Dutrow and Maria Anna Dela Paz, OSF, professed their first vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience with the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia on August 10 in 2019, they were the first to do so in several years.

The number of women entering religious life may be fewer than what it once was; however, the spirit of entering into a life of service remains the same. While these two women traveled very different paths to reach this point, both are driven by something that will never change: a deep knowing that they are called by God. Religious life continues to be a meaningful and viable vocation, much as marriage and single life can be. In the case of each of these sisters, deep soul searching led to the realization that religious life is the vocation to which she was being called.

The Right Calling

As Sister Maria entered her adulthood, she discerned her call to Love. Like many of her peers, she had questions about her career and how to serve the world. Sister Maria graduated from Saint Peter’s University in Jersey City, New Jersey. This was where she discovered a personal relationship with God by attending retreats and immersion trips. After graduating she served for two years with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps teaching at Xavier High School in Chuuk, Micronesia. Sister Maria had serious relationships and realized that she was not called to marriage. Now, looking back, all of these experiences confirmed her call to religious life.

When asked about her nickname, “Peaches,” Sister Peaches laughs. Originally from the Philippines, she and her family migrated to

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▲ *Sister Maria Anna Dela Paz (Peaches) loves to spend time in quiet reflection while walking the grounds of Our Lady of Angels Convent. The pawpaw tree is one of her favorite spots as it reminds her a bit of the Philippines. It was quiet moments like this that helped her to hear God calling her to religious life.*

► *Sister Peaches and Sister Ann have been going through the formation and discernment process at the same time. As part of the formation program, novices engage in a variety of ministry, discernment, and learning experiences to help them decide if a life as a religious is the right path. Franciscan discernment begins with abundance, knowing grace and beauty are everywhere, and allows individuals the time and space to become aware of their own desires and attractions.*



“THINGS ARE
MOVING FORWARD,
CHANGING, AND
EVOLVING AND I
GET TO BE PART OF
WHAT IT WILL BE.”

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the U.S. when she was three. There is a Philippine tradition of naming the first-born daughter Maria, and as a result, many female family members are named Maria. To avoid confusion when she was a baby, her father nicknamed her “Peaches,” and the name stuck.

When reflecting on her vocation story, Sister Peaches recalls praying before the San Damiano Cross and asking for guidance. She very clearly heard God say, “Peaches, I am calling you.” So even while some have urged her to go by the more formal “Sister Maria,” she joyfully points out that God calls her Peaches, and that’s good enough for her!

At 34 years old, Sister Peaches is the youngest sister in the congregation. While this fact comes with a specific set of challenges—what will religious life look like by the time she’s in her 80s?—it also comes with a great deal of opportunity.

“Things are moving forward, changing, and evolving and I get to be part of what it will be,” she says. “There’s a lot of freedom and creativity in that.” This is an attitude that carries over into her current ministry at the University of San Diego, where she worked in student affairs before transitioning into her current role as associate university minister.

Additionally, Sister Peaches engages with a group called Giving Voice for sisters under age 50. This group has been an invaluable resource as she continues to go through the discernment process. Giving Voice is a peer-led group of young women religious from different congregations worldwide who are in different stages of formation. Giving Voice offers its members both formal and informal ways to connect with each other. Giving Voice provides a space where Peaches can ask questions about being a young religious in today’s world and dream about the future of religious life.

(Left) Sister Ann Dutrow joins Catholic High employees on retreat at First Fruits Farm harvesting potatoes. The day concluded with reflections on the theme of stewardship and what it truly means to be Franciscan. (Center) Sister Ann, director of mission, and the staff of Catholic High welcome the new leadership team of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, grateful for the sponsoring community. (Right) As novices, both Sister Ann (pictured) and Sister Peaches took part in a retreat on icon writing with Sister Christopher Marie Wagner. The art form of icon “writing” is a spiritual discipline and a form of prayer.



Sister Peaches has also spoken about the incredible support that she receives from her friends, who knew her before she entered religious life. “Just as I’ve supported my friends in their vocation (to marriage), my friends have fully supported me in my vocation,” says Sister Peaches. “They understand that I’ve made a commitment to poverty and simplicity.” Likewise, her family has been fully supportive of her decision. Sister Peaches tells about how the sisters won her parents over, helping them to feel confident about her choice.

A Journey Worth Taking

After going through several life transitions, including a long-distance move from New Jersey to the West Coast, Sister Peaches began her journey to becoming a sister when she met a sister in the congregation, Sister Carol Ann Warnke, who served as her spiritual director. When Peaches shared her interest in religious life, Sister Carol Ann invited her to an

upcoming “Come and See” weekend retreat to learn more about religious life and see if it might be a fit. It was an invitation Sister Peaches initially tried to decline. She had worried there would be pressure to sign up for religious life right away but was informed that wouldn’t be the case. The retreat was, genuinely, just a time to “come and see.” In fact, even after the initial choice to become a sister, the discernment process takes many years, beginning with a two-year novitiate prior to professing first vows. Since her first vows, Sister Peaches has annually made a commitment, known as temporary vows, as she continues to discern her path. “What helps in this discernment process is that I truly have the time and space to discern how God is calling me to this vocation and that I get to reflect and decide every year, ‘Am I called to this life?’”

This August, Sister Peaches renewed her yearly commitment for a fourth year.

A Lifelong Dream Realized

Traditionally, those who are in temporary vows with the Sisters of St. Francis need to be professed for a minimum of five years before professing final vows. This rule was changed at last year’s congregational chapter, and the term was shortened to a period of three-to-five years of temporary profession.

For Sister Ann Dutrow, this change was music to her ears. At age 75, from her ongoing discernment and long involvement with the Sisters of St. Francis, Sister Ann feels ready to take her place as a sister and fully enter into what has been a lifelong calling.

Sister Ann’s journey began back in the 1960s, when she initially entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame. However, she felt it was a “right church, wrong pew” situation. While she knew becoming a sister was her calling, the congregation

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(Left) In her position as associate university minister at the University of San Diego, Sister Peaches focuses on supporting students through transition periods and collaborates with mentor programs, including facilitating student retreats. (Center) Sister Peaches reunited with her Jesuit Volunteer group in August 2016 when her friend Mike Tedone took first vows as a Jesuit priest. (Right) Sister Carol Ann Warnke (left) and Sister Theresa Lamkin (right), in attendance when Sister Peaches entered the candidacy in Tacoma, Washington, were instrumental in introducing Sister Peaches to the Sisters of St. Francis by inviting her to attend a “Come and See” retreat.

