

Perspectives



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A Publication of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration



A few years ago, servant leaders gathered for an FSPA-hosted conference led by a friend of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, John McHugh. Together, we learned of ways to experience joy through purpose, love and gratitude.

In this issue, you'll see these experiences of joy come to life.

Joy in purpose ~

Making a difference in someone's life. Through a collaboration between Global Partners and FSPA at Hamilton Early Learning Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin, young lives are changing for the good. These partners reach out to ensure kids have what they need to learn, grow and feel part of a bigger community.

Joy in love ~

Radical transforming love. "From Africa to Minnesota" shares Keafon Lainjo's story of immigrants inspiring other immigrants through a three-step process that includes education, employment and life-management skills. Inspired himself by a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration whose ministry includes volunteer work in Africa, Keafon describes his outreach as a passion of love.

And for Sister Kathy who turns trash to treasure, joy is found in the eyes of her homeless brothers and sisters to whom she not only offers mats for sleeping, but prayer that the "... seeds of their dignity will be nourished and grow into an abundance of good."

Joy in gratitude ~

"If you approach everything in life from gratitude, joy sets in." Those words shared by John McHugh during that conference years ago ring true for an FSPA affiliate today whose "Spirit of Ministry" glows with delight — and gratitude — for her Franciscan heart nourished by the FSPA affiliation program.

As you share in these stories, consider your joy experiences. What gives you joy in purpose, love and gratitude? How are you living joy? Sharing peace? Being light in the world?



"Perspectives" represents the spirit and values shared by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

President:

Sister Karen Lueck

Vice President:

Sister Helen Elsbernd

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Sister Catherine Kaiser

Sister Karen Kappell

Sister Julie Tydrich

Cover photo: Many homeless individuals hear word on the street that Sister Kathy Roberg not only creates and offers sleeping mats but also prayer to those in need at House of Charity in Spokane, Washington. "It touches my heart," she says. Read the story on page 6.

Photo courtesy of Sharon Bongiorno

Twin Cities, Minnesota

From Africa to Minnesota: welcoming, supporting and inspiring our new neighbors

Imagine yourself emigrating from West Africa to America. You land without any knowledge of resources for education, employment or health care, have no sense of how the U.S. monetary system works and have never laid eyes on a computer. How ... when ... where will you find cross-cultural footing that affords not only means of self-sustainability and quality of life but also respect and pride and contribution to community?

In the Twin Cities area of Minnesota many of our new neighbors from countries like Liberia, Sierra Leone and Kenya are making their way through WanLainjo, an organization missioned to “create partnerships with impoverished communities that improve health care, education and increased economic well-being.”

By “partnering with other organizations that have a long, proven history of helping refugees (like the city of Brooklyn Park and the Minnesota Work Force Center),” says Keafon Lainjo, WanLainjo founder and director, “we work smarter, faster and with great humility in everything we do, guided by these four values: goodness of spirit, affliction without attitude, responsiveness and leading by doing.” All offered “in culturally appropriate ways.”

Building such a foundation of self and community begins with 12 computer training sessions given over a period of six weeks, followed by a career development program. Very succinctly, Keafon describes the progression of WanLainjo as a “three-step process.” First, learning how to use the computer. Second, using the computer to find employment. And third, learning how to manage money earned with a job. None of this, he says, is easy for our new neighbors.

Yet just last year WanLainjo (which began in 2015) helped over 200 people find jobs, many in the field of

home health care. And by raising additional funds for scholarships, Keafon is inspired to find that many of our new neighbors are motivated to move on to certified and professional nursing assistant programs. “They start working and stop depending on services, earn drivers’ licenses and send money back to their families in Africa. “They stop being immigrants.”

Keafon isn’t sitting back waiting for our new neighbors to find their way to WanLainjo. “I go to small churches in the area on weekends, talk to pastors about my program, leave brochures.” He attends tribal meetings

held by Africans who speak in different dialects like pidgin and Creole (Keafon speaks a bit of French but is also aided by interpreters). “They can relate to me; can see someone who understands what they’re going through.”

And our new neighbors identify with Keafon as he emigrated from Cameroon in 1999 “with a goal to help people back in my village.” He began volunteering with other organizations, “looking at

what they were doing” but taking that knowledge and reaching out to people in a more cultural-centric way. And in doing so, he discovered that “This is my passion.”

