Crossroads
Newsletter of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

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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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Born in Omaha, Nebraska, and raised in Pueblo, Colorado, Sister Kathleen joined the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago on September 2, 1956. She began her ministry teaching fourth grade at St. Stanislaus Bishop Martyr in Chicago in 1956 and continued teaching various subjects at St. Louise de Marillac in La Grange Park, IL and also at Madonna High School in Chicago.

Sister Kathleen then went on to Loyola University and received her Bachelor of Arts in Latin in 1965 and a Master’s degree in social work in 1977. This led her to pursue social work as a ministry. She served as a social worker at St. Joseph Home in Chicago and at Mother Theresa Home in Lemont. At the same time, she served as a social work consultant at several Catholic nursing homes within the Archdiocese of Chicago. Sister Kathleen was the administrator of St. Anthony Home in Crown Point, Indiana, for three years. She also worked at Lakeview Nursing Home and Harmony Nursing Home in Chicago.

Over the years, Sister Kathleen wrote several professional articles which were published in magazines such as “Sisters Today” and “Hospital Progress.” She also has had over 80 letters to the editor published in the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun-Times over the past decade.

Sister Kathleen also enjoys composing music. She helped start the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago guitar group in 1971 who put out two albums. Sister Kathleen wrote and recorded 12 songs on their first album, “Daybreak” and another six original songs on their second album, “A New Kind of Freedom.”

Sister Kathleen now resides at Glen St. Andrew Living Community in Niles, Illinois, and does volunteer work with the residents and staff on a daily basis.

May God bless Sister Kathleen Melia and congratulations on her sixty years of religious life!
Since opening its doors back in 1995, St. Jude House has been the recipient of generous donations from members of the community. Those donations, whether they are monetary or in-kind, are so valuable to the success of programming at the Crown Point, Indiana shelter.

Sometimes donations come in the form of good people offering their time and talent for the purpose of renovating the St. Jude House shelter. Such was the case when more than 30 volunteers from Allstate Insurance Company recently offered their services to the shelter. These energetic, enthusiastic volunteers arrived at St. Jude House by 8:00 a.m. and began a day-long mission to paint rooms and ceilings, install trim, power wash the entire building, and improve the outdoor spaces by mulching the children’s playground and weeding an entire unsightly area. This huge effort by the men and women from Allstate who spent their day improving both the inside and outside of the building also culminated in an amazing monetary donation of $23,000 for the support of programming at the shelter. St. Jude House staff will always be grateful to these tireless volunteers whose donation made a long lasting difference to the facility. Knowing that others care about the work done for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault is very motivating to the ministry.

One of the ways in which St. Jude House raises awareness about current needs and attracts interested volunteers is through its outreach in the community and events that are held throughout the year. One event that many people are familiar with is the Candlelight Vigil, held annually to celebrate survivors of domestic violence and to acknowledge those who have lost their lives. The timing of the vigil is set to coincide with Domestic Violence Awareness Month, observed nationally during each October. This year’s vigil will be held September 25th at the Crown Point Court House.
This past year has been very exciting at the Madonna Foundation as they have now expanded their team. The Foundation is pleased to introduce its new team members!

Betsy Garbecht - Advancement and Scholarship Manager
Betsy Garbrecht is the new Advancement and Scholarship Manager. Betsy will be responsible for the overall management and growth of the Madonna Scholar Program. She will be focused on providing quality programming for scholars as well as fostering and nurturing long-term, meaningful relationships between the Madonna Foundation and its donors, prospective donors, recipients, and partner high schools. Betsy has over 15 years in financial sales and over 20 years of successful fundraising and event planning experience and comes from a family spanning four generations of educators. She is passionate about educating and empowering young women and recently has worked in a high school with students who have special needs. Betsy has a B.S. in Finance from Eastern Illinois University and is an avid traveler. She lives with her husband and her two children Grace and Ryan.

Susan Parker - Senior Corporate Grants Manager
Susan Parker is the new Senior Corporate Grants Manager. Susan works closely with the Madonna Foundation to secure grant funding for scholarships and programmatic support. Susan has worked in the non-profit arena for 25 years. She began her career at Harvard University; first in the university development office for the Harvard College Fund and then at the Harvard Institute for International Development where she served as the program administrator and grant manager for a number of USAID-funded international development projects operating in ten countries. For the last eleven years, she has worked in the fundraising field. At the University of St. Francis, she developed the curriculum for and taught the 12-hour certification course in grant writing to non-profit professionals for several years. Most recently, she was the grants manager for Catholic Charities. Susan holds a B.A. in French literature from Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois and spent five years living and studying abroad in Switzerland, Paris and Berlin.

Christine Zielke Corporate Director of Philanthropy and Planned Giving
Christine Zielke is the new Corporate Director of Philanthropy and Planned Giving. Christine has nearly 20 years of experience specializing in sales and business operations in the healthcare and higher education fields. Before coming to Franciscan Ministries, she was the Business and Operations Manager for the Division of Advancement at Loyola University, Chicago. In her role as a member of the senior leadership team and the Senior Vice President’s advisory group, Christine built cross-functional relationships with university partners in IT, Finance, Human Resources and the President’s Office. She brings a long list of accomplishments attained throughout the course of her career, including various awards for best practices and innovative marketing strategies. In addition, Christine was part of the winning team that was responsible for Loyola’s most successful comprehensive campaign to date, which raised $535 million in total gifts. Christine earned her Bachelor of General and Integrated Sciences in Marketing and Visual Communication from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois. Christine and her husband love to travel and see the world but these past three years have been devoted to spending time with their three year old son, Walker.
The 2016 Theresa Dudzik Innovation Grant Winners

The Village at Victory Lakes and St. Anthony Village

For over two decades the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago have funded the Theresa Dudzik Service Award. This ministerial grant was awarded to a senior living community in Franciscan Ministries to enhance and extend programs and services that are provided to its associates and residents. This past year Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, General Minister of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, appointed Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie to revamp the award program and to refocus the grant on new and innovative programs that would benefit the residents in Franciscan Ministries’ communities.

