Crossroads
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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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Dear Friends,

Gratitude fills my heart as I greet you in the name of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and wish you many blessings as the year 2011 quickly fades away while 2012 appears on the horizon. We all probably have mixed emotions about the waxing and waning of time especially when considering the state of the economy. However our hope lies in the belief that Jesus who was born in Bethlehem so many years ago is with us and is our stronghold as we move into the future with hope. You, our donors are a very clear sign of the presence of the Lord in our midst. Your support continues to bless us as well as our ministry.

Our congregation has had many opportunities to accept and confer honor in the year 2011. Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik has had a street named in her honor. Sister M. Andrea received the Franciscan Peacemaker Award during the annual Franciscan Federation Conference while at our annual Ball, Sister M. Alacoque received the Franciscan Weaver Award and we presented the Golden Thread Award to the Most Reverend Eugene Szarek, C.R. and the Congregation of the Resurrection. The Theresa Dudzik Service Award was presented to Franciscan Community Services/St. Anthony Adult Day Health Services.

This issue of Crossroads includes heartfelt accounts of the lives of Sisters Petronia, Claudiana and Andrea who have surpassed the threshold of ninety years of age. They share words of wit and wisdom in which you will find sources of inspiration and joy. We gratefully celebrate the lives of our 2011 Jubilarians and we honor the lives of our Sisters who have died in the past few months.

Peace is a hallmark of our lives as Franciscans and we have planted a Peace Pole on the campus of our motherhouse as a symbol proclaiming our commitment to personal and universal peace.

A section on Planned Giving and an excerpt from our history book As God Shall Ordain are offered to you as sources of education and inspiration.

A listing of our recent donors reminds all of us that it takes many to build up the body of Christ.

Mother M. Theresa Dudzik said “It seemed to me that with the help of God I would be equal to any task with which I was confronted.” May you always know that God’s presence, love and help surround you and our prayers are offered daily for you. May you have a happy and blessed new year.

In Jesus and Mary,

Sister Diane Marie Collins, OSF
General Minister
2011 Jubilarians

60 YEARS
Sister M. Colette Kwieczka
Sister M. Vincent Swies
Sister Anne Marie Knawa

50 YEARS
Sister Emilie Marie Lesniak
Sister M. Francis Clare Radke

“I submitted to God’s will with this thought: I would allow him to do with me as he pleased.”

— Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik

Below: Left to Right -
Sister M. Francis Clare Radke, Sister M. Vincent Swies, Sister Anne Marie Knawa, Sister M. Colette Kwieczka and Sister Emilie Marie Lesniak
September 20, 2011 found the city of Chicago bathed in bright sunlight and warm fall colors. There was excitement in the air, as close to 100 people gathered in anticipation on the corner of Belmont and Karlov. This was the day that the city of Chicago would honor the legacy of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik by re-naming a city street in her honor. Many Sisters, Associates, relatives of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik, and other special guests gathered at the corner, near St. Joseph Village, to bear witness to this special occasion in the lives of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. The Sisters chose September 20 for the ceremony because it was the 93rd anniversary of Mother Mary Theresa’s death.

This extraordinary day had been several years in the making. Five years earlier Steve Bardoczi, senior vice president of ministry development for Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation and Janet Sisler, former corporate director of community relations for Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation approached the city about the possibility of naming a street after Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik. They worked together with the Very Honorable Ray Suarez, Alderman of the 31st Ward to make this dream a reality.

Speeches were given by Sister Diane Marie Collins, Sister M. Francis Clare Radke and Suarez to commemorate the event. Reverend John H. Nowak, C.R., Chaplain at St. Joseph Village blessed the new street sign. Sister Diane Marie Collins, General Minister of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago gave an eloquent speech about the life of Mother Mary Theresa. She said, “Mother Theresa knew what it meant to live in the neighborhoods of Chicago, care for its people and stand up for those who had no one else.” She went on to say that Mother Theresa was a model for all of us and that she would have been honored with the ceremony.

The smiles on the faces of the Sisters present said it all as the new sign, Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik Way, was unveiled by Sister Diane Marie Collins, Suarez, Sister Frances Szczur and Sister M. Andrea Puchalski.

Following the ceremony the guests enjoyed a lovely reception at St. Joseph Village.
Sister Andrea was born in Utica, New York on March 22, 1921 to Felix Puchalski and Hedwig Pozewicz Puchalski. Her parents were Polish immigrants who came to the United States in search of a better life. Sister Andrea moved from New York to Pennsylvania when she was only two. By the time she was four years old the family had moved to Michigan before eventually settling in Ohio a few years later.

Her younger sister Theresa was born in Ohio when Sister Andrea was seven years old. Sister Andrea 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 remembers going to the movies once in a while for only 10 cents.

One of her childhood memories was when a tornado tore the roof off the family barn, although she doesn’t recall what happened to the horse that was inside at the time.

She does, however, remember clearly her first contact with the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. Sister Andrea was only seven years old and in the second grade at St. Casimir School in Cleveland, Ohio when she first met the Sisters that would influence the course of her life. She truly enjoyed performing odd jobs for the Sisters. The Sisters gave her a booklet about St. Francis of Assisi and allowed her to work in the Sacristy. She loved the Sisters and really appreciated the cookies and milk they would give to her after she finished helping them.

Her parents were hard workers who spoke mostly Polish. They eventually learned English and spoke both Polish and English at home. Sister Andrea fondly remembered her mother and how smart she was. Sister said with a twinkle in her eye, “She was smart enough that she could have become a teacher.” Sister Andrea reminisced about how her father used to go to the local bakery and bring home baked goods to the family. He really liked sweets.
When Sister Andrea entered the convent on August 25th, 1934 at the age of thirteen her father was hesitant about her desire to become a Sister but her mother was fine with her choice. At the time Sister Andrea joined the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago her younger sister was only six years old. In those days novices were not allowed to return home very often so she missed her family and they missed her.

Her parents were very pious people who had an altar in their home that was blessed. Sister Andrea’s father was only 64 when he died of cancer. She recalled how the church bells rang the day he died. Her mother never remarried after the death of her beloved husband and she died at the age of 94.

Sister Andrea was a Sacristan at Saint Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr in Chicago, Illinois and also helped in the kitchen while she was at the parish for a year. In 1940 Sister was sent to Boys Town in Nebraska. She was the supervisor of one of the dorms, the dining room and also worked in the Laundry.

Sister was transferred to St. Joseph Home in Chicago, Illinois in 1941 and remained there for seven years performing general nursing duties. She loved working as a nurse and did not mind working nights, which was a good thing since several of her assignments included working as a night nurse. Sister continued her nursing ministry at Mother of Grace Hospital in Martin, South Dakota from 1948 until 1961 performing a number of duties.

Sister Andrea loved working as a surgical nurse and did so for over twenty years. Along the way she also worked as an X-Ray and Lab Technician as well as an Obstetrical Nurse. She took great pleasure in taking care of her patients and loved working with the elderly. Her kind and gentle nature was evident to and appreciated by all her patients. Her next assignment took her back to Martin, South Dakota, this time to Saint Anthony Hospital where she worked for ten years. In 1971 Sister went to Saint Anthony Home in Crown Point, Indiana. She was also assigned at Mount Alverna Home in Parma, Ohio from 1980-1983. She returned to Lemont in 1983 to work at Mother Theresa Home and was there until 1987 when she was asked to return to St. Joseph Home in Chicago. Sister remained at St. Joseph Home for 17 years.

In 2004 Sister Andrea returned to Our Lady of Victory Convent and entered a new chapter in her life as the manager of the gift shop. The gift shop has taken a whole new look under her direction. It has been transformed into a delightful shop that has a variety of items for purchase. The shop features religious items and holiday treats for every season. It is a favorite shopping spot for Our Lady of Victory Convent Associates.

Sister Andrea has loved every minute of being a Franciscan Sister of Chicago. She said she “wouldn’t change a thing.” The smile on her face and the sparkle in her eyes gives credence to that statement.

Sister M. Andrea Puchalski is the 2011 Franciscan Peacemaker award recipient. She was recognized during the annual Franciscan Federation Conference. Sister Andrea is an exemplary member of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago who sparks enthusiasm for the charism of their foundress, Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik, in her love for the poor and needy.
Sister Claudiana Jachimowicz was born on April 13, 1921 in Hamtramck, Michigan. Her father Victor Jachimowicz was born in Wilno, Poland and her mother Bernice Miezo was born in Ostroenka, Poland. Sister Claudiana was baptized at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church and named Julia Anna after her grandmother. There were ten children in the Jachimowicz family. The family spoke both Polish and English at home. Sister Claudiana’s family was very religious and even had an altar in their home. They prayed together daily as a family. The family was very close and even though there was not a lot of money they enjoyed simple holiday traditions. At Christmas the family went to Midnight Mass and hung up their stockings. In the morning they awoke to find their stocking filled with fruit and candy. They had a dog and a cat when Julia was little. Julia loved to play school and was always the teacher never the student.

