Sister M. Gabriel Lazarski and Sister Doloria Kosiek celebrated their 70th Jubilee Anniversary on becoming a Franciscan Sister of Chicago on August 5th with a Mass at Sacred Heart Chapel in Our Lady of Victory Convent. After the Mass, the Sisters celebrated with a luncheon with family, friends and their fellow Sisters in Marian Hall. Congratulations to both Sisters for 70 years in religious life!

Sister M. Gabriel Lazarski was born on January 10, 1926, in Chicago, Illinois, and entered religious life on February 2, 1947. As a second year Novice in 1948, Sister M. Gabriel was assigned to help in the dining room and infirmary at St. Joseph Home in Chicago. Not long after, Sister started her first teaching position at St. Florian in Chicago, teaching second grade. From 1950 to 1954, Sister taught first and second grade at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr in Chicago. Sister was then assigned to teach first and second grade at Assumption in New Chicago, Indiana, from 1954-1959 and then at St. Louise de Marillac in LaGrange Park, Illinois, in 1959. Sister taught first grade at Blessed Sacrament in Gary, Indiana, from 1960-1965, seventh and eighth grade at St. Joseph in East Chicago, Illinois, from 1965-1968, and at Sacred
Heart in Gary, Indiana, in 1969. During this time she completed her Bachelor of Science in Education at St. Joseph College in 1966.

In 1969, Sister was named principal at Five Holy Martyrs in Chicago and served there until 1974. Sister then was elected to serve as a member of the General Council for the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and served for two terms (from 1974-1983) under two General Ministers: Sister M. Hugoline Czaplinski and Sister Martha Joan Sempolski. Sister M. Gabriel received her Masters of Education Degree in Administration and Supervision at Loyola University in 1983. Sister was then assistant principal and then later principal at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyrs in Chicago, Illinois, from 1979-1985.

From 1985 to 1987, Sister was Director of Mission Effectiveness at St. Anthony Medical Center in Crown Point, Indiana, Director of Religious Education at Five Holy Martyrs in Chicago until 1993, and then became the Director of the Mission Integration Program at St. Joseph Home in Chicago. She served in that role and as Local Minister until 2006. Since then Sister served in various roles at Madonna Convent in Chicago and at the Motherhouse in Lemont. She received the Franciscan Federation Peacemaker Award in 2013.

Sister Doloria Kosiek was born on January 5, 1930, in Chicago, Illinois, and entered religious life on July 2, 1947. She began her ministry in education in 1947 with her first teaching assignment in Tolleson, Indiana, teaching third grade at Sacred Heart. She then went on teaching various grades at Five Holy Martyrs in Chicago until 1953, Sacred Heart in LaPorte, Indiana, until 1960, and St. Florian in Chicago until 1967. Sister received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education and her Master’s degree in Education focusing on Counseling and Guidance from Loyola University. She also received her Master’s degree in Pastoral Studies from the Institute of Pastoral Studies in Chicago.


Sister Doloria also taught English as a Second Language at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr School, in Chicago, IL until 2000 and was the assistant principal there. She then taught literacy in the English as a Second Language program at both Triton Community College and Oakton Community College until 2002. Sister continued her work at Madonna Convent in various roles including Vocation Minister and Affiliate and Candidate Minister.

Sister Doloria received the Franciscan Federation Peacemaker Award in 2014.
The Madonna Foundation is full of joyful news to share
By Elizabeth Garbrecht, Madonna Foundation

On May 16, 2017, Madonna Foundation held a graduation celebration for 17 senior scholars, their families, key staff from their schools, and other invited guests. It was a very proud moment for all to celebrate the Madonna Scholar graduates’ hard work and achievements of four years. Four scholars were selected for leadership awards, each representing one of the four pillars of Franciscan Ministries’ tradition: respect, dedication, joy, and stewardship. Madonna Foundation is pleased to report that 100% of its 2017 graduates are college-bound and will be attending the following colleges and universities: Northwestern University, Spelman University, University of Illinois, Kent State University, Loyola University of Chicago, Dominican University, Benedictine University, Knox College, Northern Illinois University, and Southern Illinois University. Each graduate applied to several institutions of higher education and the scholarship offers received represent an aggregate total of $1,200,000. Madonna Foundation is so proud of the scholars who have persevered and are now poised for success despite the obstacles they faced.

On Sunday, September 10, 2017, the Madonna Foundation hosted the first annual Madonna High School Alumnae reunion Mass and luncheon at Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont, Illinois. It was a beautiful day reconnecting with old friends and teachers. The Franciscan Sisters graciously opened up their home and their hearts to once again connect with their alumnae and continue educating them on the history and life of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik.