The grant award has been re-named the Theresa Dudzik Innovation Grant. Four of Franciscan Ministries’ senior living communities submitted projects for funding and the Sisters were very pleased with the overall response from our facilities. "The ideas and concepts generated could bring our care and service to a whole different level at Franciscan Ministries, extending the charism of Mother Theresa Dudzik in new ways to fit the needs of suffering people," Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie said.

This year’s Theresa Dudzik Innovation Grant award winner of $10,000 is the Village at Victory Lakes in Lindenhurst, Illinois. Their innovation titled, ‘Grief, Loss and Life Transitions Program (GLLT)’ was submitted by Deborah Armenta, Director of Pastoral Care & Mission Integration. The GLLT program will strive to improve the quality of life and death for the residents and their caregivers through the development and implementation of a comprehensive grief, loss and life transitions education and resources program. The Village at Victory Lakes Executive Director Calvin Isaacson will oversee the implementation of the project.

The GLLT program will provide resources and outreach to the family members of Village at Victory Lakes and offer resources for individuals throughout the greater Northern Lake County area in the areas of grief and loss. Training and resources will also be provided to associates for education for professional skills and self-awareness in working in a long term care community. “The primary goal is to improve the quality of life for our residents in our Franciscan Community by offering resources to address the transition that occurs through retirement, relocation, loss of spouse or loved ones, and a loss of relationships when a move is made into the community,” Deborah Armenta said when describing the program.

Calvin Isaacson discussed some of the goals of the program: “I’d like to see people openly and honestly address their mourning and their grief so that they are psychologically healthy. Grief is not something that ever goes away – you don’t get over it – you just incorporate it into your life and we need to provide tools and support to assist people in dealing with their grief.”
The Innovation Grant program continues the mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago as Deborah elaborates, “The mission of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik (the Foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago) embraces the whole continuity of care, the sacredness, the dignity, the sanctity of the whole human life from womb to tomb and this program is another piece of that providing people with resources to live their life out in their third age, in their latter years through the difficulties, the transitions, even as their bodies are diminishing and their life is changing so they can live with hope, dignity, joy, and love.”

**St. Anthony Village Awarded the Second Place Grant Award**

St. Anthony Village in Crown Point, Indiana was awarded the second place grant award of $3,000 for their innovation grant submission entitled, “Making the Journey to Palliative Care.” The grant proposal was submitted by Blossom Mabon, Director of Fund Development at St. Anthony Village. This project will educate residents about their chronic diseases and help them with pain and symptom management in hopes of improving their quality of life. Palliative Care is a precursor to a Hospice Program and it is for people who may not be right at the end of life but within the next few years may have a considerable decline in their health.

“This program will help residents much earlier when they are first diagnosed with their disease and will provide important information, rather than waiting until end of life to provide them care. People are living longer and more so with chronic disease. The overall goal is to help reduce hospital admissions for these elderly people with chronic disease and promote self-care and self-education,” Blossom said.

“Recognizing that living with a chronic disease is extremely difficult, the program teaches the support team on ways to ease residents’ symptoms to make life better for them and their family and close friends,” said Linda O’Neill, executive director at St. Anthony Village. “We’ve learned that palliative care helps decrease depression in our residents, reduces hospitalizations and high-risk interventions, and provides expert treatment of multiple, complex symptoms.

Linda also thanked the Sisters and recognized their long commitment to innovation. ”I personally want to thank our Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, because we have always rallied around proposal submissions of any innovative programs that we can think of, so we can carry on their legacy and the legacy of their foundress, Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik.”

Congratulations to these two communities for winning the 2016 Theresa Dudzik Innovation Grant Award and thanks to all of the Franciscan Ministries’ communities and associates who participated.
The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago held their annual Autumn Dinner Dance on October 27th at DiNolfo’s Banquets in Homer Glen, Illinois. This event has been a staple Fall celebratory tradition for several years now. This year the guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner, a prize raffle and live music by the Together Band. Two awards, the Weaver Award and the Golden Thread Award, were presented as well.

Sister M. Monica entered the Congregation on September 8, 1952 and made her profession of vows in 1955. She began by teaching elementary school at Five Holy Martyrs in Chicago until 1969 and then later at St. Hedwig in Gary, Indiana and SS Philip and James in Cleveland, Ohio. Afterwards, she went on to Madonna High School in Chicago to serve as the school librarian and coordinator of various student activities until 2001. Sister M. Monica served as the Finance/Pastoral Care Assistant at St. Joseph Village for 14 years. She also held the positions of Local Treasurer, Local Minister and General Secretary for FSC.

“This in all of these roles Sister exhibited a generous willing spirit, easily weaving her own personal talents and skills into the lives of those to whom she ministered,” Sister M. Bernadette conveyed to the guests.

Sister M. Monica expressed her gratitude to the Sisters: “When I was notified that I was to receive the Weaver Award, I was truly surprised. I am grateful and humbled that my fellow Sisters recognized my work and dedication for our community.”