Sister Peaches renews her vows and her commitment to the Sisters of St. Francis for one more year. Sisters may take temporary vows for a number of years during their discernment process, before deciding to take final vows and make a lifelong commitment.



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didn't feel like the right fit. It was difficult, but she made the decision to leave the community before professing final vows.

Instead, she threw herself into her other love: teaching. At one point, she became certified to teach high school "just in case of an emergency," without expecting to actually use the certification. But then in 1984, she applied to The Catholic High School of Baltimore, a school sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. Her first encounter with Franciscans was at this school, where she immediately felt connected with the overall spirit of the place. During her interview with Catholic High, she heard herself saying, "Yes, I'd love to teach high school."

She chuckles now, remembering her own surprise at those words coming out of her mouth. She went on to teach there for a number of years, becoming more familiar with the Franciscan charism. "The Franciscan spirit is alive and well at TCHS," says Sister Ann, who is currently serving as the school's director of mission.

A few years after Sister Ann began teaching at Catholic High, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia started the Franciscan Companions program. In the words of the program's website, this group offers the opportunity for "lay persons to become more closely aligned with the prayer life and ministry of the congregation," exploring how best they can live out the sisters' mission in their own

lives. Sister Ann soon found that, along with teaching at Catholic High, being a companion provided the perfect experience to learn more about the charism and connect with sisters. Being a Franciscan was clearly the right fit.

Just as Sister Peaches didn't initially realize that religious life was a viable option, neither did Sister Ann, although in Sister Ann's case, it was simply because she believed she had waited too long. That all changed one day at Mass when Sister Ann heard a reading she'd heard many times before: "The gifts and call of God are irrevocable" (Romans 11:29). Although not the first time she heard it, that day, the passage deeply resonated and spoke to her. She found herself looking at the



The day was filled with joy, and perfectly timed so that so many could be in attendance, including sisters, companions, former members, staff, and members of both Sister Ann's and Sister Peaches' families. (Center) Sister Peaches rejoices with her parents; (Right) Sister Ann's family was able to be a part of her Mass.



Both sisters took vows during Gathering Day, held at Neumann University's Mirenda Center and led by composer and theologian Rev. Ricky Manalo, CSP. This event is an annual retreat day when the religious congregation, as well as companions, comes together to spend time rejoicing with one another in Franciscan charism and sisterhood. The day began with Sister Peaches' vow renewal and ended with a Mass, during which Sister Ann professed her final vows.

other attendees and wondering, "Did they really just hear that, too?!" It completely clicked: she was called to a religious life and nothing would change that fact.

She was initially told the cutoff age for entering religious life was 50, and being past that, she didn't think there was hope for her entering. In 2016, however, the then-leadership team took another look at this rule. While they did not officially raise the age, it was determined that applicants would now be considered on a case-by-case basis. Sister Ann had reason to hope.

She wrote a letter to the sisters to find out once and for all if religious life was a possibility for her. While she hoped for the best, she had no expectations. "I had already made up my mind that if it was a no, I'd be a community of one and just be the best person I could be, following the Franciscan charism as I understood it," Sister Ann recalls.

When Sister Kathryn Dougherty, OSF, asked to speak with her during a Thanksgiving craft fair, Sister Ann felt certain that it was just to let her down easy. Instead, she found out the sisters had decided, given her longtime association with the congregation, that it was a yes and she would be able to enter the community. She was stunned at how things had come together. It brought to mind another meaningful line, this time from Teilhard de Chardin: "Above all, trust in the slow work of God." Sister Ann professed her final vows this August.

A Life-Giving Vocation

In looking to the future, Sisters Peaches and Ann both echo the same sentiment: while in the next five to ten years, sisters' lives may change drastically, their calling and mission remain the same. Religious life will always continue.

Sister Peaches notes that being a sister also means showing others that you can be in religious life and "still be human too. I can demystify what a woman religious is. The more we talk about it, the more we can show how life giving this vocation can be."

Sister Ann was recently asked if it was sinking in yet, the fact that she was now officially part of the community. She

responded, "It feels like I get up every morning and it's Christmas. Every day's a gift, something you don't expect. To grasp the feeling of knowing how loved you are, that God gives you every day, is just amazing." She goes on to say that of course there are hard days, but the bottom line is that this life is wonderful.

Devoting oneself to religious life is challenging. It is, however, also a chance to continually realize new things about oneself, to grow, and to find more ways to use one's gifts to help others. In the end, that's how every vocation should feel. ■

For more information or comments on this article, contact goodnews@osfphila.org.

HOW YOU CAN HELP...

- **Use discernment in your own life.** Oftentimes, we are so quick to go from task to task that we don't take time to be still, allowing the voice of God to reach us. Take time for stillness, to better discern where and how you are being called.
- **Attend a discernment or "Come and See" retreat.** If you've ever felt that religious life might be a possibility for you, give yourself the opportunity to learn more by attending one of these events and getting your questions answered.
- **Get to know a sister.** Lay people may often feel sisters are shrouded in mystery, but as Sister Peaches says, "The more we talk about it, the more we can show how life giving this vocation can be." Talk to a sister about her experiences and discover how rich her life is.
- **Consider donating to a retirement fund for women religious.** These donations are tax deductible and help to make it possible for a woman to follow her calling and know she will still have security in the future. Donate using the enclosed envelope or by visiting our website, www.osfphila.org.



▲ Jubilarians from three combined years renew the vows they took many years ago.

Who are the 'Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia'?

Through this section we hope to share a glimpse of our congregation and the individuals who make real its mission.



Sister Thomasann Quinn accepts her award at the NCEA Award Celebration in New Orleans.

PENNSYLVANIA

Celebrating Jubilee – Three Years in the Making!

This year certainly gave cause to celebrate. It was the first time in three years that we were able to actively celebrate jubilee together in person and to give witness to the lives and service of the congregation's 2020, 2021, and 2022 jubilarians celebrating 70 and 50 years of religious profession. More than 150 members of the congregation and our companions gathered in Our Lady of Angels Chapel to celebrate our jubilarians. Collectively the 39 jubilarians represented an accumulated 2,450 years of service in multiple ministries, including education, healthcare, child care, social services, prayer ministry, parish ministry, diocesan ministry, congregational ministry, and elder care. During each of the main celebrations at OLA and Assisi House, the jubilarians renewed their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience—vows they had first professed many years ago and which they continue to live out daily.



LOUISIANA

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) President's Awards honor individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions to Catholic education. Recipients of the 2022 President's Awards were honored at the annual NCEA Convention held in New Orleans in April.