On Monday, October 9, 2017, the junior and senior Madonna scholars participated in a retreat at Our Lady of Victory Convent. The scholars learned about the life and legacy of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and their foundress, Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik. They toured the chapel, the grounds and Heritage Hall. The theme for the day was Sharing the gifts God has given you with the world. The scholars pledged to share their gifts and worked on a pledge quilt that will grow with each new class of scholars. It will be exciting to see what talents these scholars discover as they continue on their life’s journey.

As the Madonna Foundation looks to the future, its hope for the coming year is to provide Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) workshops, American College Testing (ACT) prep classes, and career and college readiness seminars to its already successful and compelling programs.
The Franciscan Federation, a national organization founded in 1965 to promote Franciscan evangelical life, held its annual conference on June 16th through June 19th in Buffalo, New York. This year’s theme was called, “Bonaventure’s Journey into God: Franciscan Inspiration for the 21st Century” in honor of the 800th anniversary of the birth of Saint Bonaventure. Saint Bonaventure was an Italian Franciscan theologian and philosopher who was canonized a saint in 1482.

Throughout the conference the attendees enjoyed various presentations on St. Bonaventure, his historical works and how his writing and sensible approach to God can inspire people today in the 21st century. St. Bonaventure’s The Soul’s Journey into God, the Tree of Life, the Life of St. Francis served as inspiration for the conference’s logo artwork and for the beautiful centerpieces that were displayed on the banquet tables. Along with the presentations, the Peacemaker Award was presented.

The Peacemaker Award is an award presented at the Franciscan Federation conference to honor one member of each congregation. This award has a different set of criteria every year. This year’s requisites for the award are for a Sister or Brother who embodies the best of the Franciscan Third Order teaching tradition and also one who embodies the values of being incarnational, personal and communal. The Brother or Sister is also transformative, and one who engages the heart and development of servant-leaders. This year, thirty-one Sisters and Brothers of Franciscan member congregations were honored and the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago honored General Minister, Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik.

Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik entered religious life in 1961. Over the years she held teaching positions at Holy Trinity Elementary School in Gary, Indiana and St. Louise Elementary School in La Grange Park, Illinois. She later served as Director and Administrator at Guardian Angel Day Care Center in Chicago, Illinois. Sister then became the Vice President of Administrative Services at St. Anthony Medical Center in Crown Point, Indiana, where she developed their mission integration program and managed many essential departments such as Human Resources, Environmental Services, and Rehab. During this time, she also helped establish the St. Clare Health Clinic in Crown Point for people who lack health insurance. Later, Sister would serve as Vice President of Development at St. Anthony Medical Center until 2003.

Over the years, Sister served as a board member on various boards including St. Joseph Home,
Franciscan Home Care Services (Chair since 2015), Franciscan Elder Services, Addolorata Villa (Chair, 1999 - 2001), Franciscan Village, Mount Alverna Home, St. Anthony Home, and Guardian Angel Day Care Center (Chair, 1983 - 1984). Sister has also been a team member of the FSC Associates since 1988 and the FSC Associate Director since 2003. Sister was the General Vicar of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago from 2008 until 2013 and has been General Minister since 2013.

In all of the various positions in education, and leadership that Sister M. Bernadette has held over the years, she has always served as a true inspiration to others and a wonderful example to her fellow Sisters and Associates. Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie, who is a member of the FSC Leadership Council writes, “Sister M. Bernadette participated in the pilgrimage to St. Francis’ birthplace, Assisi, Italy and has incorporated the Franciscan value of servant leadership into her daily life. As General Minister of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago she is approachable, leads by example, and encourages the Sisters by the spoken word, written word, and by providing Community Day reflections and other techniques to help the Sisters be faithful to their Franciscan life. In her past ministry at the St. Anthony Medical Center, Sister M. Bernadette had developed and implemented a formal program to develop servant leaders. She has moved that initiative forward and invested her personal time and whole heart in continuing to do so with the members of the Sponsorship Council and, over many years, with the FSC Associates. With the lay leadership of Franciscan Ministries, she practices prudent mentoring and regular faith sharing on the practical ways to act as a servant leader without relinquishing one’s proper authority. Sister M. Bernadette thus embodies the best of teaching traditions - being the very thing one is seeking to teach others to be.”

Congratulations to Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik for being this year’s Peacemaker Award recipient.

