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Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
Celebrating 128 Years of Compassionate Service to Those in Need
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Rooted in the Gospel, united in prayer and community, we share Franciscan joy and serve generously.
--- Mission Statement of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, December 8, 2010

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In a spirit of prayer and faithfulness to the God of all grace, the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago met in Chapter June 20 - 21, 2023, at Our Lady of Victory Convent to plan for the future of the congregation. Several important decisions were made by the nine delegates, not the least of which was to extend the term of the current General Leadership Team.

Other decisions require approval from the Vatican. We hope to receive word of those approvals in the coming months at which time we will be able to share more information with you.

While we wait, know that we are grateful for your prayerful support and ask you to continue praying our Chapter Prayer with us. Be assured of our continued prayers as well.

Our current leadership team:

Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, General Minister
Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie, General Vicar
Sister M. Helene Galuszka, General Councilor

(Above) Sr. M. Bernadette Bajuscik, Sr. Jeanne Marie Toriskie, and Sr. M. Helene Galuszka. (Left) The Sisters met in Marian Hall from June 20 to June 21 for General Chapter. Dawn Mayer, Vice President of Mission Integration at Franciscan Ministries, greets the Sisters at the start of General Chapter.
(Above) A group photo of some of the Sisters who attended General Chapter. (Right) Sr. Jeanne Marie Toriskie and Sr. Emilie Marie Lesniak sign in as delegates as part of the opening ritual to the General Chapter.

(Above left) Sr. M. Bernadette Bajuscik gives Sr. Doloria Kosiek her prayers and blessings. (Above right) Sr. Jean Therese Jarosz votes during the General Chapter elections.

(Above left) This woven Franciscan Tau artwork was on display during the General Chapter. (Above right) The Sisters prayed together at the end of General Chapter.
Sister M. Joella Bielinski – 75 years of religious life!

Sister M. Joella Bielinski was born in Chicago and entered religious life on July 2, 1948, and professed her vows on August 12, 1951. As a postulant, Sister entered the ministry of education where she was assigned to teach third grade at St. Hedwig in Gary, Indiana, in 1948. Sister then taught in various schools in Chicago: fourth grade at Five Holy Martyrs (1950-1951), third grade at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr (1951-1952), and third grade at St. Florian in (1952-1953).

Sister then taught second and third grades at St. Adalbert in East Saint Louis, Illinois, (1953-1956) and first and second grades at SS. Philip and James in Cleveland, Ohio, (1956-1963). Sister was then assigned to teach second and third grades at St. Leo the Great in Cleveland from 1963 to 1970 and served as the local superior and local treasurer. Sister Joella has a Bachelor of Science in education from St. John College, in Cleveland.

In 1970, Sister taught first grade at St. Louise de Marillac in LaGrange Park, Illinois, and served as both the local superior and local treasurer until 1971. Sister Joella then returned to St. Leo the Great until 1976, teaching first, second, and third grades. She was also the local superior and treasurer and served as the assistant principal there from 1972 to 1975.

In 1976, Sister Joella began a new chapter in her life as she transferred from the ministry of education to elder care. She began work that year at St. Anthony Home in Crown Point, Indiana, and served in pastoral care until 1977. She then served as an assistant administrator until 1984, and a vice president from 1976 to 1983. She was also a board member at St. Anthony Medical Center in Crown Point and was the local assistant superior there during this time. From 1984 to 1986, Sister Joella worked as an assistant administrator and chaplain at Mount Alverna Home in Parma, Ohio. She also served as the local assistant superior.
Sister M. Helene Galuszka was born in Chicago and entered religious life on January 27, 1963, while she was a student at Madonna High School in Chicago and professed her vows on August 12, 1965. Sister entered the ministry of education in 1966, where she was assigned to teach third grade at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr in Chicago. From 1967 to 1971, Sister Helene taught science to all grades at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr and taught science at St. Florian in Chicago every Thursday during the 1967-68 school year.

Sister was then promoted to assistant principal at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr (1969-71) and served as the program director there for CCD classes on Sundays. Sister Helene was transferred to St. Pancratius in Chicago in 1971. She taught sixth grade (1971-73), and then science, religion, reading, and physical education to all students (1972-73), and then taught reading, spelling, and music to seventh graders (1973-74). She also served as the science teacher for grades three through eight from 1973 to 1974. Sister taught CCD classes at St. Pancratius and served as the local treasurer from 1971 to 1974.

Sister Helene began teaching at Madonna High School in 1974. She taught biology, algebra, chemistry, and physiology until 1984. She also was involved with the science club (1975-76), was the division moderator (1977-84), a member of the student-faculty senate (1979-80), science fair chairperson (1981-84), and taught computer science (1982-84).

Sister Joella returned to Crown Point in 1986 and worked as a chaplain and in pastoral care at St. Anthony Medical Center until 1999. She was also the local assistant superior from 1988 to 1993. During this time, she volunteered at St. Matthias Parish in Crown Point, helping in various parish ministries. She also served as a board member at Mount Alverna Home (1986-90), and a board member at St. Anthony Home (1997-2001).

In 1999, Sister worked at the St. Anthony Convent in Crown Point. She continued in pastoral care and volunteered in other duties at the convent. Sister served as the local minister from 2005 to 2013. Sister Joella retired in 2013 and now resides at Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont. Congratulations to Sister Joella Bielinski on 75 years of religious life!
Sister Helene has a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the College of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois. She also obtained her Master of Science degree in biology and animal physiology from St. Mary College in Winona, Minnesota, and a Master in Business Administration degree from St. Louis University, in St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1986, the Sisters created the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation (FSCSC, later renamed Franciscan Ministries), which was established to manage and operate all facilities and ministries sponsored by the Sisters. Sister Helene was the only Sister working directly with the sponsored facilities until a lay president was engaged. She became the General Treasurer of FSC while also holding various financial positions at FSCSC. At the time of her retirement from FSCSC, she was the Treasury Manager. She also served as a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator at St. Joseph Village in Chicago in 1989, and became a Trustee for Christian Brothers Risk Pooling Trust in 1996. Sister served as a consultant at NRRO from 1998 to 2004. After 33 years of service, Sister Helene retired from Franciscan Ministries in 2019. Currently she continues her work in leadership with the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. She was elected General Councilor in 2013 and re-elected in 2018 and continues in this position. Congratulations to Sister M. Helene Galuszka on 60 years of religious life!

Jubilarians Masses and Celebrations Held in August

The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago held their Jubilarians Mass and celebrations on August 12. This year was an extra special celebration as the 2020 Jubilarians were honored as well. The 2020 Jubilee celebration was postponed due to COVID precautions. Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik (60 years) and Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie (60 years) were both honored along with the 2023 Jubilarians.
The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago held their 13th annual Swinging for the Sisters Golf Outing on June 15, at Ruffled Feathers Golf Club in Lemont. This year we were blessed with beautiful weather as 114 golfers came out to support the Sisters’ ministries.