This year, Sister M. Monica Sendlosky was the recipient of the Franciscan Weaver Award for 2016. The Franciscan Weaver Award is an honor awarded to a Franciscan Sister of Chicago who embodies the Franciscan charism and shows Franciscan joy in her daily life. Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, General Minister of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago addressed the dinner dance guests on behalf of Sister M. Monica. “Sister M. Monica serves others generously and her very being is rooted in the Gospel message. She is someone who allows the grace of God to shine through her as she shows the face of God to everyone she encounters,”
George Ferrell and William Callaghan of Henry Brothers Co. were this year’s Golden Thread Award recipients. The Golden Thread Award is bestowed upon an individual or group of individuals whose loyal and faithful commitment has enabled the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago to continue their ministries. Henry Bros. Co. has been instrumental in developing and constructing some of FSC/ Franciscan Ministries’ communities such as Our Lady of Victory Convent, St. Joseph Village, and Phase III and IV of Franciscan Village. Through the years Henry Bros. have also donated or have been an anchor donor for many of FSC’s fundraising events such as our yearly ‘Swinging for the Sisters’ and the Autumn Dinner Dance. The company has a long history in working with the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago and the diocese of Joliet, building churches, communities, and schools.

The Sisters presented the award to the honorees and Sister M. Bernadette enlightened our guests with her presentation speech. “It was the thought of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik that people who helped her in her work were like golden threads. The golden threads were solid, strong and a valuable part of the fabric of the life and future of the Sisters. Speaking of ‘golden threads’ is a more feminine way of telling of the ways that this awardee has related to us. It would certainly be right to translate their actions over the past seventeen years into the masculine language of construction, of bricks and mortar. Throughout that entire period they have gifted us with veritable “bricks” of cash with which we could further build up our charitable ministries. But far beyond these generous annual gifts they have cemented it all with the best gift of all - their solid relationship with the Sisters - the mortar which binds us together in friendship and love.”

William Callaghan accepted the award and addressed the attendees: “George and I are most honored to receive the Golden Thread Award from the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. We are the third generation owners of Henry Bros. Co., which has nearly a 100 year history of working for the Catholic Church in the Chicago area. Our company’s tradition has always been to provide service and support to our clients with integrity and the highest standards of quality in the industry. Being recognized for our work by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, a group that we hold in such high esteem for their service to the community, is truly an honor. As St. Francis lived, ‘right with God and creation,’ so too the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago have followed his footsteps here to make our world a better place. I’d like to recognize our families, friends, and the rest of the Henry Bros. team here with us tonight. All of you share in this award with us. Thank you.”

Sister Bernadette concluded the award ceremony saying, “We appreciate everything Sister M. Monica and Henry Bros. Co. have done for us over the years and offer God’s blessings to them. Thank you to all who attended our Autumn Dinner Dance and showed support for the Sisters. We hope to see you again next year!”
The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago have had a long history in the field of education. Over the years, they staffed many parochial schools, providing Sisters for teaching assignments throughout several states. Sister Diane Marie Collins was inspired early on by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago who taught her at Sacred Heart of Jesus Grammar School in Gary, Indiana. This led her to eventually join the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in 1968. Sister made her first profession of vows in 1971 and her perpetual vows in 1977. Sister received her Bachelor’s in Arts in English from Marillac College and her Masters in English from DePaul University.

Sister Diane Marie eventually was assigned to teach at Madonna High School in Chicago where she taught English, coached speech and debate teams and ministered in school social work after receiving her Masters in Social Work from Loyola University. “Since the age of four I was intrigued by the ministry of teaching. Education is a field in which the teacher and the student form a community of interactive
learning. It is always a joy to see the light appear in the eyes of the students be it the deeper understanding of a poem in literature or the Word of God.”

Sister’s New Position and Ministry

This love of teaching led Sister Diane Marie to continue her ministry in education in a new position after serving as general minister of the religious congregation. Since August of 2014, Sister Diane Marie has been a part of the pastoral team in campus ministry at the University of Illinois at Chicago at the St. John Paul II Newman Center. Sister is also the Coordinator of Liturgy and Music at the Newman Center. The main focus of this job is working with the young adults at the university who volunteer to serve as liturgical ministers.

The students choose a ministry which Sister then teaches them how to perform. They learn about the history of that role in the liturgy and why it is essential. This ministry also includes preparing the on-site chapel for various liturgical celebrations. Collaborating with the student liturgy committee to develop culturally distinct Masses which feature different rites and ethnic traditions is a special joy for Sister. “No day is the same. Being on a university campus taps into my love of the educational environment. I enjoy the challenge and joy of interacting with young adults on a very culturally and religiously diverse campus and having the opportunity to share spirituality, faith and life with staff and students.”

Sister Diane Marie also works with other members of the pastoral team collaborating with a group from Madison, Wisconsin called Evangelical Catholic. This organization works with dioceses, parishes, and university campuses to form student leaders and staff to achieve the common goal of introducing people to the person of Jesus through reading, exploring and praying the Gospel.

Students are mentored and trained to interact with other students on campus through Bible study and discussion groups about life and faith.