Here are the previous Peacemaker Award honorees:

- Sister M. Francis Clare Radke (2015)
- Sister Doloria Kosiek (2014)
- Sister M. Gabriel Lazarski (2013)
- Sister Georgeann Kinel (2012)
- Sister M. Andrea Puchalski (2011)
- Sister Theresa Mary Obremski (2007)
- Sister M. Claudiana Jachimowicz (2005)
The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago held their 8th annual Swinging for the Sisters Golf Outing on May 16th at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club in Lemont. Over ninety golfers came out to enjoy a full day of golf on a beautiful spring day. This year the golf outing was held earlier in the morning rather than its usual afternoon, where the golfers could enjoy breakfast before they hit the course. After breakfast, Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, the General Minister of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, welcomed the golfers with opening remarks, a short prayer and then wished them good luck. The golfers then drove to their assigned starting holes.

Throughout the day, the golfers were blessed with perfect golfing weather. After the golfers were done, Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie led the group in a pre-lunch prayer and thanked them for their continued support of the Sisters and their ministries: Madonna Foundation and St. Jude House. Everyone enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch provided by the staff at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club. After lunch, a prize raffle was held.

The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago thanked George Ferrell and William Callaghan Jr. of Henry Bros. Co. for their continued support and being a major sponsor again this year. The Sisters also thanked all who participated and volunteered as well as the following sponsors:

**Golf Outing Committee:** George Ferrell, Tom Mason, Janet Borth, Vicki Olsen, and Tim McLaughlin

**Franciscan Sponsor:** Henry Bros. Co.

**Dedicated Donor Sponsor:** Huntington National Bank - James O’Brien

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**Lunch Sponsor:** Assurance Agency

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**Event Sponsor:** O’Hare Mechanical

**Cart Sponsor:** Pacific Asset Management
Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik opens the golf outing and wishes the golfers luck as Sister M. Francis Clare Radke looks on.

Many thanks to Sister Cindy Drozd for participating in the 'Beat the Nun' golf challenge.

The golfers line up and get ready for the event.

Thank you to the following Hole Sponsors:

- Action Fence Contractors - Don Ziegler
- AG Architecture - Jeff Hoffmann
- Anchor Capital Advisors - William Rice and John Boles
- Assurance Agency - John Storto
- Tom Callahan Plumbing - Phil Sullivan
- The Flooring Guys - Tom Hastings
- Franciscan Ministries - John Glover
- Franciscan Ministries - Ron Tinsley
- Franciscan Ministries - Rich and Connie Truesdale
- Franciscan Sisters of Chicago - John Grele
- Great Lake Advisors - Tom Kiley
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Thank you to the following sponsors and donors: Accel Entertainment, Guy Alton, Judy Amiano, BB&T Capital Markets, Greg & Donna Belback, Birk Plumbing, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce, Deborah Brown, Pat and Joe Budzyn, Codeco Design, Governors State University, Dorothy and Steve Harris, J. Hassert Landscaping, Kathy Kelly, Ken Wilson Paving, Craig Lederman, Lemont Family Dental, Markiewicz Funeral Home, P.C., Nania Energy, Nixon Peabody, Oak Ridge Investments, River Road Tops, Susan Schroeder, and Symbria/Alliance Rehab.

Thank you to the following who donated raffle prizes: Belinda Alicea, Big Run Country Club, Bob Campbell Photography, Cog Hill Country Club, John Durso, 3 Corners Bar & Grill, Gelsosimos Pizzeria, Gleneagles Country Club, Granite City Grill, Hauptman Jewelers, Old Oak Country Club, Vicki Olsen, and Ruffled Feathers Country Club.

Many thanks to Sister M. Helene Galuszka for her wonderful photography and taking photos of each golf group.
On April 23, 2017, St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Chicago celebrated its 150th Anniversary. Over 1,500 people attended a special anniversary Mass and celebration led by Cardinal Blase Cupich. The historic church was decorated with red and white ornaments as celebrants representing both the Polish and Hispanic communities marched in. During the procession, parishioners carried banners and wore uniforms representing their culture and communities. Parishioners then prayed and sang in Polish, Spanish and English during the anniversary Mass.

This sculpture of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik, Foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, was unveiled in the historic Chicago church.

The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago stand next to the Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik sculpture (From left to right): Sr. Jeanne Marie Toriskie, Sr. Emilie Marie Lesniak, Sr. Lois Marie Rossi, Sr. Jean Therese Jarosz, and Sr. M. Joella Bielinski
St. Stanislaus Kostka Church

St. Stanislaus Kostka parish began in 1867 in Chicago and the Resurrection Fathers were placed in charge of it in 1871 to minister to the large growing Polish immigrant population who were settling into the city. The cornerstone of the church was laid in 1877 and the church was officially dedicated in 1881. By 1897, St. Stanislaus Kostka parish was the largest Catholic parish in the United States with over 8,000 families and nearly 40,000 total parishioners. There were 12 Masses every Sunday to accommodate everyone.