The golfers began the day with breakfast prepared by the staff at Ruffled Feathers. After breakfast they participated in a "Closest to the Hole Putting Challenge." Each golfer was given a ball with a number on it. They all then stood in a circle and putted at the same time. Once the golf balls settled and stopped rolling (and bouncing off each other) the closest ball was picked and Father Bob Lucas was the winner. After the putting game, the golfers lined up in their golf carts to get ready to start the outing. Sister M. Francis Clare Radke gave the opening remarks and prayer and then wished the golfers good luck. The golfers then drove off in their golf carts to their assigned holes. The weather was perfect all day.

Before the golf outing started, the golfers participated in a "Closest to the Hole Putting Challenge" with Father Bob Lucas getting the closest and winning the contest.

Thank you to all who attended!
After the golfing was finished, the participants were served lunch. The award winners for various golf contests held during the day were announced. Adam Gregory won both the 'Longest Putt Challenge' and the 'Longest Drive Challenge' and Alec Melone won the 'Closest to the Pin Challenge'. Team Matrex won the best overall team score at the outing. A raffle was held and a split-the-pot money drawing followed. All donations received will help support the Sisters and their ministries.

(Left) Sister M. Francis Clare Radke addresses the golfers before the outing. (Center and Right) 114 golfers attended and enjoyed beautiful weather during the event.

(Left) Tracy Shearer, Franciscan Ministries and Ryan Elinkowski, Executive Director of St. Jude House, smile with Sr. Cindy Drozd. Sr. Cindy participated in the 'Beat the Nun Challenge' again this year. (Center) President and CEO Regina Umanskiy and Chief Operations Officer Karen Larson of Franciscan Ministries smile with golfers from Team Larson. (Right) Sr. M. Francis Clare Radke, Sr. Jeanne Marie Toriskie, and Sr. Emilie Marie Lesniak enjoy the golf outing.

(Left) Team Assurance (Center) Team Plante Moran (Right) Team Flooring Guys
The Sisters thank all who participated, volunteered, and the following generous sponsors and donors:

**Respect Sponsors:** Karen Larson, LSV Asset Management (James Owens), and Polsinelli (James M. Broeking)

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The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago held their annual retreat from July 9 to July 15. This year the retreat director was Father Michael Schaab from the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois. The retreat theme was entitled *Jesus Revealed in Creation and Relations*. It was a wonderful week of prayer and reflection for the Sisters and FSC Associates.

Father Mike was ordained in Peoria and earned his License in theology from The Catholic University of America. He served as a pastor and Director of Religious Education in Peoria, working in the Cursillo Movement, Marriage Encounter, and Teens Encounter Christ groups. He also taught in seminaries and schools in Zambia, Ireland, and Chicago as well as at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. Father Mike has always been attracted to nature and was certified as a Master Naturalist by the University of Illinois Extension in 2016. Over the years, Father Mike has held retreats for religious all over the United States, Africa, Ireland, Belize, and Central America.

During the retreat, Father Mike illustrated how one can have a relationship with God. “A relationship with God is the best relationship we can have.” He explained that one can have both an inward (through prayer and meditation) and outward (through nature and creativity) relationship with God. He also compared the left side of the brain (logic, mathematics, analytical) versus the right side of the brain (artistic, emotional, spiritual) emphasizing the need for people to explore their imaginative side. The Sisters were also given poems written by such poets as Mary Oliver, Henry David Thoreau, and prayers written by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, John Henry Newman, St. Bonaventure and others. These famous poems and prayers were discussed in detail and reflected upon. The Sisters also participated in guided meditation and prayer throughout the week. Many thanks to Father Mike for his guidance and prayerful teachings during this week of retreat.
The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago have named University Place, West Lafayette, Indiana, as the recipient of its annual Theresa Dudzik Innovation Grant. The purpose of the grant, established over 25 years ago, is to encourage advances in serving the poor, elderly, and needy, by providing seed money for outstanding initiatives.

Submissions were accepted from member organizations designed to increase the quality and quantity of programs and services offered within Franciscan Ministries, sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. Additionally, the award encourages creative problem-solving and also encourages professionals to document, display, and share their successes with others in a spirit of caring.

The first-place winner, Marian Village, Homer Glen, Illinois, Marian Village was honored with a certificate of Achievement for the quality of their application, Stay Connected Marian Village. Their innovative proposal planned to purchase software designed to allow connections not only on a computer but on a phone or tablet. Residents and any family member can access community and emergency personal information. A TV streaming capability will allow those who choose not to engage on devices to still have access to information. It will allow for our residents to stay connected with each other via a picture directory that holds phone numbers and emails, as well as activities they attend. Families of our assisted living residents would be able to see the same and know their loved one is actively participating in their community life! The portal also allows for immediate alerts of inclement weather, emergency water shut offs, as well as day to day changes in facility programming. Marian Village withdrew its application when Franciscan Ministries purchased software for all its facilities which would largely replicate the software that Marian Village was requesting in its application.
This year’s cash winner is a senior living facility, University Place, West Lafayette, Indiana. As second prize winner, they received a Certificate of Achievement as well as $8,000 in seed money to develop their innovation, Resident Centered Admissions Program (RCAP). This program presents a radical shift in the way the first three days of a resident’s stay in a skilled nursing facility are handled. It brings together improved communication, technology, and resident care to enhance the resident’s experience. As the first three days after arrival are critical to the success of the stay of the new resident, this program is designed to increase resident satisfaction, reduce fear and anxiety, reduce hospital re-admissions, and create brand loyalty for University Place. This will be accomplished through frequent check-ins by a minimum of 10 designated associates, issuing a journal and pen to each new resident to write down comments/concerns, having a basket of toiletries ready for their use upon arrival, having their favorite meal prepared, and having a designated associate’s (“Angel”) name and work phone number for emergent concerns.

The third-place applicant, St. Joseph Village, Chicago, Illinois, submitted a proposal called Joyful and Faithful Gatherings. They planned to purchase software designed to connect seniors with what interests and fulfills them, enabling them to share conversations, experiences, learning, and fun games with each other, their SJV staff, and their loved ones. Although they already used a software package for Life Enrichment and therapy, they wished to extend the software’s capabilities into the realm of spirituality and psychological/emotional wellbeing. Like Marian Village, St. Joseph Village withdrew its application when Franciscan Ministries purchased software for all its facilities which would largely replicate the software that St. Joseph Village was requesting in its application.

The fourth-place applicant was the Village at Mercy Creek, Normal, Illinois, with their proposal of Capturing Life Stories Through LifeBio™. They sought to use the LifeBio™ software to capture the life stories of each resident, allowing staff to offer a more personal and individualized approach to each resident’s care. Through the program residents and their families gain a keepsake book with the story of their beloved one’s life, which can be passed down for generations. The third and fourth place applicants for the Theresa Dudzik Innovation Grant received Certificates of Participation for their efforts.
Clear, mournful music pierced the solitude and Cora’s troubled thoughts. The notes floated like feathers on the breeze, dipped, soared, and wailed through the deserted ravine, the musician unseen, the instrument unidentifiable at first. Before the music began, the solemn silence in the isolated valley had been broken only by rustling leaves, the occasional distant chirp of some spring bird, or the drumming of a woodpecker.