In 2001, he just happened to meet another immigration advocate — a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration who also lived in the community, attended tribal meetings and has a fire for social justice — Sister Eileen McKenzie. Reflecting on their mutual care and respect for our new neighbors, Keafon has come to affirmation.

“Africans don’t come to America to help and do volunteer work. Africans come to America to look for money and make a life for themselves.” Then, speaking of Sister Eileen’s ministry in Cameroon, West Africa, he declares “For an American to go to Africa to help other people? You can’t understand what that means to me.

“It makes life very meaningful.”

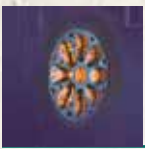
Sister Eileen, who sponsors a ministry grant aimed to



Keafon Lainjo (far left) proudly poses for this photo with WanLainjo students, a program through which he says our new neighbors “stop being immigrants.”

Photo courtesy of WanLainjo

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La Crosse, Wisconsin

From Global Partners to Hamilton: collaborating, advocating and caring for kids

Child advocacy: it's a ministry of social justice that permeates the core of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Whether efforts are engaged for education, health care, immigration or many other injustices, by mission, collaboration and inspiration to others, FSPA's outreach to children in need reverberates around the world.

Such ministry also resonates at Hamilton Early Learning Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Hamilton's preschool to fifth grade students live within the most underserved population in the school district of La Crosse, and FSPA has been in the classrooms for these children with food, warm winter wear, teaching assistance and other means of support for many years. Now, a program known as Global Partners — “inspiring volunteerism throughout Gundersen Health System and local communities” — is sounding for the students at Hamilton too.

“Perspectives” reached out to the program's director and, at Hamilton, the principal and a second-grade teacher whose students have been embraced by Global Partners. This is why they collaborate and advocate and care for Hamilton's kids.



Second graders had the opportunity to experience — some for the first time — the excitement and history of the Mississippi River during a field trip made possible by the collaboration of Global Partners, Hamilton Early Learning Center and FSPA.

Photo courtesy of Hamilton

Liz Arnold, Global Partners director, Gundersen Health System

Last fall, Global Partners (a Gundersen program missioned to empower global communities to improve health and quality of life inspired by volunteerism) was looking for an opportunity to expand our program in the La Crosse area when the Hamilton Collaboration (the school and other area organizations including FSPA) invited us to join discussions. Hamilton Principal Steve Michaels presented the idea of engaging volunteers as mentors to connect with kids, helping them transition into their school day, and Lucy Ann Meyer, FSPA, raised the idea of Gundersen departments adopting classrooms to develop relationships with the teachers and provide ongoing resources to support classroom learning. We launched both programs last winter.

Through individual discussion of current, practical needs as well as creating a wish list of classroom resources or experiences desired by teachers, Gundersen departments make a commitment to provide specific financial, material and human resources throughout the year. Departments have raised money (through events like bake sales) and donated in-kind gifts (like chairs and books) for the kids.

The employee response has been inspiring. It's often not until you develop meaningful relationships that eyes can be opened.

Steve Michaels, Hamilton Early Learning Center Principal

As we look at everything we need to do for our students at Hamilton, we know we can't do it alone. We have to have collaboration, and the community is really coming together.

Through Global Partners, mentoring and adopt-a-classroom volunteers are providing everything from healthy classroom snacks to very powerful intervention for students who are struggling.

The sisters have really been wonderful about seeing the needs of the project, and I give much credit to Sister Lucy Ann for getting our classroom adoption program going. One of the strengths of our partnership

has been FSPA's understanding of the importance of relationship and the value of personal connection. I never thought support by an organization would be so critical to the function of our school. I don't know what to say but 'thank you' to FSPA.

Katherine Erickson, Hamilton second grade teacher

Global Partners has been such a great program for us. It's given us mentors from our community who help us greet and start students off to a great day, spend breakfast and the transition into the classroom with the kids and help them settle in and focus on work to be done. They often find a few minutes to explore the child's interests through books and conversations.

We have been incredibly overwhelmed with the generosity of FSPA and Global Partners and, particularly, Gundersen Eye Institute. The department raised funds for a second grade field trip to the Mississippi River and cruise on the La Crosse Queen. It tied into our History of La Crosse curriculum but also provided an activity that many of our students have never experienced, showed them the beauty of our area and gave them an opportunity to be proud of where they live.