The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Connection

The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago have a long history connected to St. Stanislaus Kostka Church. The Third Order of St. Francis for women was established in the parish in 1886, and it was here where Polish immigrant Josephine Dudzik joined them and became one of their first members. Josephine and her family had emigrated to the United States in 1881 and had joined St. Stanislaus Kostka parish. After Josephine’s father passed away Josephine began taking the needy and the abandoned into her home. Josephine realized she would need more room and more help.

Rev. Vincent Michael Barzynski (Founder of the Resurrectionist Missions in Chicago) was Josephine Dudzik’s spiritual director at the church. Josephine approached him for consent to care for the needy with other women from the parish. He would not give his approval unless the women agreed to take on the Rule of a religious congregation. Therefore they were to take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and the wearing of a religious habit. Josephine invited members of the Third Order of St. Francis to join her in a life of prayer and service to the poor, aged, and disabled. She then established a new congregation called the Franciscan Sisters of Blessed Kunegunda in 1894 (the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago’s First profession of vows: The pioneer Sisters on the day of their vows (left to right): Sister M. Anna Wysinski, Sister M. Angeline Topolinski, Sister M. Agnes Dzik, Sister M. Theresa Dudzik

Rev. Vincent Michael Barzynski (Founder of the Resurrectionist Missions in Chicago) was Josephine Dudzik’s spiritual director.
St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Chicago.

Cardinal Blase Cupich celebrated the anniversary Mass.

The anniversary Mass procession included celebrants representing both the Polish and Hispanic communities.

original name) and she chose the name Sister Mary Theresa Dudzik (later she was officially recognized as their foundress and is now known as Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik).

**St. Stanislaus Kostka Church Honors Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik**

St. Stanislaus Kostka Church honored Mother Mary Theresa with a brand new sculpture of her placed in the church. The sculpture was designed by sculptor and artist Stefan Niedorezo. Mr. Niedorezo had also sculpted another Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik sculpture that currently resides in the Administration building in the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago offices (and is also on their Spiritual Enrollment cards). During the celebration Cardinal Cupich blessed the new sculpture and bouquets of roses were placed at her feet.

The Sisters were given a commemorative 150th Anniversary medallion with Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik honored on one side.
Lord, we bless you for you alone are holy, and because in your compassion for sinners you sent into the world your Son, Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of holiness.

He sent the Spirit to sustain his newborn Church, a voice that teaches us the secrets of holiness, a breeze that strengthens and refreshes, a fire that sears our hearts in love, the seed of God that yields a harvest of grace.

Today we praise you for the gifts of the Spirit bestowed on Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik, in whose honor, we dedicate this statue. May we follow in the footsteps of the Lord, keeping before us the example of Venerable Mother Mary Theresa, and grow to maturity measured not by nature, but by the fullness of Christ.

May we proclaim his Gospel by word and deed and,shouldering our crosses daily, expend ourselves for others in your service.

As we carry out our earthly duties, May we be filled with the Spirit of Christ and keep our eyes fixed on the glories of heaven, where you, Father, receive those who will reign with your Son, forever and ever. Amen.
The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago held their annual Autumn Dinner Dance on October 20th at DiNolfo’s Banquets in Homer Glen, Illinois. This year the guests enjoyed dinner, a prize raffle and live music by the Together Band. The Golden Thread Award was also presented at the start of the evening. The Golden Thread Award is bestowed upon an individual whose loyal and faithful commitment has enabled the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago to continue their ministries.

This year’s Golden Thread Award winner was Adeline Galuszka. Mrs. Galuszka has been a supporter and donor of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago for over 50 years and is also the mother of Sister M. Helene Galuszka, a Franciscan Sister of Chicago and current General Councilor on the FSC leadership team. Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, FSC General Minister, presented the award to Mrs. Galuszka and addressed the dinner dance attendees with her 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 a solid, strong and valuable part of the fabric of the life and future of the Sisters. This year’s awardee has been supporting the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago for well over 50 years, starting back in the 60’s when she was an officer of the Madonna High School Mother’s Club. Besides her continued support over all these years, our awardee gave the Sisters her greatest gift, her daughter. It is my great pleasure and honor to announce this year’s Golden Thread awardee: Adeline Galuszka.” Mrs. Galuszka accepted her award in a very touching moment with Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, Sister Emilie Marie Lesniak, Sister M. Francis Clare Radke, and her daughter, Sister M. Helene Galuszka.