The hymn did not disturb, but seemed instead to enhance the peace of the secluded garden. Cora Tozzi recognized the melody, remembered the words: Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing. You reign now in Heaven with Jesus our King. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria...

Thus begins The Miracle at Assisi Hill, the latest novel by local Lemont, Illinois, author Pat Camalliere. Pat is a 28-year resident of Lemont and an archivist for the Lemont Area Historical Society. She began writing novels several years ago after she finished her career as a medical group administrator at Rush Medical Center. “I enjoyed working there, but I wanted to write while I still had time to do so. People always said I had a real talent for writing, so I decided to give writing a novel a try before it was too late. I joined a writer’s group, and after about a year, I started to draft my first novel, jumping right into the long form because there weren’t enough years left for me to go the traditional route.”

Pat has published four novels: The Mystery at Sag Bridge, The Mystery at Black Partridge Woods, The Mystery at Mount Forest Island, and the recently published, The Miracle at Assisi Hill. Her novels all take place in various nearby locales such as the Cal Sag River Valley and the Lemont area and can be characterized as a mix of history, mystery, and a touch of the paranormal. “I like to feature a character from history in all my books. My niche in each of my novels is a present day historian who solves a cold case involving a character from the past.” The Miracle at Assisi Hill continues the story of Cora Tozzi, a retired historian, and the protagonist of Pat’s previous three novels. In writing this novel, Pat developed a character named Mother Josepha who is based on the real-life
foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik.

While working in the archives at the Lemont Historical Society, Pat learned of the story of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik's tireless work in helping the poor, aged, and homeless in Chicago. She was even more enthralled with Mother Mary Theresa's life when she discovered the ongoing effort by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago to have her recognized as a saint. She obtained a copy of Mother Mary Theresa's personal journal, *The Chronicle*, and used this journal as inspiration to develop the character of Mother Josepha. Pat also met with Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie, the General Vicar for the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and the National Speaker for the Saintly Cause of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik. Sr. Jeanne Marie provided Pat with knowledge on the life of Mother Mary Theresa. After *The Miracle at Assisi Hill* was published, Pat returned to visit Our Lady of Victory Convent with a signed copy to present to Sr. Jeanne Marie. Recently she sat down for an interview to discuss her new book and how she was inspired by the story of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik.

**What is The Miracle at Assisi Hill about?**

After treatment for cancer, retired historian Cora Tozzi longs for the faith she had as a child. In an effort to restore her faith, she goes to a convent for a few weeks to research and write about the convent’s history, while her husband visits a cousin in Arizona. Before long, she is plagued with problems when her husband has a stroke. She cannot be with him because of the COVID pandemic as travel and hospital visits are restricted. She then befriends a nun at the convent who is having visions of a heavenly woman. For an unknown reason, the visitor from heaven asks Cora for help. The main historic and heavenly character is based on Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik (named Mother Josepha in the novel). The life story of Mother Theresa is told through a fictional journal in the novel, and she interacts with Cora in present day to solve a mystery from her time on earth.

**How did you develop the idea for the story?**

I started to write a memoir about my personal experience with tongue cancer, but I am a novelist, and felt more comfortable presenting the story of my cancer as fiction. I investigated the idea of having my main character involve herself in a religious setting, since I had personally been fascinated by the large number of historic religious institutions in my hometown of Lemont. I first learned about Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik while doing
archival work for the Lemont Historical Society and decided that such an important woman should be better known. I made her the star of the story.

**How did you learn about the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and the story of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik?**

As archivist for the Lemont Area Historical Society, I created an archive on the work of Sonia Kallick, one of Lemont’s most important historians. I came across a series of articles she wrote many years ago about Mother Theresa Dudzik. I found it thrilling to think that a woman right in my neighborhood was so close to being named a saint, and I couldn’t get her out of my mind.

**How did the story of Mother Mary Theresa inspire you and why did you choose to base her as a character in your novel?**

I like to feature a character from history in my books. When I was inventing the plot to *The Miracle at Assisi Hill*, I wanted my historic character to preferably be based on a real person. As soon as I decided on a religious theme, I knew that Mother Mary Mary Theresa Dudzik was the right person. The single thing that impressed me most about Mother Theresa was her great compassion. I envied that. I can feel compassion, but I could never respond to that feeling at the level she went to care for the poor, ill, elderly, and destitute. This is truly the mark of a woman singled out for sainthood.

As far as developing the character, that came easily. I had studied all available material written about her life and I knew what was important to her. I saw her very much like Cora, an ordinary person in extraordinary circumstances. Her extraordinary faith and compassion made her stand out. Those qualities may not have been Cora’s, but Cora understood and admired them. So, to write the journal entries that told Mother Theresa’s story in her own words, I had only to pretend that Cora was picturing herself as Mother Theresa and writing from her point of view.

One person’s point of view about their life is not always how others knew them, of course. To be sure that the story showed Mother Theresa accurately, I brought out the opinions of others outside of Mother Theresa’s journal through Cora’s research about her life. I very much hope that Mother Theresa becomes a saint. It is especially my hope that in writing about her I will generate attention that will advance her Cause. That is one of the reasons for writing this book.
What is the overall theme of the book?

Faith, of course, and love, that inspires and carries one through the greatest difficulties. There are also themes of perseverance, friendship, and teamwork. I like to think that a key theme is the importance of our mothers in our lives. It is demonstrated in the book by the relationship of Cora to her son, by the relationship of Mother Theresa to her baby sister, and our Virgin Mother, Mary. Mary and motherhood come up repeatedly throughout the book. I hope readers recognize that the book is really a love story, which is different from a romance. It exemplifies many kinds of love: not only between husband and wife, but between mothers and children, and between friends, as well as love of God and all his children, but especially those in need.

Describe and discuss the main character Cora, who has been the star of your series of novels.

Cora is an ordinary woman who finds herself in extraordinary situations. Her biggest strength is her refusal to give up when facing what seems to be an impossible challenge. She uses her brain and experience to organize and direct a team of friends, using their particular talents to achieve the desired outcome. In this book, she starts from a position of doubt, about her religion and about her personal worthiness. Life, however, does not give her a breather to resolve her conflicts. Instead she is hurled into one disaster after another. She keeps herself busy organizing a team of friends to get to the bottom of what she believes will solve her problems, never willing to give up. This time she uses not only personal friends but a heavenly one (Mother Josepha) in the only way she knows to save her beloved husband in his time of greatest need.

Your novels often take place in Lemont and the Cal Sag River Valley. What is it about this area with its vast history and beautiful nature that attracts you and made you choose it as a setting for your novels?

This area is unlike any other in Chicagoland. One of the things that makes it so is that only a small portion of Lemont is contiguous with developed areas. One side is bordered by forests, two sides by farms, and the last overlooks a valley with bluffs and important water features. Unfortunately for nature-lovers, more and more of the farmland is being developed in recent years. I wanted to let people know about this special place before it lost that character. A second reason is that the history of the town, its importance to Chicagoland, and the quirky anecdotes peaked my lifelong personal interest in the unusual. The third reason is that it is so convenient to be able to just hop in the car to view the place a scene happens at when you’re writing about it. Writing about where you live has definite advantages.