And I love how working together as a community shows our students that they are part of a bigger community than just our school ... that they are important to everyone. ■



"It has been delightful and overwhelming to see how the efforts of Global Partners have impacted the community of Hamilton School," says Sister Lucy Ann Meyer. "With this collaboration, including the hard work of other sisters and affiliates [known to the school as 'Franciscan Neighbors'], we are realizing the dream of supporting teachers in making the lives of Hamilton's students better."

In Memoriam

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Sharon Chavolla, affiliate

October 25, 1943-May 24, 2017

Sharon was born in Walla Walla, Washington. She joined the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in 1962, then left the community in 1973 and raised a family in Michoacan, Mexico. She rejoined the FSPA as an affiliate in 1989, and returned to the United States in 1999.



Sharon served the Latino immigrant community as an interpreter and vocal supporter. For 14 years, she brought comfort to the Franciscan Sisters living at Villa St. Joseph as a massage therapist. Through her practice, Wellspring of Peace Massage, she brought health and relief to countless people. She also worked closely with the Amish community. In all of these relationships, Sharon brought a deeply healing presence.

She is survived by her husband, four children and four grandchildren.

Monica Schany, affiliate

March 19, 1924-August 30, 2017

Monica was born in Mallard, Iowa. She devoted much of her time as a volunteer and became an affiliate in 1984. Her ministry experience included outreach with home-bound members of her congregation and packing clothes for various missions. Monica also served as a scheduler for the Palo Alto hospital snack bar as well as a board member for both the hospital auxiliary (six years) and Meals on Wheels organization (nine years). After moving to De Pere, Monica donated her time and energy as a volunteer for St. Norbert College. For five years, she also served as a First Friday Eucharistic minister at a local nursing home.



Monica is survived by six children, 24 grandchildren and 35 great grandchildren.



My Perspective

From trash to treasure: 'drawn into this Gospel work of mercy'

By Kathy Roberg, FSPA

To be sleepless in Spokane, Washington, the time-change effect of my five-week trip to Europe was a blessing in disguise. It was at 3 a.m. upon returning home that a new seed for my passion to serve the homeless was sown, germinating into a wonderful harvest of good. I had read an article about sleeping mats for those without beds, crocheted from plastic bags by a group of retired sisters in St. Louis, Missouri. Musing over this idea and the world's over-abundance of plastic bags in those wakeful moments became the source of a ministry that has mushroomed far beyond my expectations.

Recycling had taken hold of me long ago, so why not try this project? Bags of all sorts, sizes and colors (found free of charge) and a crochet hook (inexpensive, from the fabric store) were all I needed to get started. In no time at all people began donating a plethora of bags – items that would otherwise clog up Mother Earth. One contributor, Brian, learned of my project and set up bag donation receptacles in two Catholic churches. He delivers them to me, visits, shares his love for Saints Francis and Clare and is now undertaking the process of becoming an FSPA affiliate. The ways of the Spirit are mysterious!

Then the tedious prep process begins: flatten and fold the bags, cut them into looped strips and slip-knot these loops into balls of "plarn" – plastic yarn. Balls and balls of plarn: about 14 (300 bags) are required to finish one 6 feet long by 3.5 feet wide mat. I've recently completed my 100th mat and have personally distributed more than 100 (some made by others) to the folks in our city. Now, calculate how many plastic bags have been transformed into something useable.

One cold, rainy night in October I drove to the grocery store, just happening to have two mats in my car. A young fellow clad in a ragged, wet jacket and a bedroll over his shoulder was standing outside and I remember praying "God, I know this man could use one of those mats." I asked him if he was sleeping outside and he replied, "Yes, ma'am." I ran back to my car to get one and ended up personally delivering my first mat. His sincere smile and big "Thank you" brought tears to my eyes and my heart, and I was securely drawn into this Gospel work

of mercy.

In my spare time I sit and crochet mats and, as the stitches grow, let my heart and mind wander in prayer for the folks who will be sleeping on them. During the winter these mats include an added amenity such as a knitted or crocheted scarf, cap, mittens or socks with a dollar bill rolled up inside them. When folks receive a mat they never know what they'll find

tucked away. Stepping out of the car every Tuesday at the House of Charity (our house for the homeless here in Spokane) with four rolled-up sleeping mats in my arms I hear, "Ma'am, can I have one of those?" "We love those mats." "Do you make them?" Receiving a mat, these men and women thank and hug me in return.

It touches my heart as I see these mats around town, bundled up with sole possessions; I know they've kept many people warm and dry at night and given a good rest somewhere out in God's nature.