The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago thank all who attended the dinner dance and congratulate Adeline Galuszka on receiving the Golden Thread Award this year. The Sisters also express their gratitude to the generous underwriters who partnered with them to make the Autumn Dinner Dance a success:

George Ferrell and William Callaghan - Henry Bros. Co. - For underwriting the reception
Judy Amiano - Franciscan Ministries - For underwriting the cost of the invitations
Ron Tinsley - Franciscan Ministries - For underwriting the Sisters’ attendance
John Storto - Assurance Agency - For underwriting the wine
Mary McManus - Oakridge Investments, LLC - For underwriting the postage
Thank you to our Sponsors: AG Architecture, Kay Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Budzyn, Mr. and Mrs. William Crannell, Dr. Peter Doris, Mr. Chester Frostega, Elizabeth Garbrecht, Dolores Grantz, Mr. and Mrs. John Grele, Cindy Hall, Joseph J. Duffy Co., Marie Kedzior, Elaine and Pat Lindia, Frank and Fran Models, Mary Mosser, Don Naglich, Susan Parker, Roberta Parkhill, Sr. Lois Prebil, osf, Ridge Landscape Services, Sandra Singer and Allan Kuse, Dr. James Strzyz, Thompson, Siegel & Walmsley LLC, and Loretta Zurek.

List of Attendees

AEW Capital Management
AG Architecture
Travis and Sara Alberhasky
Larry and Candice Alfonso
Guy and Cheryl Alton
Judy Amiano
Amanda Ambrose
Sr. M. Bernadette Bajuscik
Greg and Donna Belback
Sr. M. Joella Bielinski
Terri Black
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bleicher
Pete Bolt
Denise Boudreau
Rev. Marty Bratek, CR
Deborah Brown
Derek Brown
Mike and Eileen Bruno
Pat and Joe Budzyn
Kay Burton
Mr. and Mrs. William Callaghan Jr.
Maxine Callaghan
Amy Camisa
Susana Chavez
Chad and Laura Chesney
Dawn and David Cohn
Sam and Cathy Colton
William and Betsy Crannell
Rich De Jong
Dr. and Mrs. Peter Doris
Gary and Jeanine Ducket
Larry and Michelle Dudzik
John and Heidi Durso
Dick and Gloria Dusatko
Emily Ferrell
George and Lorna Ferrell
Chester Frostega
Fred Gallico
Adeline Galuszka
Sr. M. Helene Galuszka
Betsy Garbrecht
John Glover
Judy Gottardo
Patsy Graham
Dolores Grantz
Dawn Gratzke
John and Sophie Grele
Chris Grubb
Jose Guadalupe
Tatiana Gutierrez
Cindy Hall
Br. William Hallas, CR
Steve and Dorothy Harris
Rev. Greg Helinski, CR
Bill and Peggy Hogan
Calvin Isaacson
Erika Jackson
Stan and Elaine Jagielski
Sr. Jean Therese Jarosz
Joseph J. Duffy Co.
Jill Kachin
Marie K. Kedzior
Jim and Kathy Kelly
Katie Kohler
Steve, Diann and Olivia Kozy
Sr. Emilie Marie Lesniak
Elaine P. Lindia
Mike and Wendy Lundberg
Blossom Mabon
Rev. Joseph Malczyk, CR
Michael Maltenfort
Jay Mandra

Dawn Mayer
Tim and Lisa Mc Laughlin
Francine J. Models
Dorothy Mosbarger
Mary Mosser
Joel Munyon
Don Naglich
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Susan Parker
Robert Parkhill
Teresa Penas
Jim Pettereck
Elizabeth Pienta
Sr. Lois Prebil, osf
Robert and Kay Priest
Jessica Rocha
Sr. M. Francis Clare Radke
Glory and Liborio Romano
Tony and Katie Ruggiero
Kim S. Sefcik
Rev. Paul Sims, CR
Dr. Sandra Singer and Allan Kuse
Dr. James Strzyz
Teresa Szymula
Rev. Gene Szarek, CR
Patricia Tarczewski
Ron Tinsley
Thompson, Siegel & Walmsley, LLC
Michele Tomich
Rich and Connie Truesdale
Cory and Laura Weiser
Chris and Brad Zielke
Loretta Zurek

(From left to right) Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, Adeline Galuszka, Sister M. Helene Galuszka, Sister Emilie Marie Lesniak, Sister M. Francis Clare Radke
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Eulogies

Eulogies are prepared by Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, General Minister. The Sisters are presented in order in which they died. 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 death 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.

Andrew and Louise Watroba immigrated to the United States from Poland and settled in Hammond, Indiana. The couple had five children, all girls. Mary and Harriet came first, followed by Leona. Josephine and Stella were soon to follow. Leona was born on March 3, 1913 and was baptized at St. Mary’s Church on March 9th. She made her confirmation on October 15, 1925 and took the name Theresa.