Pat Camalliere is now in the process of putting her next writing project together. She continues her work at the Lemont Historical Society and also spends time with her family. "Family is important. I have two great sons, two
wonderful daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren to brag about and spend time with." She also continues to pray for the saintly Cause of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik. "I hope my book will call attention to Mother Theresa and result in a miracle that will move her Cause forward."

We thank Pat for spending time with us and participating in this interview. The Miracle at Assisi Hill (as well as her other novels) are available to purchase on Amazon.com (key word: Pat Camalliere). She also writes a blog that not only talks about her books, but offers articles on the history of Lemont and nearby locales. You may visit her blog at: patcamallierebooks.com.

Novena Prayer through the intercession of the Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik

Venerable Mother Mary Theresa, during your lifetime you practiced great charity and later wrote: "I felt the misery and suffering of others and was constantly occupied with the thought of how I could be of service to the needy and the poor." I, who venerate you, come to you for help. Venerable Mother Mary Theresa, beg for me at the throne of God, for this, my special intention... through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Beatification Prayer for the Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik

Heavenly Father, you inflamed the compassionate heart of Mother Mary Theresa with the heroic virtues of charity and mercy. If it is your will, may she be declared Blessed for your honor and glory and may she inspire others to imitate her love for the needy, poor and suffering of our world. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.
What is a miracle? The Catholic Church defines a miracle as a sign or wonder from God, such as a medical healing which can only be attributed to divine power. These wonders of God can be manifested directly or indirectly through prayers to specific Catholic saints and religious figures. The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago have long sought to elevate their foundress, Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik to sainthood. Through their efforts over the years, she has attained the title of “Venerable,” one who is declared to have lived a virtuous heroic life. The next steps are “Blessed” (when one miracle is accepted by the Church) and then ultimately the title of “Saint” (when a second miracle is accepted by the Church). While no miracle credited to her has been accepted by the Catholic Church, we continue to pray that one day she will be named a saint.

Recently the Sainthood Cause of Mother Mary Theresa caught the attention of Michael O’Neill, host of the weekly EWTN radio and television shows, The Miracle Hunter and Explore with the Miracle Hunter. His show The Miracle Hunter investigates and focuses on the phenomenon of miracles from all over the world such as religious visions, Marian apparitions, medical healings, instances of the stigmata display (the wounds of Christ) and other religious mysteries. Michael has long held an interest in the concept of miracles. “As long as I can remember, I have had a fascination with miracles. When I was a child, my mother used to tell me about the stories related to Our Lady of Guadalupe and I found that fascinating. I have always loved the stories of the saints and the idea that these holy, larger-than-life figures have walked amongst us is inspiring to me.”

This childhood interest in miracles continued into adulthood when he attended Stanford University and took an archaeology class. One of the projects assigned was to research a famous artifact that had a major impact on the world. Since he was so interested in the tales of Our Lady of Guadalupe, he researched the tilma, also known as the famous cloak belonging to Saint Juan Diego, who saw apparitions of the Virgin Mary on several occasions. The tilma displayed the venerated image of Mary. Juan Diego was canonized by the Catholic Church in 2002.
After he graduated from Stanford, Michael started the website MiracleHunter.com to take a more academic approach to miracle investigation. Eventually he expanded his work into books, newspaper articles, a radio show, and a television show. “I did a television pilot some years ago for a secular network and I caught the bug to do a show about miracles. When I stopped to think about it, I realized that the real “miracle hunters” were the vice-postulato...
possible with the guidance and assistance of the Cause – this usually includes the local bishop, members of the guild, family members (where possible), historians, authors, devotees and recipients of a miracle, favor or blessing through the intercession of the might-be-saint.”

Michael and his crew came to Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont to do interviews with various people knowledgeable about Mother Mary Theresa’s life. They also filmed in various Chicago locales such as the house where she lived and St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, where she began her life as a religious and started the congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. An actor recreated scenes from her life. “Through interviews with experts and recreations from the life of Mother Theresa, we portrayed her saintly life that made her virtues known and sheds light on the canonization process. We traced her story back to the beginning and showed scenes of the early days of her religious community and the service she provided for the elderly and poor. The goal of the documentary is to make her legacy known and show her impact on the world,” Michael said.

The documentary is tentatively scheduled to air on EWTN on September 20, Mother Mary Theresa’s death anniversary. The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago will also get a special private viewing before it airs. Michael hopes the documentary will bring more attention to her story in providing inspiration to others and that she will eventually be named a saint in the Catholic Church. “The story of Mother Mary Theresa is inspirational. One can see how motivated she was out of love and care for the poor that she opened her home to them. She convinced her friends, gathered her money, entered religious life, and persevered through personal trials and challenges. Having lived a life of heroic virtue, we can feel assured that Mother Mary Theresa is indeed a saint in heaven with God. We also have great hope that someday she will be formally recognized a Saint by the Catholic Church. These beatifications and canonizations happen in God’s time when He deems it apropos that miracles come to light though her intercession.”
The Madonna Foundation, sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, continues the tradition the Sisters began at Madonna High School in 1949. Established in 2001, the Foundation has provided more than 1,500 awards totaling $3.5 million in scholarship funding, along with dynamic college readiness programming. To all our supporters and donors who help us to create the next generation of accomplished and compassionate leaders, we say thank you!

Career Day
This year’s focus was Women in Tech and Women in Law. In February, students met with several women professionals to gain an understanding of potential career paths. These highly accomplished professionals urged our scholars to follow their passion and rise above limitations imposed by society to achieve their goals. Many thanks to Automated Business Designs, a Madonna Foundation community partner for hosting this event at their corporate office in Chicago.

In April, the scholars participated in a Women Everywhere event hosted by a group of dedicated lawyers, judges, and court officers at the Cook County Courthouse. They shared their personal journeys with the students. This informative day showcased several different careers in this field and the students were invited to sit in on court proceedings to gain firsthand knowledge of possible careers. Thank you to the Cook County Courthouse for providing this meaningful experience to our scholars.

(Left) The Madonna Scholars at Automated Business Designs in Chicago. (Right) The Madonna Scholars at Cook County Courthouse.
Steam - The Chicago Field Museum

To further scholar interests in STEAM, the Madonna Foundation teamed up with a new program partner, the Chicago Field Museum. A panel of scientists worked with students on an archaeological preservation project and explained the critical importance of preserving and storing artifacts for future study. The Madonna Foundation is grateful for this new partnership and the exciting potential careers that lie ahead for the Madonna Scholars.

Wintrust Smart Money Workshop

Smart Money, a financial literacy workshop for scholars and their parents conducted by Wintrust Bank, was held in January. During the two interactive virtual sessions, participants learned the basics of savings and budgeting. Wintrust presenters gave helpful advice on how to best navigate for the future and plan for college by setting SMART goals. Many thanks to Wintrust Bank for providing this workshop.
**Madonna 5k Run/Walk**

On June 25, the Madonna Foundation held its annual Madonna 5k Run/Walk at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Heights, Illinois. Many runners and walkers came out to show their support and complete the 3.1 mile course. Afterwards they enjoyed food and snacks provided by the Madonna High School Alumnae. Thank you to all the sponsors and supporters that made this event such a great success.

