



FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF CHICAGO

125 YEARS OF LOVING, JOYFUL MINISTRY

DECEMBER 8, 1894— DECEMBER 8, 2019

PART THREE — THE THIRD TWO DECADES, 1935 to 1954

The third two decades of the history of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago covers the years of 1935 to 1954. At the beginning of this time period in the United States, the Social Security Act was passed which created a basic right to a pension in old age, and insurance against unemployment. Finally there was a measure of public help for the poor.

This measure, however, did not assist the millions who experienced the Dust Bowl, a drought which occurred in three waves until 1940, damaging the ecology and agriculture of the Great Plains. The price of food skyrocketed.

At the heart of this time period was an even more devastating disaster, World War II. It began with the take-over of Mother Theresa Dudzik's native country, Poland, by the Nazi army. The war ended with a strategy that continues to haunt the world with its potential for total devastation — the dropping of the atomic bomb.

During this total time period the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago experienced a dramatic expansion of their ministries. For the first time since its foundation, additional eldercare facilities were established across the Midwest, in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio.

Responding to the personal request of Fr. Flanagan, our Sisters began their long history of social service at Boys Town, Nebraska. In 1944 he wrote the following to the Superior General:

I am very grateful for the fine service your Sisters render to the boys at Boys Town. It is heartening to see such a spirit of unselfishness in these days of selfishness and greed, and were it not for their cooperation and the splendid type of work they are doing, it would be impossible for me to carry on.

In South Dakota our Sisters took charge of three hospitals, together with a fourth one in Nebraska. In Chicago our Sisters staffed two high schools, one, a parish school, the other, our own school for girls.

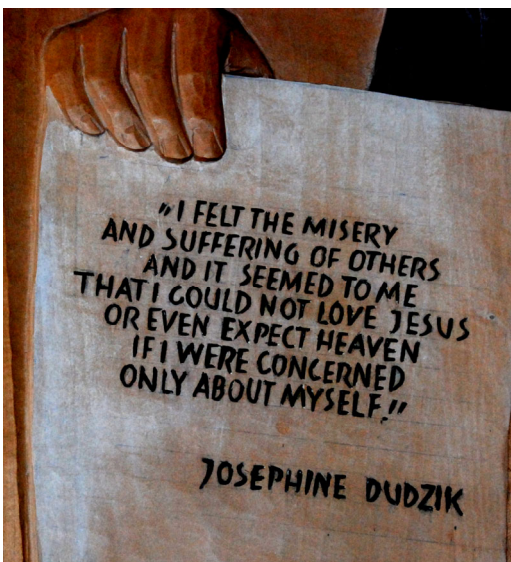


Madonna High School on the northwest side of Chicago was an all girls Catholic high school begun in 1949 by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago on the site of the former Ephpheta School for the Deaf.

With the growth of the ministries into areas requiring more knowledge and professional skills, the Sisters' education increased. Sisters attended colleges and universities, acquiring Bachelors and Masters degrees. The demands of the ministry prevented the luxury of being a full time student, so the Sisters were found in night classes and Saturday classes working toward their degrees. Thus the ministries during the third two decades expanded from eldercare, the care of orphans, and education in the elementary school setting, to nursing in an acute care setting, and education at the secondary school level.

By 1954, the Sisters had taken up ministries at their own St. Joseph Home for the Elderly and Crippled which also served as their Motherhouse, together with two day nurseries, Boys Town, four hospitals, five eldercare facilities, twenty-two schools, and two sites for domestic work.

As much as the ministries were expanding, vocations to the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago were not keeping pace. The bounty of vocations seen in the previous two decades evaporated.



By 1954, the end of the third two decades, the United States was in the midst of a time of high economic growth and general prosperity. By contrast, the following women answered the call of Jesus to a life of poverty and of service to the poor. Like Venerable Mother Theresa (Josephine) Dudzik before them, they became vowed Franciscan Sisters of Chicago for life:

1935

S.M. Alvernia Groszek
 S.M. Generose Siepak
 S. Eleanor Marie (M. Ignatia) Jadrych
 S. Helen Marie (M. Antonima) Mackowiak
 S.M. Christine Brzozowski
 S.M. Laetitia Kolczak
 S.M. Concordia Lawrence
 S.M. Dulcissima Kaczmarek

1936

S.M. Francesca Janowicz
 S.M. Edwinette Wisz

1937

S.M. Alacoque Czartoryski
 S.M. Clarissima Zielaskiewicz
 S.M. Antonissima Jamruk
 S. Dorothy Joan (Antonisia) Lagocki
 S.M. Kingnetta Szczypula
 S.M. Purissima Babinski
 S.M. Teresanna Bartuszewski
 S.M. Sebastiana Nowak
 S.M. Balbina Olszewski

1938

S.M. Albertine Schab
 S.M. Claudiana Jachimowicz
 S.M. Rosaline Lenart
 S.M. Crescentine Oszuscik
 S.M. Marifilia Strzycki

1939

S. Josephine Marie (M. Humiliata) Haske
 S.M. Colombiere Piotrowski
 S.M. Dorothea Micek
 S.M. Jeanette Golojuch
 S.M. Celeste Walkowski
 S.M. Veronica Blaskiewicz
 S. Frances (M. Heliodore) Szczur
 S.M. Agatha Walerski

1940

S.M. Claudia Bomba
 S.M. Lucy Drozd
 S.M. Gerardette Molda
 S.M. Roseann Zmich
 S. Victoria Valerie (M. Silveria) Smagacz

1941

1942

S.M. Conrad Kempisty
 S.M. Renata Krukowski
 S.M. Roberta Duda
 S.M. Regina Krolak

1943

1944

S.M. Francis Swider
 S.M. Jozetta Kuczmariski
 S.M. Agnella Sieja
 S.M. Mildred Bieda
 S.M. Ephrem Soprych

1945

S. Marie Dominic Wyza

1946

S.M. DeSales Wyszynski

1947

S.M. Gabriel Lazarski
 S.M. Joseph Grochowski
 S.M. Doloria Kosiek

1948

S.M. Joella Bielinski

1949

S.M. Rosemary Ferus

1950

S.M. Colette Kwieczka

1951

S.M. Jude Kruszewski
 S.M. Vincent Swies

1952

S. Anne Marie Knawa
 S.M. Francine Labus
 S.M. Monica Sendlosky (Swietanowski)
 S.M. Clare Brunkala

1953

1954

S.M. Theresa Mary (Stanislaus Marie) Obremski