Our sister **Sister Thomasann Quinn** was one of the award recipients and traveled to New Orleans to receive the "Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Award." Sister Thomasann is one of only 13 recipients of this award in 2022 from among the more than 150,000 educators and organizations serving Catholic schools across the United States. Sister Thomasann has ministered in education for 67 years, most of these as a classroom teacher or school principal. For the past 37 years, she has ministered at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Elementary School in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, where she is currently the school's prayer and liturgy coordinator.



PENNSYLVANIA

Since 1996, our congregation has conducted yearly health assessments for all sisters on mission who are in their 80th year and every two years thereafter. At a recent Wellness Committee meeting attended by our pastoral staff and two Neumann University professors, Dr. Karen Wientjes and Dr. Judith Neubauer, it became clear that a mutual need exists. We have the need to assess the increasing number of our sisters who are 80 or older. And, as part of their program of study, Neumann's advanced nurse-practitioner candidates and physical-therapy doctoral candidates are expected to conduct assessment interviews with patients. And so in a collaborative effort that began in March 2022, our

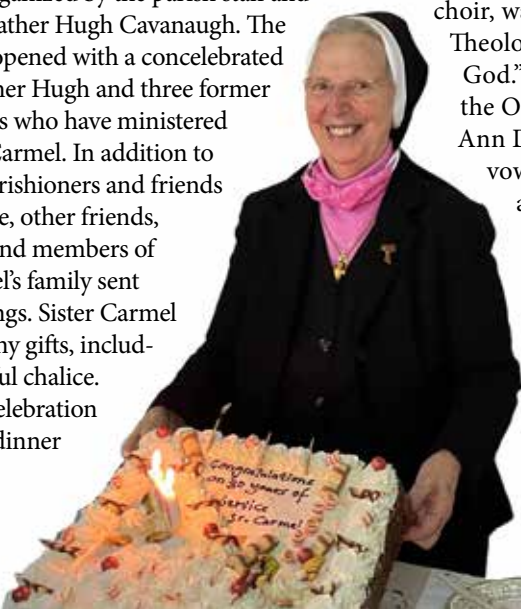
sisters' health assessments are being done by Neumann nurse-practitioner candidates and physical-therapy doctoral candidates. The pastoral services staff and the Neumann professors see this as a mutually beneficial initiative. The sisters are now benefiting from the healthcare knowledge and clinical expertise of the Neumann student clinicians.



Sister Cass Feuerstein, a former nursing professor at Neumann University, gets her assessment by Morgan, a physical-therapy doctoral candidate, and Michael, a graduate student in nursing.

IRELAND

On February 27, 2022, **Sister Carmel Earls**, who resides in our Franciscan House in Lucan, Ireland, but ministers in Neilstown Parish, was honored for 30 years of outstanding service to the parish and to the people of Neilstown. The surprise event was organized by the parish staff and the pastor, Father Hugh Cavanaugh. The celebration opened with a concelebrated Mass by Father Hugh and three former parish priests who have ministered with Sister Carmel. In addition to the many parishioners and friends in attendance, other friends, colleagues, and members of Sister Carmel's family sent video greetings. Sister Carmel received many gifts, including a beautiful chalice. The day of celebration ended with dinner at a nearby restaurant.



◀ *Sister Carmel Earls with her cake.*



◀ *Composer and theologian Rev. Ricky Manalo was the presenter at our 2022 Gathering Day.*

PENNSYLVANIA

On Saturday, August 6, sisters, companions, former members, and staff took part in the congregation's annual **Gathering Day**. Between 125 and 150 participants gathered in person in Aston, while between 80 and 150 more joined via livestream. The day began in the Mirenda Center of Neumann University with Sister Maria Anna (Peaches) Dela Paz's vow renewal, when she dedicated herself for another year to the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience according to the Rule and Life of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis and the Constitutions of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. Composer and theologian Rev. Ricky Manalo, CSP, was the presenter for the day. The morning session was titled "The Many Faces of Christ: Interculturality in Our Church Today." Father Ricky shared his own knowledge and experiences of interculturality. The afternoon session, which included a prayerful sing-along supported by members of our OLA

choir, was titled "Tune, Text, and Theology: Singing Our Praises to God." During the 4 P.M. Mass in the OLA Chapel, Sister Kathryn Ann Dutrow professed her final vows, taking the same vows as Peaches but binding herself in fidelity and love, closer to Christ and to the church for all the days of her life.



Sister Anthony Eileen Turns 102!

Sister Anthony Eileen Reidy reached the fabulous age of 102 on Monday, July 25, 2022. She is the oldest member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia congregation. Her birthday was celebrated simply at Assisi House with balloons and a cake.



A Simple Prayer: Already in Our Hearts is just one of the priceless resources that Sister Kathleen has helped to create. This 37-page reflection booklet breaks down "The Prayer of St. Francis" for a wide audience, offering faith-sharing materials on each line of the prayer.

Sister Kathleen Moffatt's mission began 40 years ago, with the approval of the Third Order Regular (TOR) Rule. Since then, she has worked tirelessly with countless sisters, brothers, priests, and lay people to create a treasure house of materials on the Franciscan charism.



Franciscan Resources

Already in Our Hearts



At the International Franciscan Assembly in Rome in 1982, Sister Rose Cecilia Case, OSF, then superior general, was one of 199 worldwide leaders to vote on the new TOR Rule.

“OURS IS A REALLY RICH THEOLOGICAL TRADITION THAT’S BEEN ABLE TO EMERGE MORE AND MORE AS WE’VE LEARNED ABOUT OUR ROOTS.”

“We discovered our real theological tradition,” Sister Kathleen says of that time. “When people thought of Franciscans, they thought, oh, you love the birds and the sky, but there’s so much more. Ours is a really rich theological tradition that’s been able to emerge more and more as we’ve learned about our roots.”

During the 1980s, there also began a good deal of excitement about the concept of Evangelical Life—emphasizing the quality of relationship as essential in living the Gospel through action. This shift in focus became a core component of the resources and programs the sisters would go on to create, including an Evangelical Life course that Sister Kathleen taught in Canterbury, England, from 2003 to 2010. The Franciscans in attendance represented as many as 15 nations on one occasion.

Part of the value of Sister Kathleen’s ministry is that it has made otherwise difficult-to-understand texts and

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December 8, 2022, will mark the 40th anniversary of the approval of the Third Order Regular (TOR) Rule. When the TOR Rule was approved in 1982, it sparked an exciting time in Franciscan life. For the first time in 800 years, the Franciscan congregations now had a rule for best living life that was written by its own members and framed by the words of Saints Francis and Clare. Members of this rule “set forth to follow Jesus Christ” by living in communion with God and one another; observing obedience, poverty, and chastity; and giving themselves to innumerable expressions of the Gospel and Jesus in the Franciscan spirit.