Julia was only seven years old when she saw a Sister for the first time. Julia asked her mother what a sister was and her mother explained that nuns were women who dedicated their lives to serving God and His people. Julia gleefully announced, “I wanna be one! I wanna to be one!” Her mother told her to calm down and that she could not become a sister until she was grown up. Julia knew at the tender age of seven years old that she wanted to become a sister.

Julia’s older sister, Bernice had become a Felician nun and took the name Sister M. Paschaline. By the time Julia was a teenager she asked her older sister how to get a vocation. Sister Paschaline said, “Just say three Hail Mary’s every day and join on the feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.” Julia followed her sister’s instructions and joined the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago on June 27, 1938, on Our Lady’s Feast Day. Her sister told Julia the she would never leave the convent if she joined on that feast day. Her words rang true. Sister Claudiana has been a Franciscan Sister for over 73 years.

After Julia entered the convent she discovered that Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik, the Foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago had spent her life caring for the elderly and the sick. Thoughts of Julia’s childhood caring for her ailing grandfather came back to her. She was inspired by Mother Mary Theresa’s actions and Julia believed that Mother Mary Theresa, herself had prayed for her vocation. Julia knew she was right where God wanted her to be. She was given the name Sister M. Claudiana, protector of the lame, the crippled and the blind.

Sister Claudiana attended DePaul University for two years before transferring to St. John’s College in Cleveland, Ohio where she received her B.S. in education. Sister’s first assignment was at St. Elizabeth Day

“I Wanna Be One!

Sister Mary Claudiana Jachimowicz

Born in Hamtramck, Michigan on April 13, 1921
Care in Chicago, Illinois. She took care of the children and the Sacristy.

Sister Claudiana taught for 43 years at various schools in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio including St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr, St. Florian, St. Louise de Marillac, Five Holy Martyrs, St. Pancratius, St. Casimir, St. Leo, S.S. Philip & James and St. Hedwig. She was also the Principal for two years at Five Holy Martyrs where she was famous for making her homemade chicken soup.

Sister loved teaching and only left when her eyesight failed but God had another plan for her gifts. She always felt connected to the poor. When she was a little girl she used to love to pray and she always prayed for the poor. She believed in working with the poor and wanted to live among them. Her desire to help the less fortunate became a reality in 1983.

Sister Claudiana’s true calling came when her spiritual advisor, Father Augustine (Gus) Milon, OFM asked her to help him open a soup kitchen in Chicago. The Port located on South Ashland Avenue, was inspired by St. Francis of Assisi and Franciscan charism. The name comes from the Portiuncula in Assisi which means “small church.” The goal was to evangelize to the poor by providing them with the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing as well as a listening heart.

After two years of planning and finding a space that could accommodate their needs the Port opened their doors on May 26, 1985 in what was once a drug store turned restaurant. Sister Claudiana and Father Gus wondered how they would feed hundreds of people every day but relied on God’s graces to help them with their challenges. At one point Father Gus asked Sister Claudiana if she was alright with begging for food. Sister said, “Yes, oh yes, Mother Theresa did that.” The Port was a soup kitchen, food pantry and a drop in center.

For thirteen years Sister Claudiana worked at the Port and ministered to the poor. She fed them, prayed with them and listened to them. Her listening ministry as it was affectionately referred to touched thousands of lives. She provided food for their bodies and nourished their souls.

When asked if she would have done anything different, she replied, “no, I love being a Sister and helping the poor.” Her parents taught her and her brothers and sisters to be thankful for everything and to have an attitude of gratitude. Sister Claudiana has honored her parents’ principles and lived her life as a Franciscan Sister of Chicago by being thankful for everything God has given to her and allowed her to do in His name. Her joyful attitude is always present in her quiet nature.
Sister Petronia was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 1, 1921 to Peter Budzinski and Kathryn Ozga Budzinski. She was the seventh child in a family of ten children. Her parents were Polish immigrants. The family spoke both Polish and English at home. Her father Peter was born in Brzozowo, Poland. Her mother Kathryn was born in Siemiechowa, Poland. They came to the United States in search of a better life.

Sister Petronia's father worked in a mill by a furnace for forty years to support his growing family. The work was grueling but her father did not complain. He was a kind man who enjoyed taking care of his family. Her mother stayed at home with the children during the day. At night she worked in an office building cleaning offices. The Budzinski children referred to their mother as a night stenographer because she cleaned secretarial offices while they were sleeping.

Mr. and Mrs. Budzinski taught their children many important lessons in life by the way they lived. Sister Petronia said she had the best parents who always got along with each other. They showed their children how to love one another by their example of how they treated each other. Her parents told the children to always be good to one another and to always stick together. Family time was very important to the Budzinskis. They were a happy family who laughed a lot and always got along. Sister Petronia loved to play school when she was a child. She also enjoyed playing jump rope and hop-scotch.

Holidays were special even though the family did not have a lot of money. They never realized they were poor materially because they were rich in spirit. Sister remembered St. Nicholas Day and how they would get candy and fruit. Sister Petronia remembers the Christmas she and her sister received big dolls from their godparents. The family still enjoys getting together for Christmas every year and for special occasions.
Sister Petronia first met the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago when she was a student at St. Pancratius in Chicago, Illinois. The school was filled with Franciscan Sisters teaching every grade. She watched how they prayed and was fascinated with their reverence. She remembers how she used to hold the door for the Sisters when they would leave the room.

On August 22, 1934 Sister Petronia joined the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. She was only thirteen and a half years old when she entered religious life. Her father was so proud that God had chosen one of his children to enter religious life. Her mother was also happy for her, even though it meant that she would only see her daughter once a month.

Sister Petronia’s first assignment was at St. Hedwig in Gary, Indiana teaching third grade in 1939. She usually instructed third and fourth graders except in 1952 when she was assigned to teach sixth and seventh grade and 1953 when she schooled fourth and fifth grade. She taught at St. Hedwig for fifteen years. She was also the local Treasurer from 1949 until 1956.

In 1954 Sister Petronia taught fourth grade at St. Florian in Chicago, Illinois for two years. Her next assignment was in East St. Louis, Illinois teaching second and third grade at St. Adalbert. Sister Petronia was at St. Adalbert from 1956 until 1961. During that time she was also the assistant superior and the local secretary. Sister taught second and third grade for a year at St. Mary in Hammond, Indiana and had the added responsibility of being a Sacristan while maintaining the job of local treasurer.

In 1962 Sister Petronia was transferred to Assumption in New Chicago, Indiana. While there she taught first and second grade. This was her first experience teaching first grade and she loved working with the younger students. In fact first grade was her favorite grade to teach. Her kind and gentle nature made her a natural primary grade teacher. While at Assumption Sister Petronia was also the local superior as well as the Principal.

Sister Petronia taught first grade at St. Pancratius for one year before being transferred to St. Louise de Marillac in LaGrange Park, Illinois in 1970. She remained there for seventeen years before coming back to the Motherhouse in Lemont, Illinois. From 1987 until 1993 she was the local Superior at the Motherhouse.

Never one to sit idle, Sister Petronia became a Marketing Assistant for Franciscan Village and has been a valuable asset there ever since her return to Lemont. Her wry smile and quick wit make her a delight to be around. When asked if she would have chosen another vocation or profession she quickly replied, “I have loved being a Sister and I loved teaching.”

I am certain that her students were grateful that she was their teacher. However the most important lesson she probably taught them was the joy of living a happy and fulfilling life. This Sister Petronia has done for over 90 years.
Blessing of the Peace Pole

The afternoon of October 2, 2011, marked another historical event for the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. Sister Diane Marie Collins welcomed the Sisters, Associates, guests and officials from the village of Lemont to the blessing ceremony of the newly installed Peace Pole located at the entrance of Our Lady of Victory Convent.

Mayor Brian K. Reaves delivered his opening remarks conveying his enthusiasm for the installation of the Peace Pole and complimented all who had engineered the process. Kevin W. Shaughnessy, Lemont Chief of Police, Bill Ward, Commander, Lemont VFW Post, Jim Sheldon, Battalion Chief of the Lemont Fire Protection District, and Firefighters Mike Holtz, Keith Jaeger, and John Pelca were also in attendance on this special occasion.

The Peace Pole committee included Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie, chairman, Sheila Mehigan, Diane Shedlarski, and Sister Doloria Kosiek. The Peace Pole was planted in front of the Mother House to honor the Franciscan heritage of promoting the cause of peace in the world. As part of the ceremony, the members of the committee gave the history, meaning and the reasoning for the selection of the languages represented on the Peace Pole.