Pope Francis encourages us to be people of mercy. Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a cup of cold water. These folks ask me for sleeping mats. I look into their eyes that shine out their thanks, greet them by name and pray that the seeds of their dignity will be nourished and grow into an abundance of good. ■



Sister Kathy delights in displaying the very first sleeping mat she made from plastic bags, "Items that would otherwise clog up Mother Earth," she says.

Photo courtesy of Sister Betty Bradley

Sister Kathy recommends internet tutorials to help get you started. Visit www.fspa.org to see step-by-step how to create your own mats to share!

Spirit of Ministry

“Finally, I’m an affiliate!”

By Socorro C. DeLoach, affiliate

I heard of FSPA for the first time a few years ago through my friend Sister Janet Fischer when she invited me to become an affiliate. Even though it sounded good, I didn’t feel ready because my husband was very sick and I was his full-time caregiver. Sometime after his death I felt ready and began the affiliation process. It was finalized Feb. 11, 2017, in the presence of Sisters Janet Fischer and Dorothy Kunding and affiliate Ms. Retha Tillman. I’m so grateful to the FSPA and the affiliates for letting me be a part of a group of people with the same values. I feel that I belong to a large family.

When my husband retired from his work in Mexico (my home country), we decided to move to the United States, to Georgia (where he was born), because the most important thing for us was to give to our four children the opportunity to have a better education and grow in

the American culture. Our children were already citizens, and later on I obtained my citizenship too. We are blessed living in this beautiful country.

I have learned that I identify with the Franciscans: my love of the Blessed Sacrament and nature and all the wonderful creations. Painting is one of my God-given gifts — an expression of the way I see life. I began when I was a little girl and later had a great teacher, Santiago Rosa, who taught me the basics. I’ve been painting ever since; it’s my therapy. Every time I’m creating art, I pray first so I can be inspired and do good work.

I follow the Franciscan way through prayer and action. Every day, through my prayer, I tell God I need and love you!

In my ministry, I worked with Glenmary priests for eight years for a Hispanic mission (Our Lady of



Socorro (left) receives her affiliation certificate from her FSPA contact, Sister Janet.

Guadalupe) until my retirement in 2013. Now I work as a volunteer in St. Jude Catholic Church teaching children in religious education, also I participate in adult classes. I have friends who come to simply talk, and I simply listen, and if I can do something I will help them. Also, it’s important to me to be ready to help my children and grandchildren when they need me. At St. Jude, I’m an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion and DRE for Formation of the Faith for children, and I try to volunteer in any activities we have.

I practice a series of daily intentions that includes talking with the Lord, accepting His will, trusting, having faith and patience, contributing with my labor and asking forgiveness. My prayers also include the “Serenity Prayer” and the “Prayer of St. Francis.”

I follow the Franciscan way through prayer and action. Every day, through my prayer, I tell God I need and love you! ■



From left, Sister Janet Fischer, affiliate Socorro DeLoach, Sister Dorothy Ann Kunding and affiliate Retha Tillman gather to celebrate Socorro’s commitment to the FSPA program.

Photos by Mary Jo Ortiz



Development Update

Here we offer a glimpse into four of the FSPA ministry grants funded last year through donor generosity. There are many more wonderful stories for which your gifts provide joy, peace and light to FSPA-supported ministries.

We are blessed to call you friends.



Hillview Urban Agricultural Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin
The joy and magic of watching seeds transform into plants ... sustenance!
Photo courtesy of Pam Hartwell



Cameroonian mini hydro-electric dam project
Imagine the joy of an electric pump filling your water jugs.
Photo courtesy of Donatus Wishi



Taylor Neighborhood Uplift in Cedar Rapids, Iowa
People are now feeling a sense of peace and prosperity in a rejuvenated neighborhood.
Photo courtesy of Clint Twedt-Ball



Casa Hogar Optical Mission in Peru
Light shines a whole new perspective with a great pair of glasses!
Photo courtesy of Cynthia Sjolander, affiliate



FSPA ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017



DONOR SUPPORT



Unrestricted
(greatest need)