**Madonna High School Alumnae Association**

The Madonna High School Alumnae Association has had a great year of events! In February, they held their first pop-up social event at Shoeless Joe’s in Schiller Park. Attendees enjoyed looking at Madonna High School memorabilia and catching up with old friends. Many thanks to the Madonna Class of 1988 for a great turn out!

The highlight of the year was the Madonna High School Spring Luncheon at La Villa Restaurant on April 23rd. Over 170 Madonna Alumnae attended. A family style lunch was served with the signature Madonna drink. A school-themed basket raffle was held along with a split-the-pot contest. Several former Madonna High School faculty members visited as well such as Ms. Carsello, Ms. Sigl, Ms. Jensen, Mrs. Wendy Miller Cassens, Ms. Denise Batka Makowski, Sr. Helene Galuszka, Sr. Jeanne Marie Toriskie, and Sr. Emilie Marie Lesniak.

More events are coming in the fall! The Madonna Alumnae Mass and Luncheon will be held again this September. Please come reminisce, reconnect, and pray with former students of Madonna High School. The annual Madonna Trivia Night will be held again on November 18. Stay tuned for more details on these events. Dates and locations will be determined.

If you would like to support the Madonna Foundation, you can make a donation online at [madonnascholars.org](http://madonnascholars.org) or contact Betsy Garbrecht at (331) 318-5170. You may also follow the Madonna Foundation at [Facebook.com/madonnianpride](http://Facebook.com/madonnianpride). If you are a Madonna High School Alumna, please visit [madonnahsalumnae.org](http://madonnahsalumnae.org) and update your contact information. If you would like to volunteer, join a committee, or help in any way, you can visit the alumnae website for more details.
St. Jude House, sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, is a family violence prevention center and shelter in Crown Point, Indiana. Since 1995, this facility has provided services to over 15,000 survivors of domestic violence. Recently, through the efforts and donation from an anonymous donor, St. Jude House was able to make major capital improvements to the outside of the facility. “We recently made some significant capital improvements thanks to an anonymous funder who believes in our mission. New windows and siding were installed for the first time since the opening of St. Jude House and it greatly improved the exterior of the facility. Thank you to this anonymous donor and our community for volunteering countless hours to ensure we have a trauma-informed environment for our clients to enjoy,” Ryan Elinkowski, Executive Director of St. Jude House said.

Not only were improvements made on the facility itself, but also major outdoor landscaping was completed. Two companies came together to donate landscaping services to St. Jude House. Volunteers from Holladay Properties spent time planning the overall landscaping design and Lakeshore Landscaping & Lakeshore Seasonal Services donated trees, flowers, plants, mulch, dirt and rock for the project. The volunteers spent the day working outside completely revitalizing the landscape around St. Jude House. The end result provided natural beauty and

Thank you to All the Volunteers!

Volunteers from Holladay Properties improve the landscaping around St. Jude House.
improved the overall outdoor aesthetics with trees and flowers. Holladay Properties also provided handyman volunteers for indoor repairs around the facility. At the end of the day it was a wonderful experience for all. “It was one of the most rewarding volunteering jobs that our company has ever done and it warms my heart to know that we were able to gather such a large group of volunteers at St. Jude House,” said Laura Small with Holladay Properties. St. Jude House thanks everyone who gave their time and energy for these capital improvement projects!

**Another Successful Stand Up for St. Jude House Comedy Night Event**

On Friday, May 19, St. Jude House held its annual major fundraising event, *Stand Up for St. Jude House Comedy Night Driven by Toyota of Merrillville* at County Line Orchard in Hobart, Indiana. This year’s event was one of St. Jude House’s largest and most successful with nearly 600 guests attending. Emceed by Robin Rock of 93.9 LITE FM, the guests enjoyed a night of entertainment with stand-up comedy from several comedians and live music from the band Cat Man Dog. Centier Bank sponsored a special VIP hour with appetizers and Ameriprise Financial’s John Vidal, (St. Jude House’s Chairman of the Board) sponsored the roaming Photo Booth. There was also a paddle raise auction that raised nearly $43,000.

The speaker of honor was a woman named Mariana, a domestic abuse survivor, who shared her emotional escape to survival story with the attendees. Mariana was a former client of St. Jude House and now serves on the new St. Jude House Advisory Council. Her story of survival and perseverance touched the crowd and reminded everyone of all the good work St. Jude House does for domestic abuse victims. Thank you to all the generous community partners and everyone who attended this event!
### Gift Card Needs
- Gas cards, Amazon, Walmart, Visa, Uber, Strack and Van Til (any amount)

### Pantry Needs
- Ground coffee, liquid coffee creamer, juice, bottled water, canned pop, granola bars, fruit snacks, pop tarts, individually packaged chips, doritos, cheetos, fresh fruit and vegetables

### Women’s Clothing Needs
- Underwear (sizes 5 and up), sweatpants and leggings (sizes medium & up), and robes (all sizes)

### Health & Beauty Needs
- Hair bonnets, ibuprofen, Pepto Bismol, Midol, children’s Motrin

### Household Needs
- Liquid bodywash, lotion, liquid handsoap, toilet paper, paper towels, garbage bags (33, 40, 55 gallons), clorox/lysol wipes

### Children’s Needs
- Birthday party supplies (decorations, gift bags), diapers (sizes 4, 5, and 6), action figure and paw patrol toys, bath toys, mega-blocks, white noise machines, baby monitors

### Children’s Clothing Needs
- Boy’s & girl’s outfits (sizes 2T & 3T), boy’s underwear (sizes 4T), girl’s underwear (sizes 10 and up)

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For the safety of our clients and staff, we ask that you please call ahead before bringing donations and do not leave donations outside the front door. If you would like to donate to St. Jude House, call (219) 662-7066 or you may visit their website stjudehouse.org to donate online. Please Follow them at Facebook.com/stjudehouse.
Franciscan Ministries employees received gourmet popcorn this week – part of an ongoing effort to recognize their hard work, dedication and commitment to serving those in need.

“We are delighted to partner with Double Good to spread joy to all of our associates throughout the Ministry with this wonderful donation of handcrafted popcorn. This special gift is in appreciation for all that they do to help support our mission to Celebrate Life and Serve with Joy,” stated Regina Umanskiy, President and CEO of Franciscan Ministries and Franciscan Advisory Services.

In all, more than 5,000 bags of popcorn were given to associates at the Franciscan Ministries Home Office, Franciscan Communities, St. Jude House, Madonna Foundation and properties managed by Franciscan Advisory Services.

This distribution was made possible through a donation from Double Good, a product-based fundraising company in Chicago. As part of the organization’s Popcorn Donation Program, customers can support causes important to them while giving back to essential workers doing important work in their communities. Since the program’s inception in 2020, Double Good has donated over 3 million bags of popcorn to police officers, firefighters, healthcare workers, educators and other heroes.