In addition to its historic significance, the TOR Rule prompted Franciscans around the world toward a greater rediscovery of their roots. In the words of Sister Arlene McDonough, OSF, “We discovered our birthright.” There was a demand for greater insight into the Franciscan heritage and resources to help further sisters’ and brothers’ understanding of their Gospel call. Thus, the ministry of Sister Kathleen Moffatt, OSF, began. The story of the 40-year journey of the TOR Rule has also

been the story of her endeavor; for four decades, she has devoted herself to the creation, gathering, and sharing of resources explaining and spreading the Franciscan charism. She has also coordinated a massive effort among sisters, Franciscan brothers and priests, and lay people to assist with this ambitious undertaking.

A Compelling Ministry

Theologian and writer Eric Doyle, OFM, speaking in 1982 when the TOR Rule was first approved, expressed the central conviction Sister Kathleen carries with her in her ministry: “We should immerse ourselves in our theological tradition, and enter into fresh dialogue with it, until it becomes part of the air we breathe and forms the structure of our Vision of God, humanity, and the world.”

► Sister Kathleen gathers with some of her students in Canterbury, England, where she taught a course on Evangelical Life from 2003 to 2010. The Franciscans in attendance represented as many as 15 nations on one occasion. The program was such a success that this past spring, Sister Kathleen received a message from someone in Kent, England, looking to possibly run the class again.



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philosophies widely accessible, providing a way for the information tangibly to benefit humankind. Sister Kathleen's commitment to coordinating this effort has been so very important because the result of this work has been an abundance of materials on the Franciscan tradition that are both accessible and life giving. As Father Anthony Carrozzo, OFM, said of Sister Kathleen at an event at St. Bonaventure University during the early years of the project, "The present vitality of American Franciscan life is due in no small measure to her compelling presence."

In this ministry, Sister Kathleen says, "So many sisters have been integral in each phase of every initiative. They always made it better . . . they have been the wind beneath my wings. Indeed, over the years, scores of sisters, as well as friars and lay people, have gotten involved with this endeavor, synthesizing texts into easy-to-digest synopses and creating and offering retreats and courses, DVDs, prayer booklets, manuals, and more.

"Sister Kathleen's uncanny ability to enlist others in Franciscan causes led not a few of us to fear her telephone calls, for they meant more preparation and involvement in all things Franciscan," quipped Father Anthony.

Sister Kathleen jokes, "Yes, they learned to be wary of my phone calls," but in reality, no one has ever declined to help her in this work. On the contrary, those taking part have shared that the experience of assisting Sister Kathleen feels like doing something good for the spirit—working in the Franciscan tradition. Sister Kathleen's talent has included tapping into the talents of others and "celebrating their yes."

A Storehouse of Treasures

The massive amount of material that has been cultivated over the past four decades has allowed a deeper understanding of Franciscan theology and a renewed and global interest in the Franciscan tradition. Anyone stopping by Sister Kathleen's resource room would come face to face with items ready to be shipped all over the English-speaking world to spread the Franciscan charism. Special boxes that Sister Kathleen ships out may include items such as *The Gift Given Project*, a folder with resources on Franciscan themes; DVDs and scripts on *The Franciscan Moral Vision*; and materials from a special retreat given by Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ, on *Reading the Gospel through the Lens of Scotus*. Yet these are only a small sample.

A Simple Prayer: Already in Our Hearts, a 37-page reflection booklet created by Sister Kathleen, breaks down "The Prayer of Saint Francis" for a wide audience, offering faith-sharing materials on each line of the prayer. Similarly, other mainstays of Sister Kathleen's office include the *Tau Series* and the *Custodians of the Tradition Series*. Both series feature pamphlets that are 4-6 pages in length and give a clear overview of the sometimes complicated Franciscan materials. Many of these overviews have been written by Sisters of St. Francis. The following quotation from *The Prophetic Heart*, by Joseph P. Chinnici, OFM, appears at the top of each issue of the *Tau Series* and summarizes its goal: "Bringing out of our storehouse the flesh and blood of our tradition in such a way as to feed future generations."

In addition to this wealth of materials, for the past 22 years, Sister Lisa Zmuda, FSPA, has recorded and edited many videos for the Commission on the Franciscan Intellectual-Spiritual Tradition website (www.franciscantradition.org). These videos cover a wide range of information, from the history of the Franciscan tradition to information on current ministries.

While all these resources are treasured, for Sister Kathleen, the one that stands out has been the creation and presentation of the program *God's Extravagant Love: Reclaiming the Franciscan Theological Tradition*.



(Inset) Members of the God's Extravagant Love (GEL) program creation team gathered for a photo in 2007. (Above) Some of the members of the GEL team gather to reflect on the success of the three-day retreat experience offering and continue to work with Sister Kathleen on various other projects.



Sisters Diane Tomkinson and Julie McCole, members of the original GEL program team, meet with Sister Kathleen to discuss what is next in her ministry. Sister Kathleen has long said that her ministry is only possible because of the willingness and the work of many.

HOW YOU CAN HELP...

- **Enrich your life through the Franciscan resources.** Given the wealth of information that has now been amassed over 40 years, you can delve into Franciscan history, values, and issues, reaching a deeper connection with (and understanding of) the Franciscan charism. Visit our website, www.osfphila.org/spiritualityprayer.
- **Spread the word.** The best way to honor the sisters is to develop an understanding of their theological tradition so that you may pass the information along to others.
- **Assist in the creation of resources.** Whether you're a religious or a lay person, you can get involved in Sister Kathleen's endeavor by volunteering to create a resource yourself. Ask where there might be a need for a particular resource, or choose a topic within Franciscan life that interests you.
- **Do what is yours to do.** Just as the sisters seek ongoing understanding of what is "theirs to do," seek this in your own life, and honor it by taking action to fulfill your own mission.

It took 17 sisters in Aston and four members of the Neumann-Bachmann family over a year of study to put together this three-day retreat experience and accompanying book affording participants a deep dive into Franciscan history and values. This program has now been completed by over 4,000 people on four continents.