\$347,288

57%



Ministries

\$207,594

34%



Sister Retirement
Fund

\$31,758

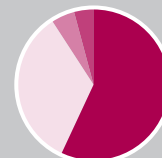
5%



Spirituality
Centers

\$25,138

4%



Total
Income

\$611,778*

100%

56

Number enrolled in our planned giving program: **Perpetual Friends**

89

Number of donors in our monthly giving program: **Faithful Friends**

Basic Needs

Food, clothing, water, utilities

22

Elderly Services

Keeping our elderly/disabled population in their own homes

3

Education Programs/Tuition Assistance

24

Homelessness Initiatives

Shelters, hygiene kits, programming

5

Health and Wellness

23

Justice and Peace Initiatives

Immigration, restorative justice, teen mentoring

14

TOTAL GRANTS FUNDED



WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE at www.fspa.org

BY MAIL at 912 Market St., La Crosse, WI 54601

JOIN Faithful Friends Monthly Giving, 608-791-5282

JOIN Perpetual Friends Planned Giving, 608-791-5282



*FUNDING SOURCES

General Contributions	\$497,657	81%
Bequests/Planned Giving	\$102,706	17%
Memorials	\$11,415	2%
Total	\$611,778	100%



From the Northwoods to Comunidad Hispana: doing 'what is ours to do'

“I have done what has been mine to do. Do now, what is yours to do.”

Anita Beskar, FSPA, shares this ardent appeal by St. Francis of Assisi. She herself is ministering to — speaking out for — the “small, hidden and invisible” Hispanic population in northern Wisconsin. “At this time in our tumultuous world, ‘what is ours to do’ becomes more and more a call to become community in solidarity with the oppressed.”

Sister Anita is heeding this call as a member of the Sisters’ Forum Collaborative Advocacy to the Hispanic Population of the Diocese of Superior. The sisters have forged a partnership with Comunidad Hispana, an organization working to help these underserved neighbors in northern Wisconsin to “participate in the community, and to improve their quality of life through personal development.” Such outreach is advocacy for “human and legal rights, safe living and working conditions and access to ministry within the church,” says Sister Anita. “It must be addressed collaboratively and immediately.” And it’s an impassioned mission for the sisters, to stretch their resources throughout the diocese to aid Hispanic communities currently out of reach.

All doing what is theirs to do.

Comunidad Hispana has been advocating for and working to empower the Hispanic population there since 2006 says Sister of the Holy Cross Mary Thomas Reichl, also a member of the collaboration of women religious. Now “the organization serves more than 200 Hispanics” with goals to enable self-sustainability, to give people the confidence to go out into society and participate in church and community. “We’re working with a University of Wisconsin extension office to offer classes for healthy diet, healthy living,” she says. A new GED program is underway and local dairy and tree farmers, who employ many in need of jobs, are offering spaces in which the

teaching and learning can take place.

All doing what is theirs to do.

But now critical, humanitarian work, as Sister Anita implores, is what we all have to do.

“With the increased fear caused by the upheaval of immigration policy, this ministry has become increasingly imperative,” she says. Grants that fund programs are fewer. And, says Sister Mary Thomas, “These people are very sad and fearful, quite careful wherever they go and whatever they do.” Currently, only three immigrants known to the program are actively pursuing green cards. Requests for safe driving classes are coming in. Information cards, including contact information for assistance should authorities engage individuals, are available.

Yet Sister Mary Thomas shares a story of compassion that encompasses not just immigration, but humanity as a whole. An elderly Hispanic gentleman was hospitalized, in poor health, but due to lack of finances was to be discharged by the health care institution. Comunidad Hispana and the sisters called on the gift of collaboration (“a major focus of FSPA engagement,” says Sister Anita) to provide assistance with which the man was able to continue his inpatient care

for four months. With support from organizations like The Salvation Army and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a clinic supplied his medications free of charge. Because he could no longer care for himself and had no choice but to return to Mexico his family there was contacted, his health care regimen coordinated by nursing staff and transportation plans were arranged. “Someone even volunteered to accompany him on his journey.” The director of Comunidad Hispana, Will Gomez, “spent hours helping the man prepare for his trip. He is very caring, relatable to these people. There was so much collaboration ... amazing,” affirms Sister Mary Thomas.

“Will goes beyond what is his to do.”

As, says Sister Mary Thomas, does FSPA. “We are very grateful to FSPA. They are so understanding ... on the same page with us ... support what we are doing.”

And FSPA is with the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Comunidad Hispana and the Hispanic immigrants in northern Wisconsin, doing what is theirs to do. ■



Self-sufficiency and cultural pride collide for this artist, who sells his work through Comunidad Hispana at a local community event.