“Double Good extends its heartfelt gratitude to Franciscan Ministries for their invaluable support in spreading joy. We are happy to share our handcrafted popcorn with these dedicated employees and partners,” said David Lenti, Head of Partnerships at Double Good.

(In photos) Staff members of Franciscan Ministries enjoy popcorn donated by Double Good.
Eulogies are prepared by Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, General Minister. A memorial has been established for each Sister in the Legacy Fund and gifts can be made in their memory at any time. Often those close to our Sisters remember their deaths and death anniversaries with a memorial gift. When a Legacy Fund gift is received soon after a Sister dies, we respond with a personal note of thanks and enclose the Sister’s prayer card that includes her picture. All gifts are promptly acknowledged. Please join us in prayer for our departed Sisters and for all those who loved them.

In Loving Memory of Sister M. Gabriel Lazarski

Birth date: January 10, 1926
Entered into Religious Life: February 2, 1947
Born Into Eternal Life: January 9, 2023

There is nothing that God loves more than people who are at home with Wisdom.” (Wisdom 7:29)

Irene Anna Lazarski was born in Chicago, Illinois, on January 10, 1926, and was baptized a couple of weeks later on January 24 at Five Holy Martyrs Church. She was the daughter of John and Frances Lazarski both of whom were immigrants from Poland. John and Frances were married at St. Mary of Perpetual Help Church in Chicago on August 25, 1920. They had four children. Irene, the third child, had two sisters and one brother.
Irene attended Five Holy Martyrs School and graduated from there in 1940. While attending grade school Irene received the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 1, 1940, and took the name of Judith. From 1940 to 1942 Irene attended Kelly High School until she transferred to Jones Commercial High school, graduating from this institution in 1944.

On February 2, 1947, Irene joined the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and later that year on August 12, she entered the novitiate and received the name of Sister Mary Gabriel. Two years later, Sister made her First Profession of Vows on August 12, 1949, and her Final Profession on August 12, 1954.

Sister didn’t begin her career in education until 1949 when she went to St. Florian School in Chicago, Illinois, to teach the 2nd grade. During the next 20 years, Sister taught various grades at St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyrs in Chicago, Assumption in New Chicago, Indiana, St. Louise de Marillac in LaGrange Park, Illinois, Blessed Sacrament in Gary, Indiana, St. Joseph in East Chicago, Indiana, and at Holy Angels Cathedral in Gary, Indiana. In 1969, Sister became the principal at Five Holy Martyrs. She served in this capacity until 1974 when she was elected to the General Council of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago serving two terms in this capacity from 1974 to 1983. She was also local minister at the motherhouse (Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont, Illinois) from 1977 to 1979 and then the local minister at St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyrs from 1979 to 1982. While at St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyrs Sister was also the assistant principal for a year, and then principal for a year. She also served on the school board and parish council and was a board member at Madonna High School.

During her years in education, Sister M. Gabriel received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Saint Joseph’s College in Renssalaer, Indiana (1964) and a Master of Education degree from Loyola University in Chicago (1983).
In 1985 Sister embarked on a new career as Director of Mission Effectiveness at St. Anthony Medical Center in Crown Point, Indiana. She remained in this capacity for two years until she was appointed Novice Director and moved to Lemont in 1987. After three years as Novice Director, Sister returned to Five Holy Martyrs in Chicago, IL where she was the local minister. Sister was also the Director of Religious Education and a volunteer at Port Ministries.

In 1991, Sister went to St. Pancratius School in Chicago to finish the school year when one of the teaching Sisters couldn’t complete the school year. A year later Sister was assigned the position of Director of Mission Integration at St. Joseph Home in Chicago, IL, a position she held for nine years. In 1993, Sister was appointed the local minister and she remained at St. Joseph Home for 13 years. In 2006 Sister moved to Madonna Convent where she served as the local treasurer for three years. During this time she was also a resident visitor at St. Joseph Village.

On October 26, 2009, Sister M. Gabriel came to live at Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont, IL. She performed various tasks for the next three years until she moved to the Motherhouse Infirmary on January 26, 2012. In 2013 Sister was the recipient of the Franciscan Federation Peacemaker Award for her ability to see the interconnectedness of all creation, particularly in the intimate connection between the fruits of Mother Earth and the health of the human body.

In the 75th year of her religious life and at the age of 96, Sister M. Gabriel peacefully entered into eternal life at 3:17 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2023, to be with Jesus whom she loved and served with all her heart.
A little girl was born in Chicago, Illinois on April 30, 1950, to a Polish lady and an African American man who were not married. Her birth mother gave her the name Sharon Lee and placed her in St. Vincent Orphanage soon after birth. This little girl was adopted by Delight Bessie and Ernest Joseph Collins and named Diane Leona. They had her baptized at St. Anselm Church on July 23, 1950. The adoption became final on April 24, 1951. She was their only child. Diane was four years old when her parents divorced and she and her mother moved to Gary, Indiana. The following years were very difficult, and Diane suffered immensely. Diane wrote the following in her short autobiography: “I believe that in some way every scar has made me more able to relate to, understand, and be compassionate toward all of those who have experienced emotional pain.”

Diane attended Sacred Heart School in Gary, Indiana, and was taught by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. Sister Joseph Marie Zenda was her 1st grade teacher. When Diane received the Sacrament of Confirmation on October 18, 1960, she took Rosetta for her Confirmation name. Diane credits the Sisters for the development of her faith and its importance in her life. As she reached the eighth grade Diane began to feel that she might like to do what the Sisters did. She became an aspirant of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago after graduation from grade school and attended Madonna High School in Chicago, Illinois.

While attending Madonna High School, Diane lived as a boarding student in the convent with nine other young women. The aspirancy closed at the end of her junior year of high school and she had to return home for her senior year. This was a very difficult year for Diane because she had to leave people and a place that she knew and where she felt comfortable. She had to adjust to being at home with her mother again. Her mother had remarried and
at first Diane was not happy about this new person in her life. It took a little time, but Diane eventually came to know her stepfather, John, as a very kind and caring person.

In 1968, during her senior year at Bishop Noll Institute in Hammond, Indiana, Diane said she felt like a puzzle piece that didn’t belong until she realized that it was up to her to reach out, meet people and get involved, and that is what she did to the point where she thoroughly enjoyed her senior year of high school. She also had a great time working at Sears Roebuck and Co. in the credit department where she met all kinds of interesting people. Diane kept in touch with the Sisters and after graduation from Bishop Noll Institute she joined the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago on August 25, 1968. A year later on August 11, she entered the novitiate and received the name of Sister Diane Marie. Two years later, Sister made her First Profession of Vows on August 8, 1971, and her Final Profession on August 14, 1977.

In addition to classes on Scripture and the history of the congregation and the spirit of our foundress, Sister Diane Marie worked on obtaining a degree in English. On July 26, 1973, Sister graduated from Marillac College in St. Louis, Missouri with a Bachelor of Arts and was assigned to Madonna High School as an English teacher. While teaching others, she herself was a student at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, and in 1983 Sister graduated with a master’s degree in English.