“May Peace Prevail on the Earth,” is inscribed in eight languages on the Peace Pole. The languages were chosen because of their connection to the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. All of the continents of the world are represented. The languages inscribed include English, Polish, Spanish, German, Korean, Potawatomi, Latin, and Swahili.

Sister Diane Marie blessed the Peace Pole and everyone responded with “May Peace Prevail on the Earth.” Deacon Brian Nosbusch followed with a prayer for peace which included the petition: “We ask You, our loving Father, to send Your Holy Spirit to inspire all of us that we may realize that peace can start with each one of us.”

Sister Jeanne Marie acknowledged several people who made the day possible. Some of those acknowledged were Brenda Motley, landscape designer; John Grele and his crew who built the Peace Pole and implemented the landscaping; the kitchen associates at Our Lady of Victory Convent for their delicious refreshments; and Bob Coon, Executive Director of Franciscan Village, for providing the tent and the sound system.

The Peace Pole Committee will be registering the new Peace Pole with the International Peace Pole effort. The Peace Pole stands as a reminder to those who enter that we are all called to be instruments of God’s peace.
The 2011 recipient of the Theresa Dudzik Service Award is Franciscan Community Services /St. Anthony Adult Day Health Services. Their program, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, created by Legacy Health, is a six-week education program focusing on the needs of the caregiver. The series is designed for family and friends who are caring for older adults suffering from strokes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease or similar long-term conditions.

The class provides participants with the skills and confidence needed to better care for themselves while caring for others. Franciscan Community Services currently has two Master Trainers, Michelle McAllister and Carol Hambrick, who serve as facilitators for this informative series.

"Caring for a loved one is both incredibly rewarding and extremely demanding. After completing the six-week Powerful Tools for Caregivers course, many of the class participants reported fewer feelings of anger, guilt, and depression. They've experienced increased confidence in coping with the demands of caregiving. They've begun to understand that asking for help and utilizing community based services for respite is perfectly acceptable," McAllister said.

Franciscan Communities at St. Anthony Campus offers a unique continuum of care that includes adult day care, personal care services, assisted living, skilled and intermediate nursing care, hospice and childcare. Blossom Mabon, Director of Fund Development wrote the grant under the supervision of Cathy Grantner, Executive Director for Franciscan Community Services.

Sister Diane Marie Collins, General Minister of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago presented Linda O'Neill, Executive Director of St. Anthony Home with a plaque and a check for $10,000 in the absence of Cathy Grantner. Several residents from the Adult Day Care Center attended the presentation.

Cathy Grantner Coltun - Executive Director
Andrea Perez - Adult Day Coordinator

Program implemented by:
Ms. Carol Hambrick & Michelle McAllister

(Left to right)
Linda O'Neill - Executive Director,
Andrea Perez - Adult Day Coordinator,
Mary Bannon – Corporate Director of Philanthropy,
Carol Hambrick – Master Trainer,
Michelle McAllister – Master Trainer,
Sr. Diane Marie Collins – General Minister,
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago.
Father Barzynski had proposed that the Sisters rent a large wagon to take everything to their new home. However, no one would rent to them for fear that the wagon would get stuck in the excessive mud. Instead the Sisters were able to retain the services of grocers John Thiel and John Gniot. Mr. Thiel and Mr. Gniot offered the Sisters the use of their horse drawn wagons hauling much of the furniture from the old quarters to the new home. Sister Theresa’s brother Joseph Dudzik drove a third wagon that was owned by the Sisters.

St. Joseph Home was a brick, three-story, medium sized structure. It served as both an institution for the aged and a Motherhouse for the fledgling community of Sisters. “Now, filled with eight Sisters, ten aged women, three aged men, and the parents of Sister Anna, the home was already overcrowded.”

There was never a shortage of work to keep the Sisters busy as they cared for the elderly residents. Each of the Sisters endured the exhausting labor and dire poverty that seemed to dictate their lives. The expenses to maintain the home were substantial and all the more burdensome since the Sisters had no funds to draw from. On top of that none of the residents provided financial support and were totally dependent upon the Sisters for their survival.

The requests to live in St. Joseph Home continued to pour in from all sides and often times Sister Theresa was forced to refuse their pleas because of the overcrowded conditions. “She denied requests to shelter the elderly when she knew that they had children who could support them although she realized that the elderly were often better cared for at St. Joseph Home than by unkind and unsympathetic relatives.”

As GOD Shall ORDAIN

A HISTORY OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF CHICAGO

PART THREE:

Amidst Hardship & Disillusionment Comes Renewal

Fulfilling a dream was just the beginning for Sister Theresa as she along with seven Sisters, ten women and three men left St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish to begin a new life at St. Joseph Home for the Aged and Crippled in Avondale. Moving to their new home in March of 1898 proved to be difficult because Avondale in the late 1890’s lacked the basic necessities of water, sewers, gas, and most importantly, paved roads.
Overcrowding was not the only challenge that Sister Theresa faced. The constant shortage of food, especially bread, and the harsh winter weather made life extremely difficult. Sister Theresa and her brother Joseph Dudzik used a wagon that belonged to the Sisters and a horse that was donated by the Resurrectionist Fathers to secure the coal and the necessary supplies since the coal companies in Chicago would not make deliveries to Avondale, due to the terrible roads.

The biggest problem that weighed heavily upon the mind of Sister Theresa was the fact that the Sisters had no guaranteed income from any source. When they moved to the largely uninhabited area of Avondale, there were very few demands for seamstresses. “In the midst of these tribulations, plans were being made for the blessing of St. Joseph Home for the Aged and Crippled. On May 1, 1898, the feast of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Father Barzynski offered Holy Mass in the small convent chapel assisted by the Reverend Eugene Sedlaczek, CR the pastor of St. Hyacinth’s Church and the Sisters’ temporary confessor.”

The sermon that Father Barzynski delivered that day inspired the large gathering of friends and benefactors. Father Barzynski spoke eloquently about the Sisters’ dedication to the aged, crippled, and needy. He talked about the growth of the small community of women and the eventual expansion of St. Joseph Home. “With the absolute need to feed, clothe, and house the many people entrusted to their care, Sister Theresa, in desperation, decided to send the Sisters to collect alms and to gather donations of food.” The Sisters had always worn secular clothes in the past but now they were outfitted with black dresses and short, black veils.

Upon receiving Father Barzynski’s approval the appointed Sisters went on their first begging assignment in August using their horse and wagon. The Sisters were surprisingly successful and very well received by the public. They brought back enough food for several days and $16 in cash. “Happy with these results, the Sisters continued to maintain themselves and the aged by begging.”

The Sisters along with some of the residents also planted various vegetables in the convent garden to supplement their needs. Sister Theresa was able to cease worrying about hunger, at least for the time being.

On October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Father Barzynski made an unexpected visit to the Sisters and requested that they all assemble in the chapel. To everyone’s surprise, Father Barzynski announced the removal of Sister Theresa as the superior of the community. “Offering no apology or explanation, Father Barzynski deposed Sister Theresa and appointed Sister Anna Wysinski, Sister Theresa’s good friend and confidante, to succeed her as the new superior.”

Sister Theresa gracefully accepted her removal with peace and resignation even though she was stunned by the announcement. The Sisters, who were admittedly fond of Sister Anna, accepted the change without question, although they privately wondered if Sister Anna could discharge the duties of the superior since she was frequently ill.

Sister Theresa was now free to devote more time to her spiritual life and care for her beloved elderly. Free of any bitterness, Sister Theresa stated in her “Chronicle”, “I felt as if a heavy stone had fallen from around my neck, and I perceived unusual happiness.” Sister Theresa focused on observing the Rules of the Third Order and the Constitution of the Congregation.

Saddened by the her perceived lack of religious fervor by the Sisters, she was soon tempted to return to the former simple life she had led with her mother in their house on Chapin Street. “She even admonished herself for having founded the community of tertiaries and secretly regretted the sacrifices she had endured in order to bring the community about.”

However, the promises Sister Theresa had made to God and to Father Barzynski in the early stages of the foundation resounded in her heart and she recalled Father Barzynski’s words to her about forsaking everything when troubles arose. After much prayer and reflection, Sister Theresa renewed her promise to God to continue to sustain the community.