“As the campus ministers we are being trained to mentor the students through weekly one-on-one meetings which include ‘checking in’ about their faith life and the progress of their small groups, and any other issues that might arise.” She also facilitates a discernment discussion group centered on consecrated life and priesthood with Father Patrick Marshall, the Director and Pastor of John Paul II Newman Center. There have been a number of student vocations over the years. “Spiritual direction is another ministry that I am able to offer the students on campus since attaining my certification as a spiritual director last May. It is a mutual experience of growth in spirituality for the students as well as myself.”
World Youth Day and Trip to Rome

This past July and August, Sister Diane Marie participated in a wonderful spiritual journey when she accompanied the Newman Center staff and students, first on a pilgrimage to Rome, and then later to World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. The group spent four days in Rome. One of the highlights was a Mass at the altar where St. John Paul II is buried in St. Peter’s Basilica. “It was quite an experience to see Rome through the eyes and expressions of the students. I will never look at sites like the Spanish steps, the Sistine Chapel, Trevi Fountain and others in the same way. To experience the awe and wonder and questions of the students doubled my enjoyment.”

The group then made its way to Krakow for World Youth Day. World Youth Day was initiated in 1985 by Pope John Paul II with the first official event in 1986. It is held every two to three years in various locations in different countries around the world. This year’s event was held July 26th through the 31st with the theme, “Blessed are the merciful for they will obtain mercy.” The group participated in many of the Youth Day events including the welcoming speech by Pope Francis, the Stations of the Cross and the closing Mass with the Holy Father. Pope Francis’s message to the young adults stressed a call to more active participation in the life of the Church and in various ministries in any way possible. He also announced that the next World Youth Day will be in 2019 in Panama City, Panama.
While in Krakow, the group stayed with two host families who opened their homes to the group with generous hearts and provided an authentic taste (literally and figuratively) of life in Poland. The group was also able to experience many of the sights of Krakow, including the shrines of Our Lady of Czestochowa, the Shrine of Divine Mercy, the sanctuary of St. John Paull II, and the famous salt mines. The entire trip was a wonderful experience enjoyed by all, as they made memories and friendships that will last a lifetime, especially getting the unique opportunity to celebrate Mass with Pope Francis. “Having this experience with two and a half million young people truly warmed my soul and gave me hope for the future of our Church.”

Final Thoughts

Sister Diane Marie adds, “Discerning God’s will in my life through prayer and an awareness of His presence in people and circumstances continues to lead me from one amazing God-inspired life experience to the next.” Her love of education and working with youth is inspired by Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik, the foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. “What I continue to learn and I believe what Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik learned as she lived out her relationship with God in action, is that striving to be an authentic presence of God’s love in this world is only possible when one seeks to know and do God’s will through prayer and a willingness to be surprised.”
In the small town of Utica, New York, a baby girl was born on March 22, 1921 to Felix and Hedwig Puchalski who had immigrated to the United States from Poland a few years earlier in search of a better life. This little girl was the couple's first born and named Hedwig Clara. Felix and Hedwig had two more children after Hedwig Clara: one boy who died in infancy and one girl whom they named Theresa. When Hedwig Clara was two years old the family moved to Pennsylvania. By the time she was four, the family had moved to Michigan before eventually settling in Ohio. Her younger sister Theresa was born in Ohio when Hedwig Clara was seven years old. Little Hedwig enjoyed playing with her dog, Spitz. She took him for rides in her buggy along with her doll. She also enjoyed jumping rope and playing hop-scotch. She had fond memories of her parents. She remembered how smart her mother was and how much her father enjoyed sweets. She really liked going to the movies once in a while for only 10 cents. One of her special memories was when a tornado tore the roof off the family barn. However, she does not remember what happened to the horse that was inside at the time.

Hedwig Clara was only seven years old and in the second grade at St. Casimir School in Cleveland, Ohio, when she first met the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. She truly enjoyed performing odd jobs for the Sisters and was allowed to work with them in the church sacristy.

Hedwig Clara entered the community on August 25, 1934 at the age of thirteen. She became a novice on August 15, 1937 and received the name Sister Mary Andrea. Sister professed her perpetual vows on August 12, 1944. Sister M. Andrea had a very long and fruitful ministry. She served as a licensed practical nurse, an X-ray technician and a laboratory technician in various places. Sister spent the early years of her religious life as a sacristan at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyrs in Chicago. In 1940, Sister went to serve at Boys Town, Nebraska for a year as supervisor of the boys’ dining room and of the laundry. In 1941, Sister was at St. Joseph Home in Chicago lovingly performing general nursing duties. Sister served at St. Joseph Home until 1948 when she was sent to Martin, South Dakota. Here Sister's main duty was the LPN night supervisor; first at Mother of Grace Hospital and then at St. Anthony Hospital. After 23 years, Sister was sent to minister at St. Anthony Home in Crown Point, Indiana. Sister was only in Crown Point a year when she was sent to live at St. Joseph Home for two years while she officially obtained her license as a licensed practical nurse. In 1973, Sister M. Andrea returned to Crown Point where she was the LPN night supervisor for the residents of St. Anthony Home. Sister performed these duties for seven years, then at Mount Alverna Home in Parma, Ohio for three years and at Mother Theresa Home in Lemont, Illinois for four years and back to St. Joseph Home in Chicago where she ministered for another 17 years. Finally in 2004, Sister M. Andrea returned to Our Lady of Victory convent and entered a new chapter in her life as the manager of the convent gift shop. Sister held this position until 2012 when she decided to retire.

One of the unique things for which Sister M. Andrea will be remembered is her devotion to the Infant of Prague and for the lovely clothes she would diligently sew for the Infant of Prague statues. Also, in 2011, Sister M. Andrea was the Franciscan Peacemaker award recipient.