During her years at Madonna High School, Sister detected a need that wasn’t being fulfilled at Madonna for the students and their families. They would approach Sister with various problems and she felt she lacked sufficient skills to help them. Consequently, Sister asked for permission to return to school and obtain a degree in social work. On May 23, 1987, Sister Diane Marie obtained her Master’s of Social Work degree from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois.

During her 17 years teaching at Madonna High School, Sister served as Parents Club Moderator, Student Council Moderator, Mother’s Club and Guitar Club, debate team, speech coach and even a year as Local Minister. Sister Diane Marie knew that her strength was in God and her favorite hymn was “Be Not Afraid”. She taught it to all her students. Sister liked the color green and everything Winnie the Pooh.

Sister Diane Marie came to Our Lady of Victory Convent, in Lemont, Illinois in 1991 and for the next three years she was the Vocation/Formation Director. In 1993 Sister Diane Marie was elected General Vicar and she served
in this position for five years. For the next five years, 1998-2003, Sister served as a General Councilor and the General Secretary. From 1999-2002 Sister moved off campus when she was the Principal of Bishop Noll Institute in Hammond, Indiana. In 2002 Sister returned to Lemont to help with the awesome task of moving into the new administration building and soon after helping to move all the Sisters and belongings into the new Motherhouse.

Sister Diane Marie served as General Minister for ten years, 2003-2013. During this time, she also was active in the Franciscan Federation as chairman of Region 3, 2004-2006, second vice president, 2006-2007, vice president, 2007-2008 and president, 2008-2009. During her many years in religious life, Sister Diane Marie served as chair of St. Jude House Board of Directors for 18 years, 1995-2013. She also served as chair of Franciscan Village Board for five years and was a member of the St. Anthony Medical Center Board for six years. During her career she was a member of many boards and committees.

After a Sabbatical year in 2013, Sister Diane Marie accepted a ministry at the John Paul II Newman Center of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Here she served the students, professors, and staff as a campus minister. In 2019 she also became the Director of Campus Outreach and assisted the Newman Center staff and student volunteers in organizing the liturgy and music.

In June of that year, she left the University for a position at St. John Berchmans Parish where she became the Evangelization Director, RCIA Coordinator, and helped with Baptism preparations. When the threat of COVID abated in 2020, the children were invited to return to the parish elementary school. Sister took this occasion as an opportunity to welcome not only the children, but also their parents, when she positioned herself on the corner of the block where parents dropped off their youngsters in the morning and returned to pick them up in the late afternoon. She would smile and wave to them faithfully every school day.

Through the Archdiocesan program, Renew My Church, it became apparent that St. John Berchmans would be combined with St. Hedwig Parish. Sister played a major role in helping families adjust to this change and on June 1,
2022, the combined parishes became the new Bl. Carlos Acutis Parish. Sister also facilitated the Alpha Program, an intensive 10-week program which invites people to have honest conversations about life, faith, and meaning.

Sister Diane Marie organized the parish’s Prayer Warriors, who are volunteers that reach out to homebound seniors for spiritual wellness checks. She also served as a board member in the Avondale neighborhood community advocating for mental health services. Sister’s most creative evangelization effort was distributing ashes on Ash Wednesday at the neighborhood CTA Blue Line station to commuters traveling between O’Hare airport and downtown Chicago.

In the 54th year of religious life and at the age of 73, on August 3, Sister Diane Marie died suddenly at her apartment in Chicago, Illinois. Her death wasn’t discovered until Friday, August 4, 2023. While it is a great shock to all those who love her, Sister is now with Jesus, her brother, whom she loved and served with all her heart. In her own words Sister Diane said that she “continues to learn that Jesus calls her in a unique way, day after day, to journey with others toward Himself.”
The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago thank their donors and friends for partnering with them. The Sisters offer their gratitude and sincere appreciation for their donors’ generosity, which has allowed them to continue the ministry started by Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik.

These donations have helped the ministries of the Sisters in a profound way. Their sponsored ministries include a shelter for victims of domestic abuse, senior retirement communities, and scholarships for all-girls Catholic high school tuition.

The donor list in this issue is recorded from December 2, 2022 - July 20, 2023. The Sisters make every effort to keep accurate records and each gift is acknowledged promptly. Should something be amiss, however, the Sisters ask the donors to call them at once. Inquiries should be directed to Vicki Olsen at (630) 243-3556 or email: volsen@chicagofranciscans.com.
The Unrestricted Fund is important because it allows flexibility for the Sisters’ use. Gifts are directed to where the need is greatest. The Sisters are able to use unrestricted gifts immediately or to allow them to accumulate until a significant need arises. The thoughtfulness of unrestricted gifts is greatly appreciated.

John L. Albee
Dennis Antkowiak
Nancy Balvin
Laverne M. Bara
Linda A. Caine
Patricia Carroll
Sandra Jamison Chafen
Lois D. Dohra
Marie Gancarz
Marian Jelcz, M.D.
Bernardino Juarez
Theresa Kolczak
A.S. McAleavy
Rev. Fr. James L.P. Miara
Diane Milkowski
Mary I. Mosser
Ray & Marlene Mosser

The Sisters are restricted by law and policy as to the kinds of non-cash gifts they can accept. Among those items are medications and some used items or partially used items. Some changes in legislation also affect the donor. In fact, Congress passed new rules for deducting household goods, clothing and other items. Unless the item is in good used condition or better or was donated before August 18, 2006, donors will not get the tax deduction. Congress wanted to stop people from using charitable organizations to dump unwanted items in order to write
off a donation of minimal or no value. It is always best to call the Development Office at 630-243-3556 before giving a non-cash gift. Dropping off something the Sisters cannot legally accept often requires the Sisters to pay for the disposal of these items, which assuredly was not the donor’s intent.

**RETIREMENT FUND**

Gifts to the Retirement Fund are very important to us as they provide support in the care of the retired and infirm members of our Community. The rising cost of health care and medicine are as serious an issue for us as they are with the general public. We’re grateful for your gifts.

Joan Gratz
Neal & Mary Clark Ormond
Joseph Macoria

**LEGACY FUND**

Using the envelope included with this issue of Crossroads is the easiest way to contribute to any of the Sisters’ funds and it makes it especially easy to direct a gift to the Legacy Fund. There are several categories to which a Legacy gift can be directed — the two most popular are Memorials (for deceased loved ones) and Tributes (in honor of living individuals or groups). Some donors make regular gifts to this fund on anniversaries as in the case of memorials, birthdays, marriages, and our Jubilarians. General, undesignated gifts may be made to this fund as well as donations for one’s own special intention. The Legacy Fund is the Sisters’ Endowment, which they continue to grow by reinvesting the income from the fund. A gift to the Legacy Fund also continues to grow in perpetuity.

**MEMORIALS**

In Memory of
Sister M. Claudia Bomba
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bomba

In Memory of
Sister M. Eustace Borowski
Evelyn Lisek

In Memory of
Sister M. Petronia Budzinski
Reverend Gerald Riva

In Memory of
Sister M. Alacoque Czartoryski
Jim & Marilyn Straz

Restricted Gifts enable the Sisters to purchase the items that donors specifically request their donations be used for. The explicit designation by the benefactor allows the donor to become an integral part of the ministries of the Sisters.