Sister Theresa was determined, now more than ever, to renew her commitment to God and to reaffirm her promise to Father Barzynski to pray, sacrifice, and labor perseveringly for the survival of the community which she had founded and loved.
SISTER MARY PACHOMIA RYCHLICKI

Born: February 15, 1916
Died: January 22, 2011

Youngstown, Ohio in the early 1900s was a steel-producing town that drew many immigrants seeking employment and security for their families. This was true for Charles and Mary Rychcliki who came from their homeland of Poland to settle in the city and quickly became part of the parish family of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church. The family grew to include nine children, three boys and five girls, one of whom died in infancy. The fourth child born to the family on February 15, 1916 was a girl. She was baptized into Christ on February 18, 1916 and given the name Ladislava, known to family and friends as Lottie.

Eulogies are prepared by Sister Diane Marie Collins, 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.
Lottie’s brothers were Michael, the oldest son, Joe and Charlie, the baby and her sisters, were Mary, Alice, Sophie and Pauline. Sophie had also been the name given to the baby sister who died as an infant.

While Lottie’s father worked in the steel mills, their mother Mary stayed at home and it was from her mother that Lottie learned to cook and sew. The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago at St. Stanislaus Kostka School taught Lottie. Sister Pachomia commented that the Sisters were very good teachers and lived their lives in a way that inspired their students. She admired Sr. M. Genevieve so much that she took her name at confirmation.

God was at work tugging at Lottie’s heart through the example of the Sisters who taught her. Her older sister, Alice, known in community as Sister M. Carol, had entered the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago two years earlier and Lottie entered the community on July 9, 1930 at the age of 14. During her postulancy she spent a short time at Guardian Angel Day Care Center, but was soon transferred to Five Holy Martyrs School where she performed household duties in the morning and taught third grade in the afternoon. Lottie entered the novitiate on August 15, 1931 and received the name Sister M. Pachomia. She professed her first vows on August 16, 1933 and made her perpetual profession of vows on August 16, 1937.

Sister M. Pachomia spent a total of 59 years in the ministry of education. During most of her teaching ministry she taught Kindergarten and the primary grades, which called for creativity and patience. She was able to influence children in their formative years and provide a solid foundation on which they could build their lives. Sister Pachomia also ministered as a principal and in many of the parishes as sacristan. Sister was an inspiration to many. Sister Pachomia believed that teaching was the most rewarding ministry she could have chosen.

Her ministry in education took her to Five Holy Martyrs School, St. Pancratius School and St. Florian School in Chicago; St. Mary School in Hammond, Ind. and St. John Cantius School in East Chicago, Ind.; Assumption School in Conemaugh, Pennsylvania; Sacred Heart School, St. Casimir School and St. Leo the Great School in Cleveland, Ohio and her home parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka School in Youngstown, Ohio. Sister Pachomia retired from teaching in 1991 and began her ministry to the elderly.

She ministered at Mount Alverna Home as resident representative and sewing room coordinator. Sister Pachomia served her Sisters as local superior, treasurer, secretary, sacristan and driver. She was an avid Scrabble player and enjoyed playing cards and Yahtzee. After many years of faithful service Sister Pachomia retired and eventually became a resident at Mount Alverna Village where she was ministered to by a compassionate and loving staff and her friend, Sister M. Celeste.

Sister M. Pachomia lived a long and fruitful life. She lived the joys and sorrows of each day and realized that ultimately God was her focus and that she was to serve his people faithfully. She accepted God’s will for her life and that is the example that she leaves for us. Sister Pachomia died on Saturday afternoon January 22 at 1 p.m. Ohio time.

Sister Pachomia you now dwell with God in eternity where time no longer matters. Pray for us that we may keep our eyes on eternity and join you one day in God’s presence forever.
The year was 1913. The threat of war caused Martin and Praxeda Grajek to leave Poland, the land of their birth, and travel to Cleveland, Ohio where other members of the family had already settled. During that same year, Martin and Praxeda welcomed their first child, a daughter, born on October 30. She was baptized into Christ at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church on November 2 and given the name Helen. World War I broke out the following year.

Helen had three other siblings: Sophie, Lottie and Leonard. Helen, as the oldest daughter, was very close to her mother and wanted to do whatever she could to help in the care of her brother and sisters. The family found support from relatives and friends that lived in the area and they often spent time visiting them. The Grajek household was one in which the values of faith, education and respect were promoted. The children attended the parish school where the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago taught. The superior general of the congregation came to visit the school in order to encourage vocations. Everyone was interested in going to the convent except Helen. She was never going to leave her mother.

However, soon after this visit, Helen’s mother got very sick and was given a slim chance of survival. Helen prayed to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and promised that if her mother got better she would go to the convent. Her mother did recover and three months later on June 19 at the age of 15, Helen found herself at the front door of the motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. While Helen was very homesick at that time, she later shared that she never regretted her decision to enter the convent.

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.”

(Philippians 3: 20 – 21)
She entered the novitiate on June 23, 1930 and received the name Sister Mary Therese. Sister Therese made her perpetual profession of vows on August 15, 1935.

Sister Therese received her Bachelor of Science in Education from DePaul University in Chicago and she attended the Seraphic Institute of Theology for Sisters in Joliet, Ill., The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and Rosary College in River Forest, Ill. Also, Sister Therese participated in various workshops and In-Service Programs for the Ministry of Pastoral Care.

Sister Therese ministered in the areas of Religious Formation, Education and Pastoral Care. As a postulant, she helped with the working young women who lived at Guardian Angel Day Care Center in Chicago. She taught grades five through eight at Five Holy Martyrs Grade School in Chicago. She also taught 7th and 8th grade at St. Peter Claver School in Mobile, Ala. Sister Therese taught high school for over 26 years, first at the Motherhouse and then at Madonna High School, both in Chicago.

Sister left the ministry of education in 1975 and entered the ministry of Pastoral Care at St. Anthony Medical Center in Crown Point, Ind. where she remained until 1987. She then went to Mount Alverna Home in Parma, Ohio to continue her ministry of Pastoral Care. Sister Therese’s ministry ended abruptly when she was injured in an auto accident on her way from Parma to the motherhouse in the year 2000. When she recovered, she made the decision to retire to the motherhouse. Sister Therese became a member of the infirmary community in 2008. Sister ministered to her Sisters as Director of Aspirants, Assistant Superior, Local Superior and sacristan.

Sister Therese strengthened her artistic talent engaging in classes on watercolor and other types of art offered at the motherhouse. She enjoyed religious programs on television, as well as mysteries such as Diagnosis Murder, Walker Texas Ranger and of course, Perry Mason and Hallmark Channel movies.

Most important to Sister Therese was the development of her spirituality and her relationship with Jesus. Sister had a gentle soul and a compassionate heart. She was once asked about the happiest day of her life. She said: “Every day is my happiest day—I live one day at a time.” I believe that May 12, 2011 was truly the happiest day of her life because it was on that day at 4:25 in the afternoon, after 97 years of earthly life and 81 years of religious life, that she closed her eyes in this world and opened her eyes in eternity and saw the face of Jesus.

Sister Therese you have touched many hearts and led many souls to God through your kindness and openness to the presence of God in your life. Pray for us that we might appreciate each day of our lives as gift from our loving God. May we follow your example of modeling what it means to be an instrument of God’s peace. Please intercede for us before God so that we may some day join you in the kingdom of the Prince of Peace.
The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold. Hear O daughter, see and turn your ear. Forget your people and your father's house. So shall the king desire your beauty for he is your Lord.

The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold. Hear O daughter, see and turn your ear. Forget your people and your father's house. So shall the king desire your beauty for he is your Lord.

Anna and Stanley Krolak celebrated Thanksgiving early in the year 1921. Amid the bleak, cold of winter, in this coal-mining town of Shoaf, Pennsylvania, the gift of new life came, with the birth of a baby daughter on November 10th. This youngest child of six children was baptized into Christ on November 20, 1921 and given the name Mary. One can imagine that Mary and her brothers John and Frank along with her sisters, Anna, Julia, and Victoria shared many adventures as they grew up in Western Pennsylvania.

Mary grew up and became a young adult in Pennsylvania. She had time to develop her relationship with God just as the young maiden of Nazareth. Mary entered religious life at the age of twenty-one. Both of her parents had already died. Although there was no record of how Mary became associated with the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago we rejoice in the fact that she chose to give her life to God in our community. She was always very quiet and has been described as a gentle soul.

Mary joined the congregation on December 8, 1942. She entered the novitiate on August 15, 1943 and received the name Sister Mary Regina. She made her final profession of vows on August 15, 1950. It seems that God in his providence allowed many of the significant dates in her life to occur on feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Sister Regina ministered to God’s people for many years. At first glance one might look at her ministries and view them as ordinary, but in the eyes of God they are arrayed in gold and she now presents those ministries to God who delights in them. The first eight years of her ministerial life were spent nurturing the lives of her Sisters in various ways in community at St. Joseph Convent in East Chicago, Indiana, Sacred Heart Convent in Cleveland, Ohio and St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Youngtown, Ohio.