Leona was taught by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago through the eighth grade at St. Mary of Czestochowa School in Hammond, Indiana. Leona was impressed by the sisters’ dedication to prayer and community life and their commitment to teaching. When the sisters went on retreat or left the convent during the summer, Leona would assume the tasks that needed to be done to keep the convent tidy. Leona also enjoyed keeping the church sacristy in order.

Leona knew from the young age of eleven, that she would serve God forever. Thus when Leona was 21 years of age, she joined the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago on September 8, 1934 and on February 2, 1935 she became a postulant. When Leona entered novitiate on August 15, 1935, she received the name Sister Mary Hedwinella. Two years later, Sister made her First Profession of Vows and on August 12, 1942, she made her Perpetual Profession.

During her postulancy and first year novitiate, Sister served at the motherhouse performing various tasks. As a second year novice, Sister was sent to St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr in Chicago to serve as sacristan. After first vows, Sister was sent to St. Casimir in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, to teach 2nd and 3rd grade. In 1940, Sister was sent to Boys Town, Nebraska, to serve there as sacristan and seamstress. Sister remained in Boys Town for seven years.

In 1947 Sister Leona entered the healthcare field as an X-ray technician trainee and was sent to St. John Hospital in Huron, South Dakota. A year later she

In Loving Memory of Sister Leona Watroba

Born: March 3, 1913
Entered Religious Life: September 8, 1934
Born into Eternal Life: July 6, 2017

“Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.”
(Psalm 100: 2)
was sent to the School of Radiology in Yankton, South Dakota to earn a degree as an X-ray technician. Sister accomplished this goal in 1950 and returned to Huron, South Dakota, where she served for 21 years. During this time, in 1968 to be exact, Sister asked permission to return to her baptismal name of Leona and her request was granted.

Sister’s concern with radiation exposure over so many years caused her to ask for a transfer. Thus in 1971 Sister Leona moved to St. Anthony Home in Crown Point, Indiana, as a receptionist. A year later Sister was sent to St. Joseph Home of Chicago to serve as a Medicare and Medicaid clerk. During this time Sister also served as Assistant Administrator, receptionist and Local Minister.

In 1983 Sister Leona came to the motherhouse in Lemont, Illinois, to be the director of housekeeping for the next three years. Afterwards, Sister served as the local treasurer for the next 11 years until she retired in 1997. However, Sister didn’t retire fully as she worked in the motherhouse library until 1999 when Sister officially retired to the infirmary.

Sister Leona had a great devotion to the Blessed Mother and she prayed the rosary frequently each day. Sister always felt the she was living in the presence of God.

After 82 years of religious life and at the age of 104, Sister Leona quietly left this earth early in the evening of Thursday, July 6th, to be with Jesus whom she loved and served with all her heart.

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In Loving Memory of Sister M. Alacoque Czartoryski

Born: September 20, 1922
Entered Religious Life: July 31, 1937
Born into Eternal Life: September 18, 2017

“Your adornment must not be merely external - braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.”
(1 Peter 3:3-4)

Sister M. Alacoque was born on September 20, 1922, to Felix and Hedwig Czartoryski and named Sophie after her father’s sister. At the age or 16, Felix left Poland stowed away on a ship that headed to America. Soon upon arrival, he got a job at a steel and wire company. However, it wasn’t until 16 years later that he met Hedwig, who was born in Shamokin, Pennsylvania. Soon afterwards Felix and Hedwig were married and together they settled in Cleveland, Ohio. It was there that Sophie was born and a year and 5 days later their son, Leonard.

Felix, a descendant of royalty, did not want to lose touch with his native Poland and insisted that only Polish be spoken at home. He taught his wife, daughter and son his native language, customs and traditions. While Sophie was very fluent in Polish, she could not speak English. Therefore when it was time for Sophie to start school, she was not admitted into the local Catholic school. Along with her mother and brother, Sophie was tutored in English. She then entered second grade at St. Casimir School.

As a child, Sophie was a very happy and social little girl. She liked to play games such as hopscotch, tennis and jump rope, but her favorite thing was riding her brother’s bike. Sophie did this when her brother wasn’t looking!

Since Sophie’s mother worked at a sweater factory, it was Sophie’s responsibility to help at home with cooking, picking vegetables and washing dishes. In spite of these
chores, Sophie found time to help the Sisters after school by grading papers and cleaning the chapel. Sophie felt herself drawn to religious life because she was in awe of how pristine the Sisters looked in their habits. When Sophie finally told her parents about her desire to become a Sister, her mother was thrilled, but her father was very much against the idea. Despite her father’s refusal, Sophie made plans to enter the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. She traveled by train and arrived on July 31, 1937, at the age of 15.