After 81 years of religious life and at the age of 95, Sister M. Andrea quietly left this earth on Sunday, July 17th to join Jesus whom she loved with all her heart.
Walter and Anna Gubala immigrated to the United States from Poland in search of a better life. The couple married in the United States and eventually had five children. The couple's second child, a girl, was born on September 15, 1915 in Youngstown, Ohio, and she was named Josephine. The couple was overjoyed with the birth of Josephine because their first child had died as a toddler. Josephine's father worked for Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company and her mother was a homemaker who also enjoyed gardening. Josephine was taught by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and quickly became attached to them. After her eighth grade graduation, Josephine, along with several other girls from the parish, boarded a train for Chicago. Two Sisters met the girls and on June 21, 1929, Josephine entered the community. She was just three months shy of her fourteenth birthday. Two weeks later, Josephine's mother came to take Josephine back to Youngstown, but Josephine wanted to remain in the convent and sent her mother home without her. Remaining in the community, Josephine became a novice on December 8, 1930 and received the name Sister Mary Marinella. Sister professed her perpetual vows on August 16, 1937.

Sister M. Marinella began her career in education in 1932 when she was sent to Five Holy Martyrs School in Chicago to teach second grade. This was the beginning of a long ministry in education that lasted for more than 52 years. Sister taught at St. Florian School and St. Pancratius School, both in Chicago and at St. Joseph School in East Chicago, Indiana. During this time as teacher, Sister Marinella was also a student. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1945 and a Master of Arts in Education and English in 1950, both from DePaul University in Chicago.

In 1953, Sister M. Marinella was assigned to Madonna High School in Chicago where she taught a variety of subjects including algebra, business math, religion, United States history, social living...and English which she taught exclusively from 1956. Sister M. Marinella encouraged students to develop their minds and to strive to be the best they could be. Sister also held various positions during her stay at Madonna, one of which was to serve five years as Local Minister.

After serving at Madonna for 32 years, in 1985 at the age of 70, Sister M. Marinella came to Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont for a well-deserved retirement. Here she appreciated the time to pray and reflect. After 87 years of religious life and at the age of 101, Sister M. Marinella quietly left this earth on Monday, March 20th, this year the celebration of the feast of St. Joseph, her baptismal patron, to join him in heaven and especially to be with Jesus whom she loved with all her heart.

For you created my inmost being, you knit me in my mother's womb. (Psalm 139:13)
In the city of Chicago, Illinois, a baby girl was born the day before Christmas in 1925 to Jacob and Anne Swies who had immigrated to the United States from Poland some years earlier. This little girl was the couple’s seventh child and they named her Evelyn. On January 10, 1926, Evelyn was baptized at St. Pancratius Church in Chicago. Later Evelyn and her six older siblings were joined by three more children bringing the Swies family to a total of ten children; four boys and six girls. Evelyn’s father worked as a molder and as you can imagine, Evelyn’s mother was kept very busy as a mother and homemaker.

On August 15, 1951, at the age of 26, Evelyn entered the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago along with five other women. Evelyn became a novice on August 12, 1952 and received the name Sister Mary Vincent. Two years later, Sister made her First Profession of Vows and on August 12, 1959, Sister M. Vincent made her Perpetual Profession.

During her postulancy Sister served at Guardian Angel Day Care in Chicago. As a second year novice, Sister served in the residents’ dining room at St. Joseph Home in Chicago, but after a month, she was sent to teach kindergarten at St. Hedwig School in Gary, Indiana. Sister continued in the field of education teaching second grade at Sacred Heart School in Gary, Indiana for a year and in 1958 Sister was assigned to care for the 2 1/2 year olds at Guardian Angel Day Care. Sister M. Vincent loved children very much and she taught them many things, especially about Jesus and His love for them. Sister was also very practical and taught the children how to scrape their dirty ishes after each meal and to stack them appropriately. Sister even learned to play the guitar so that she could accompany the children as they sang a variety of songs.

While at Guardian Angel, Sister also served a year as Local Minister and six years as Assistant Local Minister. Sister M. Vincent remained at Guardian Angel Day Care until 1990, a total of 32 years. During this time Sister earned her Associate in Arts degree in Child Development - Pre-School Education. For many years afterwards, Sister kept her knowledge current and innovative by attending various workshops specializing in the education of young children.

Sister M. Vincent learned to drive so that she could help out when necessary. It was not her favorite task, but she did it out of love; the way Sister did all things. She loved to pray and she would spend hours each evening in prayer. She also loved music. Her favorite was the music played by a Mariachi band.

In 1990, Sister was assigned to St. Joseph Home in Chicago where she served for ten years; five years full time in the Activity Department and then five years as a part-time resident visitor. On September 22, 2009, Sister Vincent retired to Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont.

After 66 years of religious life and at the age of 91, Sister M. Vincent quietly left this earth early in the morning of Saturday, April 8th, to be with Jesus whom she loved and served with all her heart.

Sister M. Vincent Sweis
Born: December 24, 1925
Died: April 8, 2017

“Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise. For God is king over all the earth; sing hymns of praise.”
(Psalm 47: 7-8)
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 Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik.

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

The donor list in this issue is recorded from January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016. 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 Janet Borth, Coordinator of Development, at 630-243-3560 or at jborth@chicagofranciscans.org.
RESTRICTED GIFTS

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.

Ms. Maureen Tuohy
Anonymous
Adeline F. Galuska

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

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.