Sister Regina’s ministry to the elderly began in 1953 and spanned the next forty-seven years. She had a wonderful rapport with the residents and their families and was very dedicated in her service to them. She served as a Licensed Practical Nurse at St. Joseph Home in Chicago, Illinois from 1953-1954. She continued her ministry at Alvernia Rest Home that became Mount Alverna Home in Parma, Ohio from 1954-1980. During most of these years she was a night nurse. Sister arrived in Crown Point, Indiana in 1980 and continued her ministry to the elderly as a Sister Visitor to the residents of St. Anthony Home until 1994. The focus of her ministry changed in 1994 when she became the official driver for the Sisters at St. Anthony Convent in Crown Point, Indiana. Some sisters recall that Sister Regina was always willing to drive the Sisters whenever they wanted her to, even if it was at an inconvenient time for her. Sister’s ministry to her Sisters continued after she was finished with her driving ministry. She

SISTER MARY REGINA
KROLAK

Born: November 10, 1921
Died: September 27, 2011

“The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold. Hear O daughter, see and turn your ear. Forget your people and your father’s house. So shall the king desire your beauty for he is your Lord.”
remained at St. Anthony Convent and served as the portress and had more time to dedicate to prayer. One of the Sisters living in the home during that time related the fact that Sister Regina always took the time to ask about her day and show some interest and concern for the well being of this Sister. Sister Regina remained at St. Anthony convent until 2004 and then retired to the Motherhouse in Lemont, Illinois. Sister went through a time of transition when she arrived in Lemont and gradually settled into the day-to-day routine. Frustration with her growing weakness was gradually transformed into acceptance and resolve. Sister Regina had a quick wit that was evident when talking with her and if you caught her eye she would smile knowing that you had caught the meaning of her words. She, like Mary of Nazareth observed all that was going on around her and within her and pondered these things in her heart. Illness continued to weaken Sister and early in the morning on September 27th after 89 years of earthly life and 68 years of religious life she entered eternity and beheld the face of Jesus, the King who desired her beauty and captured her heart.

Sister Regina, pray for us that we might learn the lessons of solitude and gentleness that you taught us by the way you lived your life. May we join you in heaven some day where we hope to stand at the right hand of Jesus arrayed in gold.

SISTER M. AGATHA WALERSKI

Born: March 9, 1924
Died: November 7, 2011

Stanley and Mary Walerski welcomed their tenth child into the family on March 9, 1924 in Hamtramck, Michigan. The baby was baptized into Christ at St. Florian Church, in Michigan, on March 10, 1924 and given the name Frances. She was the fifth girl preceded by her sisters Lillian, Jennie, Lottie and Clara. Her older brothers were Joseph, Stanley, Ignatius, Edward and Harry.

Frances entered the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago on September 2, 1939. She entered the novitiate on August 15, 1941 and received the name Sister M. Agatha. Sister Agatha made her perpetual profession of vows on August 15, 1948. Sister pursued coursework at both DePaul University and Indiana University in the areas of Education and Finance. Sister Agatha began her life of ministry.
in 1943 by caring for residents both at St. Joseph Home in Chicago, Illinois and then at Mount Alverna Home in Parma, Ohio. For six years, from 1946 to 1951 she ministered to children, first at St. Elizabeth Daycare Center in Chicago, Illinois from 1946 to 1948 and then teaching First Grade at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr School in Chicago, Illinois.

Sister Agatha began her ministry in bookkeeping and accounting at St. John’s Hospital in Huron, South Dakota in 1954 where she was also the Storage Supply Manager. From 1960-1967 Sister Agatha found herself in Boys Town, Nebraska serving as the Assistant Bookkeeper.

In 1967 Sister Agatha went to St. Anthony Hospital in Martin, South Dakota where she ministered as an Accredited Medical Records Technician and Bookkeeper. Sister traveled back to St. John Hospital in Huron, South Dakota in 1971 and for the next three years she served as a Computer Operator for the Accounting Department.

Sister Agatha came to St. Anthony Medical Center in Crown Point, Indiana in 1974 and remained there until August of this year. Sister Agatha ministered as a Computer Operator for Accounts Receivable and Payable at the Medical Center from 1974 – 1983; from 1983 – 1988 Sister was Director of Admitting and from 1988 until July of 2011 Sister Agatha supervised the Duplicating Room and the Mailroom of the Medical Center. Sister would often bake cakes for her staff when they were celebrating birthdays using her own money to do so. She would also go over on the week-end to do some of the work in the office in order to make the week easier for her staff.

Sister also served her Sisters in community as a sacristan while at St. John’s in Huron, South Dakota and St Anthony Hospital in Martin, South Dakota. Sister ministered to many through her kindness, generosity and quiet thoughtfulness. Many Sisters will miss receiving the many messages of love and celebration that Sister Agatha would find on the internet and send out for birthdays, feast days or other special occasions. When visiting the motherhouse she always took the time to greet the Sisters from other communities who live at OLV and show concern for their well-being.

Sister Agatha has been described by her fellow Sisters, as well as persons with whom she worked, as one who genuinely cared about other people and was very kind. The OLV infirmary staff only knew her for a short time but continue to talk about her as very gentle, kind and sweet. Each day she would bring them a piece of fruit or a cookie from the dining room to show her gratitude to them.

Sister Agatha was also very courageous as she fought her battle with cancer and refused to let it keep her down. She was not alone but was supported by Sisters Frances Szczur, Joella and Paula Frances who gently cared for her spirit and body during her last few months at St. Anthony Convent. All of us who walked the last few months of her life with her here at Our Lady of Victory Convent saw her determination and her refusal to give in to pain and the disease itself. Sister Agatha has definitely fought the good fight, and has run her race and her Savior Jesus Christ is definitely holding for her the crown of glory as she enters heaven. As we stand here cheering her on from the sidelines of Earth she gives us the message that St. Francis gave to his brothers as he went to God. “I have done what is mine to do, may Christ teach you yours.”

Sister Agatha, you will be greatly missed by many. Pray for us, that we may indeed open our selves to the grace of God so that we might continue to faithfully run our race until we cross over the finish line into eternity and join all of the saints and angels in praising God forever.
Sister Victoria Valerie Smagacz
Born: December 7, 1921
Died: November 25, 2011

“The Lord is my light and my salvation, of whom should I be afraid.”

Stephen and Anna Smagacz immigrated from Poland and settled in Chicago’s Brighton Park neighborhood where Stephen worked on the Santa Fe Railroad and Anna fashioned a home where faith in God was a priority and care for those in need was taught by example. Life was not easy for this young couple who lost two sons, Anthony and Mieczlaw, as infants. There were three boys and four girls who survived into childhood with Chester dying at the age of 10 years. The other children were Joseph, Gertrude, Mary, Henrietta, Stanley and Victoria, who was born and baptized into Christ on December 7, 1921 at Five Holy Martyrs Church.

Victoria developed a sense of humor and a knack for story telling. All of the Smagacz children were encouraged to live lives of service, which began with them leaving home early each weekday morning to help the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago who taught at St. Pancratius School.

Victoria watched as her older sister, Mary, known in community as Sister M. Innocent, answered the call of God in her heart and joined the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. Victoria worked in a factory, but seven years after Mary, Victoria joined the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago on October 4, 1940 at the age of 19. Her father found this very difficult at first and refused to give her his blessing. However when he visited her a month later, his attitude changed when he saw how happy she was. Victoria entered the novitiate on August 15, 1941 and received the name Sister Mary Silveria. Later, when permitted, she returned to her baptismal name, Sister Victoria Valerie. Sister made her first profession on August 15, 1945 and her perpetual profession of vows on August 15, 1948.

Sister Victoria Valerie received a Bachelor of Science in Education from Loyola University in Chicago and a Masters Degree in Education with a major in Counseling also from Loyola University in Chicago. Sister received a Certificate in Executive Housekeeping from Oklahoma University and pursued continuing education in housekeeping at Bowling Green State University in Ohio and classes for leadership.

Sister Victoria Valerie’s ministry was diverse and exhibited Sister’s creativity and organizational skills. Her ministry began in 1943 at Guardian Angel Day Care Center in Chicago and included taking care of 2 to 4 year olds, being a receptionist, assisting in the kitchen, working at the community center, organizing a Brownie and Girl Scout Troop, establishing a library in the garage and teaching religion classes.