Stanley Kedzior
In Memory of
Helen Ganiec
Corrine M. Ganiec

In Memory of
Sister M. Jeanette Golujech
Michael D. Mesnak
William Napiwocki

In Memory of
Sister M. Epiphany Gorski
Dennis Wilde

In Memory of
Sister M. Alvernia Groszek
Jim & Marilyn Straz

In Memory of
Mildred Lang
Marie Maciejewski

In Memory of
Sister M. Gabriel Lazarski
Bonnie Mize
Elizabeth Pienta
Wolniakowski Family

In Memory of
Sister M. Rosaline Lenart
Roselyn Lucas

In Memory of
Kathleen “Cookie” Obora
Eugene Obora

In Memory of
Sister M. Dolorine Piwowarski
Vincent T. Sztul

In Memory of
Mary F. Reynolds
Jean Reynolds

In Memory of
Sister M. Methodia Ryzner
Geraldine Biel

In Memory of
Sister M. Placidia Rzonca
Karen & Keith Urban

In Memory of
Mary Rita Rzonca
Karen & Keith Urban

In Memory of
Sister M. Marylla Stanislawczyk
Cliff & Karen Chuey

In Memory of
Sister M. Albertine Schab
Bernadette & John Vlock

In Memory of
Sister M. Agatha Walerski
Van & Rita Stout

In Memory of
Carol Witkiewicz
Patricia Witkiewicz

In Memory of
Harry & Sophie Witkiewicz
Patricia Witkiewicz

In Memory of
Annette Wontor
Karen & Keith Urban

TRIBUTES

In Honor of
Sister Doloria Kosiek
Anonymous

In Honor of
Natalia Leftdwrige’s First Communion
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Toriskie

In Honor of
Mary F. Reynolds
Jean Reynolds

In Honor of
Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie
Anonymous
The Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik Spiritual Enrollment Program provides an opportunity for the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago to share their prayer with others in a special way. A monthly Mass is celebrated for all those enrolled, living or deceased. The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago remember everyone who is enrolled in their prayers. The Spiritual Enrollment card with a matching mailing envelope is exquisitely designed and easy to use. It may be used to celebrate any occasion or to remember a loved one. Please be sure to complete the section requesting the donor’s name and address so that the Spiritual Enrollment Book has the donor’s name as well as the name of the person being enrolled. A one-year enrollment is $15.

To obtain the enrollment packet, please contact Vicki Olsen at (630) 243-3556.

**Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik Spiritual Enrollment**
December 2, 2022 - July 20, 2023

**In Honor of**

**Sister M. Joella Bielinski’s 75th Jubilee**  
Enrolled by Our Lady of Victory Convent Sisters

**The Bellagamba Family**  
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

**Alice Burrell**  
Enrolled by Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik

**Marian Del Piero**  
Enrolled by Edith Kubas

**In Honor of**  

**Sister M. Helene Galuszka’s 60th Jubilee**  
Enrolled by Our Lady of Victory Convent Sisters

**Jerry Gavin**  
Enrolled by Joe Budzyn

**Walter & Pat Guszka**  
Enrolled by Anonymous
Adrian Infante & Family
Enrolled by Rebecca Ramos

Michael Janicek
Enrolled by Richard & Gayla Janicek

Colin Kelly
Enrolled by Kathleen Kelly

Timothy & Mary Korbos
Enrolled by Edith Kubas

Sister Barbara Koza
Enrolled by Anonymous

Donna Kral
Enrolled by Lauren & Dan Faxel

Elaine & Pat Lindia
Enrolled by Mary I. Mosser

Kimberly Mastramico
Enrolled by Tom & Jolene Mastramico

Nolan McCarthy
Enrolled by Betsy Garbrecht

Raquel Ramos & Family
Enrolled by Rebecca Ramos

Rebecca Ramos
Enrolled by Rebecca Ramos

Richard Ramos & Family
Enrolled by Rebecca Ramos

Sandy & John with Polonia Catering
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

David Thomas
Enrolled by Anonymous

"I realized that it is safest to put all hope in God alone; therefore, in all difficulties, I went to Him for help."
- Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik
Elaine Arnott
Enrolled by Sister Jean Therese Jarosz

Elaine Agnes Arnott
Enrolled by Sister Kathleen Melia

Frank Bardoczi
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Reverend Regis Norbert Barwig
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Lynda Bell
Enrolled by Richard & Gayla Janicek

Matthew Berry
Enrolled by Maryann Bennett

Dorothy Bogan
Enrolled by Pat Camalliere

Pat (Marian) Budzyn
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Kathleen Calcagno
Enrolled by Diane Kulma

Phyllis Cecola
Enrolled by Maryann Bennett

Robert H. Feeney
Enrolled by Gary & Jeanine Duckett

Kathleen Foley
Enrolled by Richard & Gayla Janicek

Hector Fuster
Enrolled by Marea Gonska

Raul “Ruby” Gonzalez
Enrolled by Jeanine & Gary Duckett

Father Robert Hale
Enrolled by Sister Jean Therese Jarosz

Patricia Handtmann
Enrolled by Deborah Dudzik Wagner

Thomas Fabian Haselberger
Enrolled by Kathleen Kelly

Matthew Heffner
Enrolled by Richard & Gayla Janicek

Ed Hoff
Enrolled by Helen Gibson

John George Hyneman
Enrolled by Tim & Wendy Bellagamba

Connor Jennings
Enrolled by Richard & Gayla Janicek

Dorothy Jesuit
Enrolled by Helen Gibson
Spiritual Enrollment

Timothy Joseph Kelleher
Enrolled by Peggy Hogan

Edmund Kulesa, Jr.
Enrolled by Joe & Pat Budzyn

Michael J. Layden
Enrolled by Peggy Hogan

James McCanney
Enrolled by Peggy Hogan

Alvin McCormick
Enrolled by Anonymous
Diana Kulma

Milt Mooney
Enrolled by Tim & Wendy Bellagamba

Jan Moronska
Enrolled by Tim & Wendy Bellagamba

John R. Mosser, Sr.
Enrolled by Mary I. Mosser

Evelyn & Patrick Morrison
Enrolled by Pat Camalliere

Linda Nilsson
Enrolled by Betsy Garbrecht

Susan M. Ohl
Enrolled by Gary & Jeanine Duckett

Donna Bengiveno Randall
Enrolled by Tom & Jolene Mastramico

Delores Slemp
Enrolled by Richard & Gayla Janicek

Robert Saraz
Enrolled by Diana Kulma

Daniel Smigaj
Enrolled by Marea Gonska

Kathleen Mary Swieton
Enrolled by Christine Schuler

Marek Szostek
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Richard Varey
Enrolled by Kathleen Kelly

Mary L. Veldt
Enrolled by Gary & Jeanine Duckett

John Wuchko, Sr.
Enrolled by Richard & Gayla Janicek

Donna Zartler
Enrolled by Marea Gonska

Gary Zudonyi
Enrolled by Tim & Wendy Bellagamba
The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago want to thank you for reading our newsletter and wish you God's blessings!