Sophie’s first years in the convent were spent as a student in high school. Finally on August 12, 1939, Sophie entered the novitiate and received the name of Sister Mary Alacoque. Two years later, she made her First Profession of vows on August 15, 1941 and her Final Profession on August 12, 1946.

After making her vows, Sister M. Alacoque spent five years at the motherhouse and St. Joseph Home for the Aged which was attached to the motherhouse. Sister was appointed the Director of the Residents’ Dining Room for the first three years and then served in the motherhouse kitchen, garden, laundry and chapel for the remaining two years.

Sister’s teaching career began in 1946 at Five Holy Martyrs in Chicago where she taught kindergarten and then first grade. In 1949, Sister went to teach first grade at St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr in Chicago. Sister was at this school for 3 years until she went to teach kindergarten and first grade at St. Mary in Hammond, Indiana.

It was noted that Sister had a knack for sewing and as a result she was encouraged to get a degree in Home Economics. With this objective in mind, Sister M. Alacoque went to Mundelein College in Chicago in 1953 and two years later graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Home Economics. Later in 1963, Sister obtained a Master of Science in Education from Northern Illinois University in De Kalb, Illinois. Never one to remain stagnant, Sister completed some course work toward a Doctorate in Home Economics and obtained various certifications in dietary administration.

For 17 years, Sister M. Alacoque taught sewing and home nursing as part of the Home Economics Program at Madonna High School in Chicago. For the next two years, from 1972 to 1974, Sister attended the School for Dieticians at Augustana Hospital in Chicago. Completing that course, Sister went to St. John Hospital in Huron, South Dakota, as the Dietician Director and Local Minister. Sister remained there until 1977 when she was transferred to Mount Alverna Home in Parma, Ohio, to serve in the same position. In 1984, Sister returned to Madonna High School for a year and served as Maintenance Supervisor. Back to Ohio in 1985, Sister served as Sacristan and Local Minister at Mount Alverna Home until 1991.

In November of that year, Sister had the unique experience of traveling to Poland where she taught English to grade school children during the day and to their parents in the evening. Sister came to Lemont, Illinois, in 1992 to Our Lady of Victory Convent, commonly referred to as the motherhouse for a sabbatical year. Between 1993 and 2002 Sister served as local minister at OLV, then as local minister of the Sisters working at Mother Theresa Home and finally as local minister of the infirmary. In 2002 Sister was appointed Minister of Hospitality for OLV, a position she held until 2014. Even after a serious illness in 2014 Sister M. Alacoque continued to perform various small duties. Sister especially enjoyed taking visitors through Heritage Hall and also sharing her vocation story.

A highlight in Sister’s life occurred on October 22, 2011, when she was honored as the first recipient of the Franciscan Weaver Award, an award that honors a Franciscan Sister of Chicago who embodies the Franciscan charism and shows Franciscan joy in her daily life. Even though Sister was a descendant of Polish royalty, she served others generously in a quiet manner. Her thoughtful demeanor brought individuals closer to God.

As many years as Sister M. Alacoque spent at OLV, she spent her last day in the ER of Bolingbrook Hospital. The General Minister, the General Vicar and the Director of OLV Infirmary were with Sister M. Alacoque during her final hours on earth. After 80 years of religious life and two days shy of her 95th birthday, Sister M. Alacoque died peacefully at 7:47 A.M. on Monday, September 18th, to be with Jesus whom she loved and served with all her heart.
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 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, 2017 - November 15, 2017. 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.
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.

Maureen Touhy

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.

Maureen Forde Anger
Daniel and Mary Bannon
Timothy and Wendy Bellagamba
Brian Bobick
Jerry Borrelli
Budzinski Family
Robert DeRose
Connie and Mike Donohue
Marc Eggers
Virginia Eggers
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Mary Jane Juzwiak
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Evelyn W. Lisek
Polish Women's Alliance of America
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Raymond and Marlene Mosser
Rose Novotny

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Damian and Zofia Pytko
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Patricia Tarczewski
Elise Torczynski
Sr. JoEllen Tyranowski
LaVerne M. Weissensel
Carl and Joyce Winger

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.

Isolina Aviles
Therese G. Nawara
Angelica Saldana

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 630-243-3556 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. The Sisters thank the following for their gifts of services:

3 Corners Grill & Tap
Sen. M. Bernadette Bajuscik
Big Run Golf Club
Carol Oprondek
Celina's Fresh Market
Cog Hill Golf & Country Club
Jewel/Osco
Jimbo's Pizzeria
John Durso
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
Gelsosomo's Pizzeria
Glen Eagles Country Club
Davia Humphrey
Hamilton's Pub
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.