Sister's formal teaching ministry began in 1949 when she was assigned to St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr School in Chicago. Her ministry of teaching at other parish schools in Chicago included St. Florian School and Five Holy Martyr’s School. Sister Victoria Valerie taught at St. John the Baptist School in Campbell, Ohio at different intervals in the 1950s and also at St. John Cantius School in East Chicago, Ind., St. Mary’s School in Hammond, Ind. and St. Hedwig School in Gary, Ind.
While engaging in teaching, she also ministered to her Sisters in Community by cooking, working in the laundry and driving. Sister became involved in some parish activities, which included being a CCD coordinator and a lector at the Polish Masses on Sundays.

The summer of 1964 found Sister Victoria Valerie and Sister Innocent in Windsor, Woodstock, and Ontario, Canada teaching 6th and 8th grade religion to Polish students, visiting the elderly at home and in the hospital and organizing a Mother Theresa League in that location. Perhaps it was there that she developed a love for lighthouses.

The focus of Sister’s ministry changed in 1971 when she became the director of housekeeping at St. John’s Hospital in Huron, S.D. She returned to teaching for a short time and then in 1981 Sister Victoria Valerie became director of housekeeping and assisted with the monthly Engagement/Marriage Encounters held at the Motherhouse in Lemont, Ill. Sister continued her ministry in Housekeeping at Mount Alverna Home in Parma, Ohio in 1986 and in 1991 came back to the motherhouse as a driver. She served briefly at Mother Theresa Home in Lemont as sacristan, Eucharistic Minister and other tasks.

Sister acted as caretaker for her sister, Nora Mielnicki at Franciscan Village for six months from July of 2001 until February of 2002. After her sister Nora’s death, Sister Victoria returned to her ministry of driving and scheduling drivers for the OLV Community. She retired in 2006.

Sister Victoria also ministered to her Sisters in community as sacristan, local procurator, assistant superior and a member of the Religious Associate Team. Some of her happiest moments were spent sharing presentations with the religious associates on the personal and spiritual qualities of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik. The associates continue to reminisce even to this day about the heartfelt simplicity and passion with which Sister Victoria shared her thoughts. Sister Victoria also began her ministry to widows who were friends of hers in 2004 by sending them letters and readings to inspire and comfort them.

Sister Victoria Valerie began to experience the debilitating effects of dementia causing her to begin to slip away from us long before her physical death and allowing all who interacted with her the grace to love her through that engulfing darkness.

On November 25, 2011, at approximately 12:45 a.m. the light of Christ broke through the darkness and called her to himself after 89 years of earthly life and 71 years of religious life.

Sister Victoria Valerie, thank you for sharing life with us and teaching us how to live life with passion by developing a deep sense of the presence of God’s love and finding ways to share it with others. Pray for us until we join you in the glorious kingdom of light in God’s presence.
Planned giving is defined as the method of supporting non-profits and charities that enables philanthropic individuals or donors to make significant donations to an organization that their income could not otherwise allow. While some planned gifts may provide lifelong income to the donor, others use estate and tax planning techniques to provide for charity and other heirs in ways that maximize the gift and/or minimize its impact on the donor’s estate.

A planned gift is any major gift that is made during the donor's lifetime or after their death as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate planning. In contrast, gifts to the annual fund or for membership dues are made from a donor's discretionary income. These gifts are budgeted for and are not considered planned gifts.

Planned gifts may include appreciated securities/stock, real estate, artwork, partnership interests, personal property, life insurance, a retirement plan and even cash. The benefits of a planned gift make it very attractive to both the donor and the charity.

What are the three types of planned gifts?

First, outright gifts that use appreciated assets as a substitute for cash.

Second, gifts that provide return income or other financial benefits to the donor in return for the contribution.

Third, gifts payable upon the donor's death.

What are the tax benefits of planned gifts?

- Donors can contribute appreciated property, like securities or real estate, receive a charitable deduction for the full market value of the asset, and pay no capital gains tax on the transfer.

- Donors who establish a life-income gift receive a tax deduction for the full, fair market value of the assets contributed, minus the present value of the income interest retained; if they fund their gift with appreciated property they pay no upfront capital gains tax on the transfer.

- Gifts payable to charity upon the donor’s death, like a bequest or a beneficiary designation in a life insurance policy or retirement account, do not generate a lifetime income tax deduction for the donor, but they are exempt from estate tax.

Planned gifts give benefactors an opportunity to partner with charities and non-profits in a unique way by allowing donors to assist in supporting the mission. Please consider the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago when preparing your planned giving donations.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns regarding Planned Giving. I would be happy to speak with you. You may reach me at (630) 243-3562 or email me at mbannon@chicagofranciscans.com.
Everyone who attended the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago’s 18th Annual Ball could feel the glamour of Hollywood circa 1930s and 1940s. This year’s theme was Putting on the Glitz and glitz could be found everywhere from the top hat table decorations to the lustrous burgundy 1950 Hudson donated for the evening by Dr. Joseph Coscino. The guests arrived at the Chicago Marriott Oakbrook on October 22 and were treated to an elegant evening of dining, dancing and silent auction surprises.

They were greeted by Sister Diane Marie Collins, General Minister; Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, General Vicar; and Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie, General Councilor as they entered the foyer decorated with the Chicago skyline which was specially crafted by two Marian Village associates and served as the backdrop for photo opportunities.

The guests savored the succulent appetizers and enjoyed cocktails while they studied the silent auction items, which included a vacation home in Santé Fe, New Mexico and a flight over Lake Michigan. The 1950 Hudson, complete with props, also provided the attendees of the ball an occasion to remember the splendor of the black and white era of Hollywood and to get their picture taken.

As the doors to the dining room opened the guests caught a glimpse of the elegant white table cloths, silk black napkins and white chair covers with shiny black bows. The variety of white roses and mums were covered with silver glitter that sparkled in the night. The flowers were designed by Nancy Eriksen of Lange’s Woodland Flowers and cleverly arranged in top hats with white gloves and bracelets to remind the guests of days gone by.
As Sister Diane Marie welcomed the guests she said, “It is always a pleasure to spend this evening with you. It gives us the opportunity to say thank you to you who share in our ministry through your generosity and presence.” She ended her speech by saying, “This evening we have all come together in order to have a good time and enjoy each other’s company. Tonight let us celebrate this opportunity that God gives us. Thank you for ‘Putting on the Glitz’.”

The recipient of the 2011 Golden Thread Award was Reverend Gene Szarek, C.R., Provincial, and the Congregation of the Resurrection. The Resurrectionists have been an integral part of the establishment and early formation of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. Father Joseph Barzynski, a Resurrectionist priest and Pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka parish in Chicago, encouraged Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik to establish the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. So began, the loyal and faithful commitment between the Sisters and the Congregation of the Resurrection.

This year the Sisters added an award to honor one of their own. The Franciscan Weaver Award was conceived in 2011 by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago to honor one of their Sisters who embodies the Franciscan charism and shows Franciscan joy in her daily life. The recipient of this award is someone who serves others generously and whose very being is rooted in the Gospel message. The Sister who receives this award is someone who allows the grace of God to shine through her as she shows the face of God to everyone she encounters. Her thoughtful demeanor brings individuals closer to God and to the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago.

To receive the Franciscan Weaver Award is to attain the appreciation and recognition of the Sisters for living the charism of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik and St. Francis of Assisi.

The first recipient of the Franciscan Weaver Award is Sister M. Alacoque Czartoryski. Sister entered the Congregation on July 31, 1937. She received her B.A. in Home Economics from Mundelein College in Chicago, and later received her Dietician Degree from Augustana Hospital. Sister Alacoque has lived out Franciscan Joy for the past 74 years. Sister Alacoque graciously serves others with kindness and compassion. Her joyful spirit continues to be a witness to the Gospel message that she was called to live out as a Franciscan Sister of Chicago.

The Duane Landini Orchestra provided marvelous music to entertain the invitees while photographer, Mel Walaszek, captured the moment as he took pictures of the guests in front of the Chicago skyline and the 1950 Hudson. The evening ended successfully raising money for the ministry and good works of the Sisters and endowing guests with an evening that they will remember for a long time.
The Franciscan Weaver Award

The Franciscan Weaver Award was conceived in 2011 by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago to honor one of their Sisters who embodies the Franciscan charism and shows Franciscan joy in her daily life. The recipient of this award is someone who serves others generously and whose very being is rooted in the Gospel message. The Sister who receives this award is someone who allows the grace of God to shine through her as she shows the face of God to everyone she encounters. Her thoughtful demeanor brings individuals closer to God and to the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. To receive the Franciscan Weaver Award is to attain the appreciation and recognition of the Sisters for living the charism of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik and St. Francis of Assisi.