What Is Yours to Do

An important aspect of Franciscan knowledge being available in these newer forms is its impact on Franciscans' ability to respond to what is emerging. According to Sister Kathleen, renowned Franciscan scholar Zachary Hayes, OFM, challenged us best by reminding us that we are responsible stewards of a treasure that has much to offer for the healing of humanity and of the world at large. These resources help to focus attention on how Franciscan teachings can be applied in our current world. "I believe the greatest work

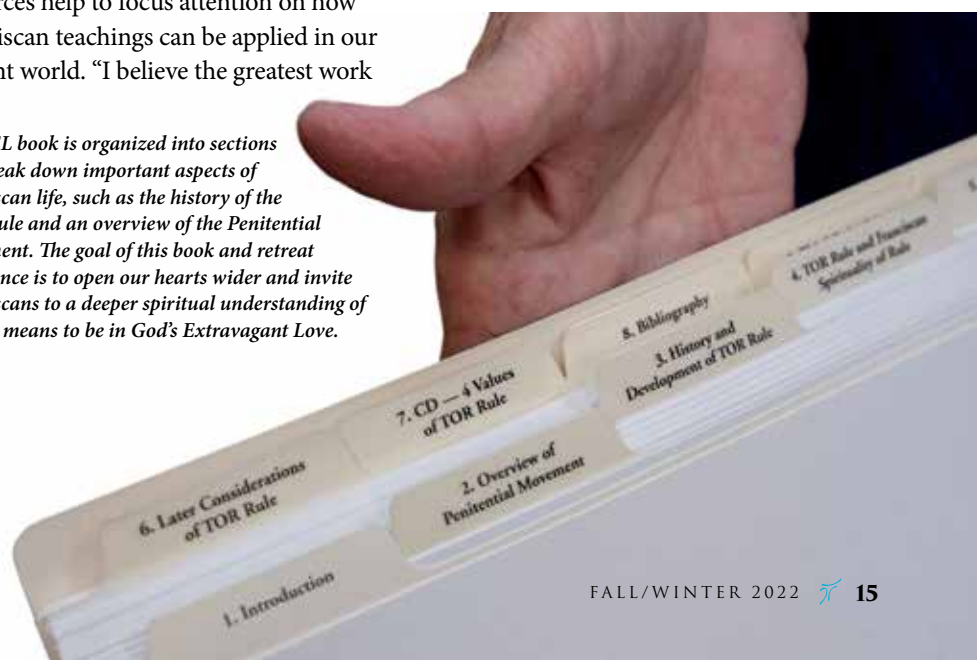
The GEL book is organized into sections that break down important aspects of Franciscan life, such as the history of the TOR Rule and an overview of the Penitential Movement. The goal of this book and retreat experience is to open our hearts wider and invite Franciscans to a deeper spiritual understanding of what it means to be in God's Extravagant Love.

of Francis and Clare is ahead of us," says Sister Kathleen.

Looking back over creating the resources, she also notes that they are "really all about relationship. No matter the program, project, course, seminar, forum, commission, or conference—if we were not learning, laughing, delighting in new discoveries together, and enthusiastic about the whole Franciscan legacy for the sake of others and the needs of our time . . . we could never have had the joy of celebrating (no matter how tedious, demanding, even scary the task) what is already in our hearts."

Anyone with an interest in learning more about the Franciscan charism might come across information within these materials on the death of Saint Francis—specifically a mention of how, "As the hour of Saint Francis' death approached, he gave his blessing to all by saying, 'I have done what was mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours to do.'" The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, along with their passion for uncovering the roots of their Franciscan heritage, seek ongoing understanding of what Christ is showing them to be "theirs to do." The priceless resources that have been cultivated over these past 40 years will continue to guide Franciscans in fully living their charism well into the future. To access many of these resources, visit our website at www.osfphila.org/spiritualityprayer. ■

For more information or comments on this article, contact goodnews@osfphila.org.





Tom McCaney and Sister Nora Nash both feel they have a moral responsibility to commit themselves to actions that will lead to a more sustainable future for our planet and its most vulnerable communities.

Changing

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia Office of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is helping to change the world. CSR benefits everyone touched by corporate policies and actions. Like all shareholders, the Sisters of St. Francis have a voice in the decisions made by the corporations in which they hold shares. The congregation sees this voice as a responsibility to engage

in community development and impact investing and to influence multiple facets of corporate behavior.

Since being featured in *Good News* in 1998 and 2006, Corporate Social Responsibility's notable contributions have continued under its director Sister Nora Nash, associate director Thomas McCaney, and administrative assistant Sister Albertus Dougherty. As all three recognize, theirs is a "wonderful ministry" offering the opportunity to bring about "small but vital and accumulating changes." The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia are "shareholders calling the world's most powerful companies to address their impacts on the world's most vulnerable communities."

By attending annual general meetings, along with other important issues, we seek to ensure that our portfolio companies fulfill their responsibility to respect human rights in all contexts.



Sister Nora speaks during the May 2016 Moms Clean Air Force press conference. The group works actively in Pennsylvania to address climate change issues that disproportionately harm communities of color.



In 2013, shareholder advocacy initiatives with companies took on an added dimension—with companies requesting meetings at our motherhouse. Sister Nora welcomes Dollar Tree executives and is happy to share our Franciscan spirit with them.

CSR's vision stresses human rights—the rights of workers, customers, shareholders, and the entire community—and the many related concerns, such as the environment and gun violence. Sister Nora has through the years spoken about human rights with scores of corporations. Within the past year, human-rights resolutions have been filed with such companies as Amazon, Chevron, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Sturm Ruger, Smith & Wesson, and Microsoft. Through their community development loan portfolio in support of partnerships, small businesses, clean energy, and affordable housing, CSR has strengthened the economic fiber of numerous communities, nearby and around the world. And in their impact investing, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia include climate solutions.

Instead of working alone to improve corporations, CSR does so as a member of social-change coalitions, especially the 50-year-old Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), the world's largest

the World One Corporation at a Time

✧ BRINGING ABOUT
“SMALL BUT VITAL
AND ACCUMULATING
CHANGES.”



▲ Panelists at the PACRI Climate Change Summit in 2017 share information on the dangers of climate change.

▼ Sister Albertus Dougherty speaks to the abundance of projects throughout the world that were awarded grants during 40 years of the Social Justice Grant Fund, 1980-2020.



shareholder organization. In ICCR, the Sisters of St. Francis collaborate with about 300 other members representing faith and values-based communities committed to bringing about societal change. Sister Nora explains, “As good as the Sisters of St. Francis’ reputation is from our 43 years of working with corporations, it would be difficult to address by ourselves the issues we confront. The reputation of the Sisters of St. Francis contributes to the strength of the coalition.”