Photo courtesy of Comunidad Hispana

From Africa to Minnesota

continued from page 3

help boost WanLainjo's resources and reach more of our new neighbors, says that Keafon is "the ideal cultural bridge for recent West African immigrants and the Twin Cities community." Their connection was forged through her ministry with the Banso, a tribe in Northwest Cameroon and one of the focal points of the FSPA's partnership in the Franciscan Common Venture program."

She's supported Keafon from there to WanLainjo "because it underscores the innovation of an immigrant community serving immigrants ... teaches them to operate in their new homeland and gain a sense of belonging." In concern "for our brothers and sisters who migrate to different countries, looking for a dignified life ... and given the current political climate regarding immigrants, migrants and refugees," she sees FSPA as "following the call of Pope Francis in intervening on behalf of immigrants. We consider this work to be a high priority." ■



Sister Eileen McKenzie (second from left) and Sister Georgia Christensen (far left) celebrate cultural diversity with our neighbors from Bui Family Union, an organization of first generation Banso immigrants from the Northwest Region of Cameroon

Photo courtesy of Andrea Van Sickle

To learn more about WanLainjo visit www.wanlainjo.com.

Par Tee for a Cause!
CHIPPING AWAY AT HOMELESSNESS

Radisson Hotel
La Crosse • WI

Franciscan Sisters
of Perpetual Adoration
Modern Lives. Sacred Traditions.

www.fspa.org/partee

**April 23
2018**

Save The Date

The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and Affiliate Homelessness Initiative Committee promises compassionate presence to anyone experiencing homelessness and, to that commitment, invite all to the second annual ParTee for a Cause.

Funds raised through the generosity of sponsors and guests—who will enjoy a ParTee evening filled with golf-themed games (no experience necessary!), silent auction and dinner—directly support La Crosse's Franciscan Hospitality House and other area initiatives.

Please mark April 23, 2018 on your calendar, watch www.fspa.org/partee for event updates and ticket information and join us for an evening of chipping away at homelessness in the La Crosse community!



In Memoriam

Rejoice, you who are alive in Christ

Sister Edna Bube

April 13, 1929-April 13, 2017

Sister Edna was born in Athens, Wisconsin. She served as a homemaker the first three years of her religious profession before entering the education field. From 1952 to 1971 she taught in elementary schools in Guttenberg, Iowa, Spokane, Washington, Mosinee, Wisconsin and Canton, Mississippi. Sister Edna completed a nursing assistant program at Western Technical College and ministered as an aide at St. Francis Hospital (Mayo Clinic Health System-Franciscan Healthcare) and Lutheran Hospital (Gundersen Health System) before moving into ministry for the elderly and homebound in Pueblo, Colorado, in Phoenix, Arizona, and in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She became a certified grief counselor which led her to a ministry at Berardinelli Mortuary, St. Vincent Hospital and Cancer Center and with several doctors in Santa Fe from 1988 to 2000. At that time she retired from active ministry and continued volunteering at St. Vincent Hospital and Cancer Center. She also enjoyed tutoring at a women's shelter and walking dogs at an animal shelter.

In March 2017 Sister Edna was in a severe automobile accident and moved to Villa St. Joseph.



Sister Carlene Unser

November 29, 1920-April 26, 2017

Sister Carlene Unser was born in Eau Galle, Wisconsin. She served as a primary teacher in elementary schools for 26 years: Roselle and Carroll, Iowa, and Mosinee, Dodgeville, Boyd and La Crosse (St. Wenceslaus), Wisconsin. The last 30 years of her career were as an art instructor at Viterbo College (University), serving as chairperson of the department for 10 of those years. Sister Carlene was one of the three FSPA instrumental in designing the Fine Arts Center at Viterbo University. In 1996, Sister Carlene retired in La Crosse. She moved to Villa St. Joseph in 2015.



Sister Margaret Heil

January 11, 1921-June 7, 2017

Sister Margaret was born on a farm near Marathon, Wisconsin. She entered St. Rose Convent in 1935. In the field of education, Sister Margaret ministered in elementary and middle grades for 54 years in parochial schools in Iowa (Festina, Milford, Calmar) and Wisconsin (Wausau, Ashland, Superior, Sparta, Prescott), including 14 years in La Crosse (St. James, Holy Cross, St. Joseph Schools), 16 years at Menomonie and seven years at Mosinee. She was also the Director of Religious Education in Mosinee. Sister Margaret served as principal in schools for 37 years. She retired at St. Rose Convent in 1994, volunteering as tour guide and secretary.