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Juanita Liepelt
Joseph Lushnia

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

Brian Bobick
Linda Caine
Anna C. Hamblin
Stanley Kedzior
Michael J. Niemiec
Irene Podlasek

VENERABLE MOTHER MARY THERESA DUDZIK BEATIFICATION FUND

Gifts sent to the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago for the Beatification Cause are sent immediately to this Fund. Gifts received through the League of Mother Theresa are used to cover the cost of operating the League Office and once a year (or more often) money from the League is transferred to the Beatification Fund. Thanks to everyone who has helped build the Beatification Fund. Every step in the process requires fees and the Beatification Fund must continue to grow so that funds are there when needed.

Anonymous
Mary Jackubowski
Marion Molik
Theresa G. Nawara
Anthony and Valerie Sendra
Brad and Christine Zielke
Eileen O’Brien

NON-CASH

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 630-243-3562 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. The Sisters thank the following for their gifts of services:

3 Corners Grill & Tap
4 Penguins
In Honor of Laura Pindek and Stephanie Duszynski
Peter and Francis Duszynski

In Honor of Sister M. Placidia Rzonca
Keith Urban and Karin (Rzonca) Urban

In Honor of Sr. Joseph Marie Zenda’s 60th Jubilee
Dr. Peter Doris

Stephen and Helen Yurish
Please keep them in your prayers
Richard S. Yurish

TRIBUTES

In Honor of Tina Czernik’s speedy recovery from cancer
Sharon Opeka

In Honor of Sister M. Deofilia Piaskowy, Laura Prudeck, Stephanie Duzynski, and Virginia Strapp
Peter and Frances Duszynski

In Honor of Michelle Dunn
The Village at Victory Lakes

In Honor of First Grandchild
Simon and Catherine Handzik

In Honor of Sister Jean Haske
Douglas Haske

In Honor of Father Anselm Ibe
The Village at Victory Lakes

In Honor of Father John Kartje
The Village at Victory Lakes

In Honor of Catherine Menoini-Ori
The Village at Victory Lakes

In Honor of The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and Mary Mosser’s birthday
Mary Mosser

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Sister M. Albertine Schab
Stephen and Stacey Vlock

In Memory of Michael Baader
Eleanor Baader

In Memory of Sister M. Amabilis Bellock’s 100th birthday
Timothy Massie

In Memory of Glenn Bluemer
Lewis Craig

In Memory of Sister Mary Claudia Bomba
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bomba

In Memory of Sister M. Leonida Bywalec
Thomas Strolia

In Memory of Ann Clam
James and Lillyann Baldanza
Susan Morris
Mark Sullivan
Daniel and Darcy Mulderink

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. Ultimately a portion of this fund will be used to help those who entrust their needs to the Sisters, including their own infirm and aged Sisters.

In Memory of
Sister M. Albertine Schab
Stephen and Stacey Vlock

In Memory of
Michael Baader
Eleanor Baader

In Memory of
Sister M. Amabilis Bellock’s 100th birthday
Timothy Massie

In Memory of
Glenn Bluemer
Lewis Craig

In Memory of
Sister Mary Claudia Bomba
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bomba

In Memory of
Sister M. Leonida Bywalec
Thomas Strolia

In Memory of
Ann Clam
James and Lillyann Baldanza
Susan Morris
Mark Sullivan
Daniel and Darcy Mulderink
In Memory of Larry Driscoll
Joren and Lisa Apiquian
Bradley Berger
Frank Garro
Judith Kass
Deborah Owdom
Paula White
Richard Schick
Eric Sherman
John Squillo

In Memory of Stanley Dudzik
Juanita Dudzik Thompson

In Memory of
Sister Rose Wilbur Flower
Walter and Julie Anne Kos

In Memory of
Frank and Stella Gajewski
Marjorie Maciejewski

In Memory of Walter Ganiec
Helen Ganiec

In Memory of
Sister M. Jeanette Golojuch
Vincent and Belinda Hrastinski

In Memory of Sr. M. Alvernia Groszek and
Sr. Carol Marie Schommer
Peter Jentel

In Memory of Sr. Josephine Haske
and Brother George who died 1/1/91
Douglas Haske

In Memory of
George and Eleanor Haske
Douglas Haske

In Memory of Sr. M. Hubert Jasinski
Edward J. Neroda

In Memory of
Sr. M. Georgeann Kinel
Rose P. Novotny

In Memory of Helene Krispinsky
Ken and Mary Sympson

In Memory of Helene P. Krispinsky,
Sr. Mary Maximina Pahut and the
entire Pahut Family of Youngstown
Paul Krispinsky

In Memory of Michael Kulczycki
Anonymous

In Memory of Father Paul Marszalek
Estate of Paul Marszalek

In Memory of Clara McPhail
Chester Bazan
Ken and Linda Jones
Robert and Christine Ketterhagen
Pam Ness
John O’Leary, Jr.
Ed and Linda Patrick
Jill Peterson
Laver Rostenkowski
Bernard and Donna Schyvink
Christine Schyvink
Katherine Soper
Marta Szydlowska

In Memory of her mother
Diana Michals
Anne Burton

In Memory of
Marion and Margaret Musich
Marion J. Musich Trust

In Memory of Edward Novak
Louise Golemo

In Memory of Sr. Mary Louise Nowicki
Mary Louise (Rzepka) Hansa

In Memory of Kathleen “Cookie” Obora
Gene Obora

In Memory of Sr. Theresa Obremski
Sharon Kutta

In Memory of Sr. M. Andrea Puchalski
Fran Klappa-Cales
Estate of Chester Lazarski
Mary Mosser
Eleanor Twardowski
Larry and Linda Powell

In Memory of
Sister M. Methodia Ryzner
Geraldine Biel

In Memory of Romaan Skoczek
Adeline F. Galuszka

In Memory of Pat Snyder
The Village at Victory Lakes

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

In Memory of
Sister M. Marifilia Strzycki
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Caviness

In Memory of Ralph Thomas
Leamond Allen

In Memory of Leo Wilkes
Richard Knowski

In Memory of
Harry and Sophie Witkiewicz
Patricia Witkiewicz

In Memory of
Edward Wojtak, Sr.
and Daniel Wojtak
Irene Wojtak

In Memory of
Theophane Zaucha
Estate of Theophane Mary Zaucha

MISC.