Within coalition working groups, an individual takes the lead for each company. In the ICCR banking group, for instance, Sister Nora has taken the lead with Wells Fargo. CSR and coalition partners have helped Wells Fargo customers secure loan modifications, prevented them from losing their homes, and helped them win court cases. Banks overall are of particular CSR concern, with problem areas extending to CEO

pay, predatory lending, lobbying, political spending, greenwashing, and the rights of everyone affected by bank decisions.

Among the coalitions with which CSR works closely is the Investor Environmental Health Network (IEHN), which has substantial initiatives of its own and also collaborates with ICCR and non-governmental organizations. IEHN strives to keep harmful chemicals out of products sold to consumers. Numerous other CSR and coalition initiatives focus on the food industry and areas ranging from worker rights to sustainable farming. The food-related concerns are highly connected and include, for example, water problems, climate change, and deforestation.

For the future, Corporate Social Responsibility’s collaboration with ICCR and IEHN will continue, as will further

progress in the Sisters of St. Francis’ own advocacy priorities: worker rights, the climate crisis, tobacco, the military, oil and gas fracking, and gun violence. While Sisters Nora Nash and Albertus Dougherty are retiring from their full-time CSR involvement, they remain dedicated to implementing its goals. The office will continue its vital work under the highly capable direction of Tom McCaney.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia and their Office of Corporate Social Responsibility are committed to making the moral and business case for corporate responsibility. Inspiring this commitment are the congregation’s charism, mission statement, and corporate stands; the environmental, social, and governance risks; and the expectation for every corporation to accept accountability. ■

For more information or comments on this article, contact goodnews@osfphila.org.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Everyone has within a piece of good news.

— Anne Frank (adapted)

See more good news at www.osfphila.org

▼ The children of Nyumbani Village in Africa “jump for joy” because of the generosity of our donors, which helps Sister Julia Mulvihill in her ministry there.



*With hearts filled with gratitude,
The Sisters of St. Francis*

*Thank
You!*

2021 Annual Report

In preparing this report, we are in awe of your generosity and care for our brothers and sisters and all of creation. Our sisters and all those we serve thank God for you each day! This report reflects the enormous good done through you and your funding.

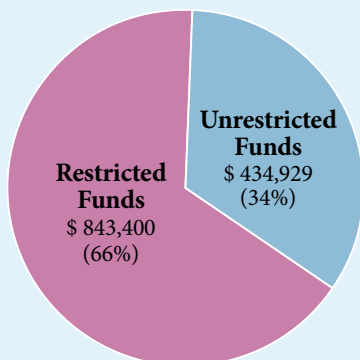
Many blessings, Sister Deborah Krist, OSF, Director of Mission Advancement

FISCAL YEAR 2021

Total Donations: \$ 1,278,329

Unrestricted Funds: \$ 434,929 (34%)

Restricted Funds: \$ 843,400 (66%)



Sources of Donations: Website/Social Media Donations, Direct Mail Appeals, Good News, E-news, Memorial Gifts, Memorial Cards, Grants, Recurring Gifts, Estates, Inheritances, and Golf Tournament.

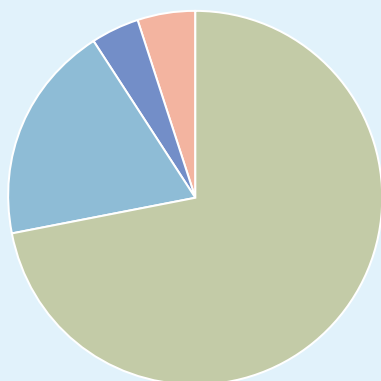


▲ Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Assisi House was able to make much-needed renovations and supply our sisters with new medical beds and lift chairs, in addition to providing them with the added enjoyment of an aquarium and music therapy.

The Sisters of St. Francis assume operational costs of the foundation.

Distribution of Unrestricted Funds: \$ 288,000 *

Distribution includes funds received in FY 2020 (\$434,929 received in FY 2021).



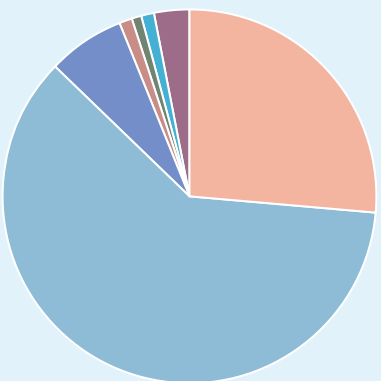
- Capital \$ 208,000 (72%)
- Shelter & Social Ministries \$ 55,000 (19%)
- Ministries Outside the U.S. \$ 10,000 (4%)
- Sisters' U.S. Ministries \$ 15,000 (5%)

Unrestricted funds were designated by the congregational leadership to support the elder care of our retired sisters and to assist in various ministries—for example, helping to improve lives through social ministries such as Anna's Place, Ministry of Caring, Franciscan Action Network, and African ministries. Funds were also allocated to renovations at the sisters' retirement convent home, Assisi House.



◀ *Red Hill Farm provides a sense of community and great organic produce to members in the Aston area. Your donations have helped us build an additional hoop house to extend our growing season.*

Distribution of Restricted Funds: \$ 409,980



- Shelter & Social Ministries \$ 111,634 (27%)
- Assisi House Capital \$ 254,080 (62%)
- Parish & Spiritual Ministries \$ 27,971 (7%)
- Covid-19 Safety \$ 500 (<1%)
- Education \$ 385 (<1%)
- Ministries Outside the U.S. \$ 5,160 (1%)
- Sisters' Needs \$ 10,250 (3%)

DISTRIBUTION OF RESTRICTED CATEGORIES

Ministries outside the U.S.: Africa, Haiti; Assisi House Capital: kitchen equipment renovations, medical beds, lift chairs, aquarium, music therapy; Education: Drexel Neumann Academy, The Catholic High School of Baltimore; Parish & Spiritual Ministries: Franciscan Spiritual Centers, OLA Chapel collections; Memorial Garden: trees and benches; Shelter & Social Ministries: Anna's Place, Chester Community Coalition, Red Hill Farm, Philadelphia Catholic Services, discretionary fund for the poor; Sisters' Needs: St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, in honor of Sister Marie Monica Borden.