Sister M. Alacoque Czartoryski

Sr. M. Alacoque Czartoryski is the first recipient of the Franciscan Weaver Award. Sister entered the Congregation on July 31, 1937. She received her B.A. in Home Economics from Mundelein College in Chicago, and later received her Dietician Degree from Augustana Hospital. Sister Alacoque has lived out Franciscan Joy for the past 74 years. She has served in a variety of roles including that of teacher, Dietary Director, Local Superior, Sacristan, and Hospitality Minister. Whether Sister is mending the Sisters’ habits, preparing for celebrations at the Convent, making visitors feel welcome as they seek hospitality, or through her tours of Heritage Hall she spreads our Franciscan charism to everyone she encounters. She has also had the special privilege of ministering for one year among the people in Plocicz, Poland, the birthplace of our Foundress. Sister Alacoque graciously serves others with kindness and compassion. Her joyful spirit continues to be a witness to the Gospel message that she was called to live out as a Franciscan Sister of Chicago.

The Golden Thread Award

The Golden Thread Award was conceived in 2009 by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago to honor those individuals or organizations whose loyal and faithful commitment has enabled the Sisters to continue their ministries. Over 100 years ago Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik began her humble ministry as a seamstress. It was her thought 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. The recipients of the Golden Thread Award have proven to be like gold in the fiber of our foundation. Their aid has allowed us to flourish and weave a solid organization. To receive the Golden Thread Award is to become an integral part of the history of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. charism of mother Mary Theresa Dudzik and St. Francis of Assisi.

Reverend Gene Szarek, CR and the Congregation of the Resurrection

This year’s recipient of the Golden Thread Award is Reverend Gene Szarek and the Congregation of the Resurrection. Father Joseph Barzynski, a Resurrectionist priest encouraged Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik to start The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. So began, the loyal and faithful commitment between the Sisters and the Congregation of the Resurrection. The partnership between the Resurrection Fathers and Brothers and the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago spans more than 116 years and encompasses many shared ministries. We are grateful to Father Szarek and the Congregation of the Resurrection for their years of dedication, service and commitment to the Sisters and the Catholic Church.
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To our donors and friends, thank you for partnering with us, the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, through your love, prayers and financial support. We offer you our gratitude and our sincere appreciation for your generosity, which has allowed us to continue the ministry started by Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik.

Your 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 in two parts, the first listing is from January 1 through June 30, 2011 and the second listing includes gifts from July 1 through November 30, 2011. We make every effort to keep accurate records and each gift is acknowledged promptly. Should you find something amiss, however, we ask you to call us at once. Your inquiries should be directed to Maria Mulcahy, Assistant Director of Development, at 630-243-3560 or at mmulcahy@chicagofranciscans.com.

The December donors will appear in our next issue.
The Unrestricted Fund is important because it allows flexibility for our use. We often refer to gifts being directed to where the need is greatest. We’re able to use unrestricted gifts immediately or to allow them to accumulate until a significant need arises. We appreciate the thoughtfulness of unrestricted gifts.

1/1/2011 - 6/30/2011

Steve Bardoczi
Tim and Wendy Bellagamba
Mary Cepek
Mary Lou Cowperthwaite
Joyce Curè
Emilie H. Duda
Anne Dudzik Durham
Lauren Faxel
Dolores Grantz
Linda Hornyak
Kathy Kelly
Lynn Martin
Geraldine Michalak
Reverend Edward J. Neroda
Patricia O’Brien
Patricia Tarczewski

7/1/2011 - 11/30/2011

LaVerne Bara
George Barry
Tim and Wendy Bellagamba
Gemma Brandt
Margaret Breuckman
Joyce Cure
Reverend Norman Gajdzinski
Dolores Grantz
Lynn Martin
Eleanore M. Mate

Non-Cash

We are restricted by law and policy as to the kinds of non-cash gifts we 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, you won’t get the tax deduction. Congress wanted to stop people from using charitable organizations to dump unwanted items in order to write off the donation of minimal or no value. It’s always best to call the Development Office at 630-243-3562 before giving a non-cash gift. Dropping off something we cannot legally accept often requires the Sisters to pay for the disposal of these items, which we know was not the donor’s intent. We thank the following for their gifts of services.

1/1/2011 - 6/30/2011

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Celina’ Fresh Market
Cog Hill Golf and Country Club
Figel Public Relations, L.L.C.
Horwitz Horwitz & Associates
Joliet Park District
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Ruffled Feathers Golf Club
Superior Print
Ronald and Patricia Trzcinski
Ungaretti & Harris LLP

7/1/2011 - 11/30/2011

Arline Biedrzycki
Thomas Kujawa

Retirement Fund

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

1/1/2011 - 6/30/2011

Mr. Stan Kedzior
IN HONOR OF RICHARD AND
BERNADINE BILEK’S
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
Jeffrey C. Bilek
Sheila A. Bilek
Irene Dominici
Christina M. Kaczmarczyk
Cheryl Anne Chiha Klockow
Jean A. Ondyak
Yvonne J. Person
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard L. Sandner

7/1/2011 - 11/30/2011
Ms. Virginia Kantor
Honorable and
Mrs. George A. Kwak
Neal Ormond
Clara Panocha

IN HONOR OF
SISTER M. PRAESENTIA
GRZYBOWSKI
Lawrence (Butch) Murray

IN HONOR OF
SISTER M. GEORGEANN KINEL
Lawrence (Butch) Murray

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. We thank 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.

1/1/2011 - 6/30/2011
Mary Crummey
Emilie H. Duda
Guild of
Mother M. Theresa Dudzik
Harry Kurek

7/1/2011 - 11/30/2011
Emilie H. Duda
Barbara Rojes

The Theresa Dudzik Service
Award is a program
restricted to the communities
in the Franciscan Sisters of
Chicago Service Corporation
system. It was established in
1991 and in 1992, the first
recipient was awarded the
$10,000 unrestricted cash grant
and a plaque acknowledging
their earning this prestigious
award. To share information
throughout our entire system,
copies of each full proposal are
sent to all our communities.
A brochure is available explaining
the criteria to be met and listing
all the winners and their projects
through the current winner.

In order to make the $10,000
purse a reality, the Franciscan
Sisters of Chicago partner with
financial managers across the
country. Representatives from
this group also serve on the
judge’s panel and help select
the winner among two or three
finalists. The judges tell us they
enjoy being part of the panel,
indicating that by being active
participants in the program,
they’ve learned more about
the Sisters and the facilities
we sponsor.

We are grateful to our partners
not only for their financial support
but also for their interest in
our ministries.

Aberdeen Asset
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Anchor Capital Advisors LLC
Thomas H. Boehm
Mary Crummey
McDonnell Investment
Management, LLC
Oak Ridge Investments, LLC

Using the envelope included
with this issue of
Crossroads is the easiest way to
contribute to any of our funds and
it makes it especially easy to
direct a gift to the Legacy Fund.
There are several categories to which your 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 your own special intention. As you may know, the Legacy Fund is our Endowment, which we continue to grow by reinvesting the income from the fund. Your 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 us, including our infirm and aged sisters.

GENERAL GIFTS

7/1/2011 - 11/30/2011

IN THANKSGIVING TO ALL THE SISTERS WHO TAUGHT ME AT ST. PANCRATIUS FOR THE EDUCATION AND THEIR FRIENDSHIP
Marcia T. Fernandez

IN THANKSGIVING TO ALL THE SISTERS WHO MINISTERED AT ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA, IN YOUNGSTOWN, OH
Irene Gladish

TRIBUTES

1/1/2011 - 6/30/2011

IN HONOR OF
WILLIAM AND VICKI FISCHER’S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
The Fischer’s

IN HONOR OF
SISTER M. DULCISSIMA KACZMARER’S 100TH BIRTHDAY ON JANUARY 17, 2011
Gloria L. Konsack

IN HONOR OF
SISTER M. DOROTHEA MICEK’S BIRTHDAY ON JANUARY 22, 2011
Gloria L. Konsack

IN HONOR OF THE SISTERS WHO TAUGHT AT ST. CASIMIR GRADE SCHOOL, CLEVELAND, OH
St. Casimir Alumni Association

7/1/2011 - 11/30/2011

IN HONOR OF THE BRANDT FAMILY FOR HEALTH AND BLESSINGS
Mrs. Irene A. Wojtak

IN HONOR OF
SISTER M. JEANETTE GOLUUCH
Dr. William J. Napiwockey

IN HONOR OF THERESA JAGIELSKI’S 95TH BIRTHDAY
Margaret M. Machay

IN HONOR OF
SISTER M. COLETTE KWIECZKA’S 60TH JUBILEE
Miss Emilie H. Duda

IN HONOR OF
SISTER EMILIE MARIE LESNIAK ON HER 50TH JUBILEE
Genevieve and Marie Balsitis
Randall and Jennifer Brace and Daughter
Eleanor Brasky and Family
Joseph and Colette Bus
Walter and Lorraine Dobrolinsky
Reverend Norman Gajdzinski
Evaristo and Debbie Gallegos and Family
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Dolores Michalski
Mark and Sherri Miron and Daughters
Harriet Myśliwiec
John and Karen Myśliwiec
Giuseppe and Therese Perna
James and Cathy Piala
Judith Roman
Robert and Sherry Russo
James and Lorraine Steffen
Memorials
1/1/2011 - 6/30/2011