Thanksgiving for good health
Harry and Crystal Kurek

Prayers for family, for Heidy
and her boss and protection
from neighbors
Michael Robles and Heidy Herrera

Pray that we find an
affordable home
Michael Robles and Heidy Herrera
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 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 Janet Borth at (630) 243-3560.
Carol Demaris  
Healing from breast cancer  
Enrolled by Stephen G. Klosowski

Sister Mark Derbas “get well soon”  
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Joe Doehring  
Enrolled by Franciscan Ministries

Kevin Doyle  
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Celebrating Brother Bill Hallas on his 50th Jubilee  
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Dr. Robert Havey  
Enrolled by Sister Doloria Kosiek

Father Tom Hoffman  
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Peggy Hogan  
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Dr. & Mrs. D. Hugar  
Enrolled by Sister Doloria Kosiek

Wayne & Beth Jakalski and Family-  
“Happy 39th Anniversary”  
Enrolled by Anne M. Knawa

Ruda Krawizyk  
Enrolled by Adeline Galuszka

Father Ron Lweindowdki  
Enrolled by The Village at Victory Lakes

Marion Lyczak  
Enrolled by Juanita Liepelt

Jason Marrer and Mario Camarillo,  
“decernment for vocation to the priesthood and religious life”  
Enrolled by Daniel Lunney

Dolores Mantzyk  
For a speedy recovery  
Enrolled by Adeline Galuszka

Anthony Newmann  
Enrolled by Adeline Galuszka

Therese Nawara  
Enrolled by TG Nawara

Rev. John Nowak C.R.  
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Joan O’Shea for  
“restoration of her health”  
Enrolled by William Crannell

Linda O’Neill  
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Sue Ohl  
Enrolled by Gary and Jeanine Duckett

Anna Roeser  
Enrolled by Martin & Deb Armenta

Deacon Neil Rogers  
Enrolled by Eugene & Diane Kulma

Dr. Mario Salazar  
Enrolled by Sister Doloria Kosiek

Nancy & Victor Schiller Family  
Enrolled by Anne M. Knawa

Kevin Shaughnessy  
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Joe and Shirley Skender & family/  
special intentions for brothers heart problems  
Enrolled by Anne M. Knawa

Happy birthday and blessings to the Skender family during the Christmas season  
Enrolled by Anne M. Knawa

Joe & Shirley Skender  
“Happy 61st Anniversary”  
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago  
Anne M. Knawa

Pat Tarczewski’s 75th birthday  
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Andina Tion  
Enrolled by Eugene & Diane Kulma

Judie Wolski  
Enrolled by Gary and Jeanine Duckett

Terri Anderson  
Enrolled by Timothy Bellagamba

Betty Antal  
Enrolled by Joe and Pat Budzyn

The family of Michael J. Aubuchon  
“Strength and Courage for you and yours”  
Enrolled by Sister Jean Therese Jarosz

Carol Battaglia  
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Marvin Bohmann  
Enrolled by The Village at Victory Lakes

Spiritual Enrollment Deceased

St. Joseph's O.R.C.P.M. School  
Enrolled by Sister Doloria Kosiek

St. Joseph the Worker School  
Enrolled by Sister Doloria Kosiek

St. Joseph School  
Enrolled by Sister Doloria Kosiek
Lola Mae Bardocz
Enrolled by
OLV Franciscan Sisters

Joanna Bernas
Enrolled by
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

John Brazill
“and the repose of his soul
in heaven”
Enrolled by Sister Jean Therese Jarosz

Dennis Budzinski
Enrolled by
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Phyllis Churulo
Enrolled by
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Jeremy T. Demint
Enrolled by Franciscan Ministries

Joan Dickie
Enrolled by
Franciscan Ministries
The Village at Victory Lakes

Martha Duffin
Enrolled by
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Rita Dumas
Enrolled by Patricia Tarczewski

Joan Dundich and blessings
to her entire family
Enrolled by Anne M. Knawa

Irene Duszynski
Enrolled by Adeline Galuszka

In Memory of
Wally and Gene Dudek
Enrolled by Helen G. Dudek

Edna Falibene
Enrolled by Vicki Olsen

Wayne De Felice
Enrolled by Patrick and Elaine Lindia

Ron Fata
Enrolled by Diane Kulma

Mary Florez
Enrolled by
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Balbina B. Forstega
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Audrey Frey
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The Village at Victory Lakes

Isabel Funhouser
Enrolled by Sister Jean Therese Jarosz

Joseph Gentile
Enrolled by
Tim & Wendy Bellagamba

Loretta Gomolka
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Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

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Greg Gustin
Enrolled by Joe & Pat Budzyn