In Memoriam

Sister Dolores Donovan
(formerly Sister Redempta)
August 5, 2022

Sister Barbara Ann Beck
(formerly Sister Francis Charles)
August 1, 2022

Sister Nadine Rose Bennett
(formerly Sister Agnes St. Rose)
July 21, 2022

Sister Joan Ann Koliss
July 12, 2022

Sister Anna Louise Aherne
(formerly Sister William Anne)
June 14, 2022

Sister Jean Clare Rohe
May 16, 2022

Sister Francis Paul Torre
May 3, 2022

Sister Kathleen Mary Winkelman
April 18, 2022

Sister Carmel Grice
(formerly Sister Marie Perpetua)
April 6, 2022

Therefore, every dollar that our donors give is used solely for the ministries and elder care.

Focus

► Marc Stachowicz is devoted to his work as a full-time driver for the Sisters of St. Francis living in Assisi House.



MARCUS STACHOWICZ

"MARC IS THE ESSENCE OF KINDNESS, HELPFULNESS, AND EFFICIENCY. NOTHING IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR MARC."

— SISTER MIRIAM EILEEN MURRAY

Marcus—Marc—Stachowicz is a devoted friend to the Sisters of St. Francis. A driver for Keystone Quality Transport, Marc is assigned full time to Assisi House: "I'm there to take the sisters to their medical appointments, getting them to and from where they need to go on time and safely," he explains. Marc—who has been with Keystone for about 12 years and has been Assisi House's driver since early 2020—calls his work "a natural fit": "I'm very familiar with the sisters. I went to St. Clement's School, in Southwest Philadelphia, and the sisters played a big role in my life." Marc is grateful to his St. Clement's teachers—Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary—for their caring, encouragement, and guidance.

After Marc and his sister, brother, and parents—Mark and Kathy—moved to Delaware County, Marc attended Interboro High School, Class of 2007. Considering a career in teaching, his mother's field, he attended Delaware County Community College while also working with his father, who owned an auto-mechanic business and has strongly influenced Marc. He notes, "I always was either working with my dad or installing flooring and things like that. My dad is the hardest-working man I've ever seen, and like my mother, he's all about family." For Marc, too—while he loves sports and plays in a hockey league—his greatest joy in life is his family. Marc and his wife, Harley—a medical assistant—have three children: two-year-old Natalie, nine-year-old Marcus, and 12-year-old Makayla.

Marc does not regret moving from a possible teaching career to his current work. "When I heard about the Assisi House position," he relates, "I was excited to have a chance to give back to the sisters. All the sisters and staff have been so nice. I enjoy talking to everyone, hearing their stories, taking advice from them—I'm always open for advice. They're a pleasure to be with." Above all, Marc likes "the feeling that I'm doing something for others that makes life easier for them. When they're happy, I'm happy." The sisters and employees of Assisi House are truly happy and grateful that Marc Stachowicz is a part of their lives.



▲ Marc assists Sister Elizabeth Fitzpatrick into the van.

"IF YOU WATCH MARC, YOU CAN TELL THAT HE LOVES WHAT HE IS DOING. HIS ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS. HE IS PLEASANT, CORDIAL, AND EVER READY TO MAKE EACH SISTER COMFORTABLE."

— SISTER MARY VANDERGEEST



▲ Marc's greatest joy is his family: (clockwise from top left) Natalie, Harley, Marc, Makayla, Marcus.

Franciscan Federation 2022

Twenty-one of our sisters and companions attended the 57th Annual Franciscan Federation Conference, which was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 3-6, 2022, with the theme *Hearts on Fire: Journeying Together*. The conference planners worked to assure an inclusive and participative gathering. Pittsburgh, the location for the Federation's 1965 founding, was a fitting setting for the 2022 conference, whose participants reflected the full range of our Third Order roots: St. Francis' vision of women and men, married and single, rich and poor, young and old, lay and religious, all coming together.

This year's keynote speakers were Ilia Delio, OSF, and Brian McLaren, who urged using the Franciscan charism as a framework for meeting the challenges of our time. Among the sessions was a panel on young-adult leadership. The 2022 conference also highlighted Franciscan congregations' involvement in the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform goals Hearing the Cry of the Earth and Hearing the Cry of the Poor, especially outreach to our migrant and refugee sisters and brothers. The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia submitted several photographs of our congregation's work in support of these two vital goal areas.



Sisters and companions gathered in Pittsburgh for the Annual Federation Conference. Far left is Sister Ilia Delio, OSF—one of the keynote speakers.

Speaking Out against Gun Violence

On May 27, 2022, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia released a statement calling for an end to gun violence. The statement appears on our congregation's website and in our e-news and social media. On May 31, several of our sisters participated in the Interfaith Council of Southern Delaware County's vigil to end gun violence. The vigil was held in front of the Media courthouse steps and brought a large turnout. Sister of St. Francis Jean Rupertus gave a moving speech at the vigil. A video of the event was posted on YouTube. Sister Jean's remarks begin at about the 15:00 minute mark. In addition to the Office of Corporate Social Responsibility's extensive work, our support for a society free from gun violence has included participating in National Gun Violence Awareness Day—June 3, 2022—when our sisters and staff joined people across the country in calling attention to the crisis by wearing orange.



Several sisters and staff members at Our Lady of Angels Convent in Aston wore orange on June 3 to raise awareness about gun violence.



Use your smartphone camera to scan this QR Code and watch Sister Jean Rupertus' moving speech at the vigil on YouTube (begins at the 15:00 mark).

CHI's New Mary Francis Bachmann School

On April 6, 2022, more than 100 people gathered at the former Dominican monastery on Lititz Pike in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to learn the name of a new CHI St. Joseph Children's Health initiative to transform the health of children and families in the Lancaster community. The celebration was attended by 11 of our sisters, including congregational leadership, who were all delighted when CHI announced that the new school is named the Mary Francis Bachmann School in honor of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia and their foundress, Mother Mary Francis Bachmann. Opening in the fall of 2023, the Mary Francis Bachmann School is the latest project of CHI St. Joseph Children's Health.

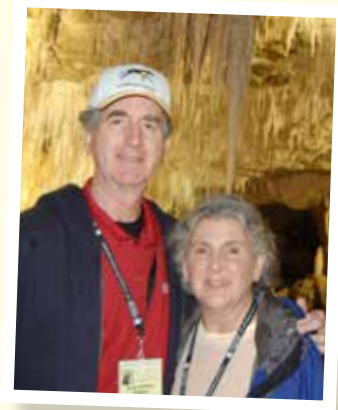
Once renovations have been completed, this innovative school will include grades 1 through 12 and build on CHI St. Joseph's work with young children at the St. John Neumann School for Children and Families in Columbia, Pennsylvania.



Signs at the unveiling event show the school brand and logo depicting Mother Francis Bachmann's name.