In Memory of my sister, Martha M. Duda on her 2nd death anniversary, August 21, 2011
Miss Emilie H. Duda

In Memory of my sister, Mary A. Duda on her 11th death anniversary, December 29, 2011
Miss Emilie H. Duda

In Memory of my sister, Sister Mary Roberta Duda on her 13th death anniversary, July 12, 2011
Miss Emilie H. Duda

In Memory of Rose and Hyacinth Duda
Miss Emilie H. Duda

In Memory of Ralph J. Duda, Sr. and Martha R. Duda
Miss Emilie H. Duda

In Memory of Stephanie Duszynski on her death anniversary
April 15, 2011
Peter and Frances Duszynski

In Memory of our mothers, Stephanie Duszynski and Laura Pindok
Peter and Frances Duszynski

In Memory of Sister M. Therese Grajek
David Baker
Frygier (Grajek) Family
Mrs. Lottie Frygier
Patricia Kuczmarsh
Elizabeth Pienta

In Memory of Jim Klockow
Cheryl A. Klockow

In Memory of Jean Miaszek, niece of Sister M. Josephine Penza
Alex Krucinski
Vic, Bau, Tony Krucinski
Tony and Janet Krucinski
Anne Laczny
James and Maria Maguire
Sophie Maguire
John and Patricia Sudol
Lona Whitmarsh Wind

In Memory of Sister M. Maximina Pachut
Mary Ann Krispinsky
Rita and Joe Lombardo
Caroline Pivovar

In Memory of Sister M. Pachomia Rychlicki
Helene C. Krispinsky
Jane Ransom
Rebecca Russo
The Family of Sister Pachomia Rychlicki
Jean Shade
Sophie Stiteler

In Memory of Sister M. Eymard Sanok
Helen Sanok

In Memory of Joseph T. Sanok
Helen Sanok

In Memory of Sister M. Tyburtzia Sliwa
Frieda Gosciniak

In Memory of Charlotte Slupkowski
Carol A. Post

In Memory of Estelle Soustak
Cheryl A. Klockow

7/1/2011 - 11/30/2011

In Loving memory of John and Caroline Bak Pachut
Chester Pachut
Julia Pachut
S.Sgt. Stanley J. Pahut
Sister Mary Maximina Pachut
Paul and Patricia Pahut
Frank Sympson Sr.
Andrew Glista Sr.
John "Ben" Krispinsky
Marcus Tarantino
Joanne, Helene and Mary
IN MEMORY OF MARTHA BALKO  
Mrs. Virginia Eggers  

IN MEMORY OF ANDREW BENDYK  
John and Sophie Grele  

IN MEMORY OF MY COUSIN,  
SISTER M. HUGOLINE CZAPLINSKI  
Mrs. Mary Hart  

IN MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND,  
JOHN W. DAY  
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Day  

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD DROZD  
Mrs. Barbara Drozd  

IN MEMORY OF  
MARTHA M. DUDA, ON HER 3RD DEATH ANNIVERSARY  
ON AUGUST 21, 2012  
Miss Emilie H. Duda  

IN MEMORY OF  
MARY A. DUDA, ON HER 12TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY  
ON DECEMBER 29, 2012  
Miss Emilie H. Duda  

IN MEMORY OF  
SISTER MARY ROBERTA DUDA, ON HER 14TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY  
ON JULY 12, 2012  
Miss Emilie H. Duda  

IN MEMORY OF  
SISTER M. ROBERTA DUDA  
Mrs. Loretta Zaleski  

IN MEMORY OF  
ROSE AND HYACINTH DUDA  
Miss Emilie H. Duda  

IN MEMORY OF  
MOTHER M. THERESA DUDZIK’S 151ST BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE  
ON AUGUST 30TH, 2011  
Miss Emilie H. Duda  

IN MEMORY OF  
SISTER M. RICHARD DUSZYNSKI  
D.J. Dunn  

IN MEMORY OF  
MARY K. EGAN  
Jean T. Egan  

IN MEMORY OF  
SISTER M. ROSARIA FRODYMA  
Mrs. Chestine A. Nowaczyk  
and Family  

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EDWARD W. GOMOLKA  
Loretta Gomolka  

IN MEMORY OF  
SISTER M. EPIPHANY GORSKI  
Dennis and Alberta Wilde  

IN MEMORY OF  
SISTER M. THERESE GRAJEK, OSF  
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Day  

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John and Sophie Grele  

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Mr. Douglas Haske  

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Mr. Douglas Haske  

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Ms. Helen Romanic

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES S. MACHAY ON HIS
24TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
Margaret M. Machay

IN MEMORY OF STANLEY MACIEJEWSKI
Mrs. Marie Maciejewski

IN MEMORY OF PHILLIP MCPHAIL
Mrs. Clara McPhail

IN MEMORY OF CAROL LEE MIKRUT
M. Machay

IN MEMORY OF THEOPHIL “TED” NOWACZYK
Mr. Arthur H. Edgren
Ken and Josie Nowak
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Michael and Cindy Weakley

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Mrs. Mary Louise (Rzepka) Hansard

IN MEMORY OF KATHLEEN “COOKIE” OBORA
Eugene Obora

IN MEMORY OF AGNES RYBACKI
Mrs. Helen Rybacki

IN MEMORY OF MY AUNTS,
AGNES RYBACKI AND
SISTER M. BEATRICE RYBACKI
Joan M. Rybacki

IN MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND,
CHARLES F. RYBACKI
Joan M. Rybacki

IN MEMORY OF MOTHER M. BEATRICE RYBACKI
Irene Gladish
Mr. and Mrs. William Guisewite
Mrs. Helen Rybacki

IN MEMORY OF SISTER M. Loretta Ruminiski
Irene Gladish

IN MEMORY OF FRANK RYBACKI
Mrs. Helen Rybacki

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Richard and Rosemary
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Mrs. Irene A. Wojtak

IN MEMORY OF MARY WOJTAK
Mrs. Irene A. Wojtak

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Rita M. Waters

IN MEMORY OF ALAN ZAWISLAK
Margaret M. Machay
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 Community of Sisters remembers 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 your name and address so that the Spiritual Enrollment Book has your name as well as the name of the person being enrolled. A one-year enrollment is $15.

To obtain your enrollment packet, please contact Mary Bannon at (630) 243-3562 or Maria Mulcahy at (630) 243-3560 or email mmulcahy@chicagofranciscans.com.
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Richard and Bernadine Bilek’s 50th Wedding Anniversary
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Pat Clough
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Maureen Connolly
Enrolled by Tom and Maria Connolly

William de La Rosa
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Emilie H. Duda, God’s Blessings and Good Health for My Aunt
Enrolled by Gloria F. Richman

Ron Erickson
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Paul and Jenna Jakalski on Their Wedding
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Mary Patricia Kaketsky
Enrolled by Sister Kathleen Melia

Terri and Ron Kies and Family Happy Anniversary and Congratulations on the Christening of Your First Grandchild “Nora”
Enrolled by Anne M. Knawa

Anne M. Knawa on Her Birthday
Enrolled by Sister Anne Marie Knawa

Most Reverend John R. Manz’s 15th Anniversary Celebration
Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

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Sister Kathleen Melia
Enrolled by Our Lady of Victory Convent Sisters

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Madeline and Quinn Rowe, for the Continued Well-Being, Growth and Safety of Our Two Children
Enrolled by Laura Rowe

My Sister Norma’s 75th Birthday
Enrolled by Ann Pesavento

Richard C. and Stephanie T. Peters, Health and Blessings
Enrolled by Richard C. and Stephanie T. Peters

Gerald and Lynn Pierce on Their 51st Wedding Anniversary
Enrolled by Maria A. Connolly

Sister Lois Prebil
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Sister M. Francis Clare Radke, on Her Golden Jubilee
Enrolled by Ernest and Mary Lou Kopka

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Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik

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Annual membership fees to the league - $10.00.
Please make check payable to Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Address petitions, thanks for favors, questions about information and enrollment to:
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11500 Theresa Drive, Lemont, Illinois 60439-2727

“I reassured myself with the thought that whatever I did, I would do for the greater glory of God. . . As long as I loved, I would try as much as my strength allowed.”

Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik
**Swinging for the Sisters**

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