George Higgins
Enrolled by Patricia E. Tarczewski

Stanley Hye
Enrolled by
Joseph & Donna Budzyn
Joe & Pat Budzyn

Henry M. Kaslewnica
Enrolled by OLV Franciscan Sisters

Roseann Kozy
Enrolled by
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
Kathleen Kelly

Marge Kramp
Enrolled by Franciscan Ministries

Ted Kulma
Enrolled by Diane Kulma

Michael Kulczycki
Enrolled by Anonymous

Theresa S. Labus
Enrolled by
Charles and Catherine Tomczak
Chester Labus

Lily Toy Lee
Enrolled by
Joe and Bernadette Caldario

Deacon Norbert Lesnieskis
Enrolled by Eugene Kulma

Janina Lieponis
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Gabriel Lozano
Enrolled by Patricia E. Tarczenski

Bernice Malia
Enrolled by Franciscan Ministries

Jeff Maertin
Enrolled by Joe & Pat Budzyn

Muffy Marsh
Enrolled by
Adeline F. Galuszka
Patricia E. Tarczewski

Harriett Marshall
Enrolled by
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Marge Machey’s 1 year anniversary
since she passed
Enrolled by Patricia E. Tarczewski

Stewart McCutcheon
Enrolled by Joe and Pat Budzyn
Christi McCulloch
Enrolled by Franciscan Ministries

Clara McPhail
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Brian Moriarty
Enrolled by Diane & Eugene Kulma

Jozesa Mrozek
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Jeanine Nelson
Enrolled by Timothy Bellagamba

Walter & Gertrude K. Nawara
Enrolled by TG Nawara

Jean Pace
Enrolled by Charolette Dudzik

Margaret Parro
Enrolled by Franciscan Ministries

Lillian Pastewski
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Joe Paylo and peace to his wife and family
Enrolled by Anne M. Knawa

Eileen S. Pericht
Enrolled by Joe & Pat Budzyn

Millie Petersen “and her wonderful family of 3 daughters and one son”
Enrolled by Anne M. Knawa

Delores Pribyl
Enrolled by Adeline Galuszka

Grace Ragonese
Enrolled by Jill Kachin
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Edna, Rose and Richard Radke
Enrolled by LaVerne M. Weissensel

Ann Rivalsky
Enrolled by Patrick and Elaine Lindia
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Gene Rudolph
Enrolled by The Village at Victory Lakes

Anna Mae Ryndak
Enrolled by Adeline F. Galuszka

John Sabotnik
Enrolled by Sr. Francis Clare Radke

Mike Sales—“Who left this world at the young age of 43, prayers for his family”
Enrolled by Eugene & Diane Kulma

Debra Schmeltzer
Enrolled by Christine Schuler

Lucille Sebahar
Enrolled by Jill Kachin

Rudy Shurko
Enrolled by Mrs. Pat Knowski

Slezak Family
Enrolled by Sister Monica Sendlosky

Roman Skoczek
Enrolled by Adeline F. Galuszka

Pat Snyder
Enrolled by The Village at Victory Lakes

James & Lorraine Steffgen
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Paul Steffensen
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Ralph Stenberg
Enrolled by Franciscan Ministries

Lucille Tomaszewski
Enrolled by Sister Jean Therese Jarosz

Prayers for a quick recovery for Eleanor Twardowski’s hip surgery Eugene Kulma

Julie Vanderweel
Enrolled by Greg Sentry

Anthony Walter
Enrolled by Lindsay Kral

Evelyn Wauters
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Leo Wilkes
Enrolled by Richard Knowski

Stanley, Sophie and Stanley Zajdel Jr.
Enrolled by Sister Jean Therese Jarosz
Gifts sent to the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago for the Beatification Cause are sent immediately to this Fund. Gifts received through the League of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik are used to cover the cost of operating the League Office and once a year (or more often) money from the League is transferred to the Beatification Fund. Thanks to everyone who has helped build the Beatification Fund. Every step in the process requires fees and the Beatification Fund must continue to grow so that funds are there when needed.

Mr. Dennis Antkowski
Robert and Anna Bomba
Mrs. Eleanor Brasky
Mrs. Ann R. Clam
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Mrs. Kathleen Dudzik-Carey
Ms. Barbara Catena
Mrs. Carole Chambers
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Cyndi Winchester
Mrs. Jean Wolak
Mrs. Sophie Wolniakowski
Ms. Deloris Wozniak
Ms. Jane Zalewski
The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago want to thank all who either attended or donated to the annual Autumn Dinner Dance. They look forward to all of you joining them again in 2017.
The 7th Annual ‘Swinging for the Sisters’ Golf Oouting was held on May 9, 2016 at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club. Thank you to all the sponsors, donors, and participants who helped make the annual golf outing a success! The 8th Annual Swinging for the Sisters will be on May 16, 2017 at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont, IL. Pray for warm and sunny weather this year!

Accel Entertainment
Kevin Shaughnessy
Action Fence Contractors
AG Architecture
Nate Tomich & Matt Adler
Allstate Insurance - Dean DeAngelis
Judy Amiano - Franciscan Ministries
Anchor Capital Advisors
Assurance
BB & T Capital Markets
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Bell Litho - Tim Belagamba
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Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
11500 Theresa Drive
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Address Service Requested

SWINGING FOR THE SISTERS
8TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SAVE YOUR TEE TIME!
MAY 16, 2017
COG HILL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

CALL (630) 243-3560 FOR INFORMATION

Franciscan Sisters of Chicago