TRIBUTES

In Honor of the 100th Anniversary of Fatima
Dolores Grantz

In Honor of my children’s return to faith
Donald S. Castro

In Honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago who taught in Gary, IN
Louise Karwowski

In Honor of Jerry, Madeline & Marilyn to return to the Sacraments
Louise Karwowski

In Honor of Sister Emilie Marie Lesniak
Ed & Kay Burton

In Honor of Mary A. Maciara
Joseph Maciara

In Honor of Mary F. Reynolds
Jean A. Reynolds

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Leamond Onnie Allen
Leamond Anthony Allen

In Memory of Michael and Donald Baader
Eleanor Baader

In Memory of Sister Amabilis Bellock
Nancy Balvin

In Memory of Sister M. Alacoque Czartoryski
Natalie Alleva
Eleanor A. Baader
Joanne A. Cartor
Marie C. Cartor
Kazimir Cislo
Dolores Grubough
Marie Kedzior
Maria Mulcahy
Kathleen Murtha
Eugene and Janice Stehura
Mr. and Mrs. James Straz
Sophie Wolniakowski and Family

In Memory of Leon Dudzik
Helen Dudzik

In Memory of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago who taught in Gary, IN
Louise Karwowski

In Memory of Virginia Eggers
Marc Eggers
Estate of Gene and Virginia Eggers

In Memory of Sister M. Marinella Gubala
Mary Elizabeth Day
Marcia Fernandez
Marie Kedzior
Stanley Kedzior
Elizabeth Pienta
Sisters of St. Casimir

In Memory of Sister Antonissima Jamruk
Nancy Balvin

GENERAL GIFTS

Estate of Gloria Konsack
In Memory of
Sister M. Hubert Jasinski
Patricia A. Jasinski

In Memory of Joseph Kalmanek
Joan Kalmanek

In Memory of
Sister Grace Kujawa
Nancy Balvin

In Memory of Lois G. Kwak
Honorable George A. Kwak

In Memory of Clara McPhail
Jean McPhail

In Memory of Ann Murphy
Paul & Marianne Hoffman

In Memory of
Kathleen “Cookie” Obora
Eugene Obora

In Memory of
Robert J. Phelan, Sr.
Juan E. Alicea
Dennis Czarnecki
Patricia A. Galbraith
James Koscielniak
John Phelan
Robert & Susan Phelan
Timothy Phelan

In Memory of
Sister M. Andrea Puchalski
Diane Lynn McLaughlin

In Memory of
Sister Placidia Rzonca
Karen Urban

In Memory of
Sister M. Salomina Rzonca
Rita May Rzonca

In Memory of
Sister M. Eymard Sanok
Judy Santolino

In Memory of
Sister M. Vincent Swies
Renee Bernard
Barbara Dybala
Ron & Olga Dybala
Barbara Galvin
Mrs. Renee Klak
Elizabeth Pienta
Rich & Lisa Rubin
Frances & Randy Valentino

In Memory of
Elaine Allen Thomas
Leamond A. Allen

In Memory of
Sister M. Natalie Uscinowicz
Nancy Balvin
Helen & Robert Jakupca

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

In Memory of
Sister Leona Watroba
Mary I. Mosser

In Memory of
Carol, Harry & Sophie Witkiewicz
Patricia Witkiewicz

In Memory of
Daniel Wojtak
Irene A. Wojtak

In Memory of
Edward Wojtak, Sr.
Irene A. Wojtak

In Memory of
Theophane Zaucha
Estate of Theophane Zaucha
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 Vicki Olsen at (630) 243-3556.
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Enrolled by Sr. Francis Clare Radke

Donna Kral for continued health
Enrolled by Lauren Faxel

Thomas Kuczmarski
Enrolled by Sr. M. Josetta Kuczmarski

Sr. Gabriel Lazarski on her 70th Jubilee
Enrolled by Sr. Doloria Kosiek
Sr. Francis Clare Radke

Lawrence Leaman
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

In gratitude for many blessings received
Enrolled by W. A. Nawara families

Continued healing for Therese G. Nawara
Enrolled by T. G. Nawara

Therese G. Nawara
Enrolled by Therese G. Nawara

Reverend Metod Ogorevc
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Reverend Thomas Paul on his 40th Anniversary of Priesthood
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Sr. Jeanne Marie Toriskie
Enrolled by Anonymous

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<td>Mrs. Haddad, my mother</td>
<td>Charles Haddad</td>
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<td>Rev. Athanasius Lourencic, OFM</td>
<td>Franciscan Sisters of Chicago</td>
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<td>Anthony Neumann</td>
<td>Adeline F. Galuszka</td>
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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 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.

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