Donor Spotlight

► Denis and Patricia's travels have included visiting a New Zealand cave.



DENIS O'FLYNN O'BRIEN & PATRICIA SERTICH

▼ Denis holds the reins for Zak, who calmly models his blanket of roses.



"AS THEOLOGIAN HENRI NOUWEN WROTE, 'TOGETHER WE REVEAL THE FACE OF GOD TO THE WORLD.' THANK YOU, DENIS AND PATRICIA, FOR JOURNEYING WITH US OVER THE YEARS. GOD'S PRESENCE SURELY SHINES THROUGH YOU AND THE MANY LIVES YOU HAVE TOUCHED BY YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT IN BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM."

— SISTER DEBORAH KRIST, OSF

The husband and wife team of Denis O'Flynn O'Brien and Patricia Sertich generously share their talents with the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. Denis is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis Foundation Board. A retired architect, he spent most of his career in the Wilmington firm ABHA Architects. Patricia is a veterinarian and associate professor-clinician educator at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine; she works at the university's New Bolton Center Large Animal Hospital. Patricia and Denis have two children: Kate and Den.

Denis' experience with the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia began early—in his first-grade classroom at the St. Joseph on the Brandywine parish school, in Wilmington, Delaware, which was led by the Sisters of St. Francis until its closing in 1972. He renewed his acquaintance with the Franciscans in the early 1990s, when his architectural firm was selected to renovate the congregation's motherhouse, Our Lady of Angels. As he explains, this experience has led to a rewarding and long-lasting relationship with the sisters. The daunting and beautifully achieved restoration required redesigning the motherhouse both to accommodate the changing needs of the congregation and to stay within a strict budget. The work included bringing the buildings up to current code requirements, creating distinct community living areas, and installing new heating and air conditioning systems.

Speaking of his current involvement with the congregation, Denis shares, "I have enjoyed my term on the Franciscan foundation board and look forward to helping the sisters in the next phase of their mission." Both Denis and Patricia enjoy giving back by taking part in Sisters of St. Francis events such as the annual Franciscan Night, which this year had a Kentucky Derby theme. In honor of the Derby, Denis and Patricia brought their horse Zakopane—known as Zak—who added extra fun and realism to the evening. At Christmastime, Patricia and Denis and their family have a yearly tradition of attending Mass in the Our Lady of Angels Chapel.

Looking back at the conclusion of the motherhouse renovation project, Denis recalls an experience that to him epitomizes the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia: "A sister stopped to tell me that she loved her new room and thanked me for it. That was unexpected and most appreciated. The Sisters of St. Francis take the time to show genuine care and respect for all people."

► Denis and Patricia and their family enjoy Central Park in New York City.



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Name _____ E-Mail Address _____

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Select areas of interest to receive information about the congregation.

- ☐ Companion Program ☐ Franciscan Spiritual Centers (select one): ☐ Aston, PA ☐ Marylhurst, OR ☐ Young Franciscans
- ☐ Community Supported Agriculture: ☐ Sisters of St. Francis Foundation ☐ Vocations ☐ Young Adult Engagement
- Red Hill Farm, Aston, PA



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Gathering Day and Renewal of Vows
On Saturday, August 8, sisters, companions, former members, and staff took part in the congregation's annual Gathering Day. The day began at 10 A.M. at the Memorial Center of Resurrection University with St. Martin of Tours (Philadelphia) Catholic Church's annual Mass. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. John J. O'Connell, pastor of the church, and Fr. Thomas J. O'Connell, pastor of the church. The Mass was followed by a luncheon at the church. The day ended with a prayer service at the church. The day was a time of reflection and renewal for all who participated.

Join us!



Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia



SrsOfStFrancis



sistersofstfrancis

Link directly to our pages from our website home-page: www.osfphila.org

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS FOUNDATION

Jesus is Born
in each of us... so that we
may share
our gifts!



As 2022 comes to an end, you are, no doubt, reflecting on the best way of making financial and tax plans. Are you seriously considering philanthropic gifting? Most gifts to the Sisters of St. Francis at year end are gifts of checks or cash. Donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

I would like to support:

- ☐ The sisters' elder care ☐ Assisi House capital needs
- ☐ Greatest need ☐ Education efforts
- ☐ Red Hill Farm ☐ Other ministries

NAME _____

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Please mail your donations to: Sisters of St. Francis Foundation, 609 S. Convent Road, Aston, PA 19014.
You can also make your donations online by visiting our website: www.osfphila.org/donate-now/.
For more information contact: Sister Deborah Krist, (610) 558-7713, OSFF@osfphila.org.

Please tear out this page and mail completed to: GOOD NEWS, Communications Office, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, 609 S. Convent Road, Aston, PA 19014-1207 ■ Visit us online at www.osfphila.org or call us at (610) 558-7726



Visit our website at www.osfphila.org

Franciscan Spiritual Center Programming Is Back!



The Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston is proud to announce the resumption of programs. Our hearts are eager to reconnect with you and to share our lives with you again. It has been a long time. Our last live program was March 2020, and our last virtual program was April 2021. Since we are no longer offering overnight accommodations, our selections are limited to day, morning, or evening programs, but we are confident that the sharing of our lives and the desire to deepen our spirituality will be as full and spirited as ever. Please check our website for a full list of events: www.fscaston.org.

The 5th Annual Franciscan Night Cheers on the Kentucky Derby

On May 7, 2022, the Sisters of St. Francis held their 5th annual Franciscan Night—this time with a Kentucky Derby theme. Sister Deborah Krist, director of mission advancement, had the idea to have a live horse present at the event and asked Sister Angela Sutura to help by making a rose blanket to display on the horse. The blanket, which measured 9 ft. by 2 ft., was covered in 400 roses, each of which Sister Angela had painstakingly glued to the three-layer blanket that had been cut to shape and hand sewn together. It took Sister Angela approximately 14 hours to complete the blanket, which was trimmed with greenery and tassels to finish the look. The horse, Zakopane (Zak), owned by foundation board member Denis O'Flynn O'Brien and Patricia Sertich, was a good sport and looked beautiful covered with Sister Angela's blanket. The event raised nearly \$180,000 to help support the elder care for the Sisters of St. Francis.



▲ This December marks the 40th anniversary of the Third Order Regular Rule. In the chapel at Fonte Colombo, Sister Rose Cecilia Case, OSF, then superior general, had the privilege of laying the newly written constitution on the very same altar where Saint Francis laid his original constitution back in the 13th century. Learn more about the rule and the rediscovery of the Franciscan spirit and tradition that it sparked: see page 12.