In 2009, she moved to Villa St. Joseph.



Sister Mary Gabriel Soong

December 24, 1924-June 21, 2017

Sister Mary Gabriel Soong was born in Shanghai, China. Having received a bachelor's degree in education and biology from Viterbo College (University), Sister Mary Gabriel ministered as an elementary teacher for two years at St. Mary's School in La Crosse, an instructor at Viterbo for three years, and a Junior/Senior High School science teacher for 14 years in Guam and Provo, Utah. She then earned a master's degree from Syracuse University in general science. She also completed a program in medical record technology. At that time, she changed careers and moved to California where she served as a medical lab technologist at Brookside Hospital in El Cerrito from 1974 to 1993. She retired in El Cerrito, visiting the sick and elderly, especially at St. John the Baptist Parish, where she worshipped.

Sister Mary Gabriel retired to St. Rose Convent in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in 2004 and moved to Villa St. Joseph in 2010.



Sister Theodora Feulner**December 4, 1919-July 31, 2017**

Sister Theodora was born in Spokane, Washington. She served as an elementary teacher for four years in Carroll, Iowa, Wausau, Wisconsin, Blackfoot, Idaho, and Bozeman, Montana. She then received a diploma in nursing from St. Francis School of Nursing in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Later, she went on to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing education and surgical nursing from Marquette University. She ministered as a registered nurse and director of nursing service from 1947 to 1965, and again from 1975 to 1979, at St. Francis Hospital (Mayo Clinic Health System-Franciscan Healthcare). After one year at Villa St. Joseph in La Crosse and one at Idaho Falls Hospital as a nursing service consultant, Sister Theodora went on for further education and earned a master's degree in nursing administration from Boston University. For three years she worked at Boston University as associate director of nursing. From 1972 to 1975, Sister Theodora ministered as director of nursing at St. Mary's Hospital in Sparta, Wisconsin. In 1979, she moved to Spokane where she cared for her ailing mother and attended the CREDO program at Gonzaga University. In 1982, Sister Theodora began ministering as a nurse at Holy Name Nursing Home, Spokane for nine years. After retiring from nursing, Sister Theodora served as Coordinator of Parish Visitors at Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes in Spokane for 16 years.

She retired in 2007 and moved to St. Rose Convent in 2009. In 2012, she made Villa St. Joseph her home.

**Sister Marian Bauer (Thoma)****April 19, 1938-August 23, 2017**

Sister Marian was born in Lima, Wisconsin. Elementary education was Sister Marian's ministry for over 40 years in Wisconsin: La Crosse (St. Joseph Ridge), Eau Claire (Sacred Heart), Athens (St. Anthony), Eau Galle (St. Henry), Pewaukee (St. Anthony), Superior (Cathedral), Boyd (St. Joseph), Schofield (St. Theresa), Prairie du Chien (Holy Family), Loyal (St. Anthony) and Marathon (St. Mary's), and in Iowa, West Point (St. Mary's). She began as a primary school teacher, then moved into upper grades



and finally served as principal in Schofield (1977 to 1984), Prairie du Chien (1986 to 1989) and one year at Loyal (1989 to 1990). Most of her time in upper grades was teaching science — which she loved dearly. Sister Marian earned a bachelor's degree from Viterbo College (University) in education and social studies and a master's degree from UW-Superior in education. She enhanced her education by taking several courses in computer education. Before Sister Marian retired from teaching, she would spend her summers volunteering as a driver at Villa St. Joseph in La Crosse.

In 2007, she retired to Villa St. Joseph where she continued to volunteer as a driver for the sisters as long as her health allowed.

Sister Rose Rita Collington**March 9, 1919-September 14, 2017**

Sister Rose Rita Collington was born in Caledonia, Minnesota. Entering the education profession, Sister Rose Rita taught and served as principal in schools in Iowa (Willey) and Wisconsin (La Crosse's Blessed Sacrament School 1940 to 1943, and St. Wenceslaus School, 1952 to 1963, and in Platteville, Ashland, Black River Falls, and Schofield). She taught in the education department at Viterbo College (University) from 1963 to 1973. After leaving the formal classroom, she served as a Director of Religious Education in Stanley and Hurley, Wisconsin. Throughout the years, she was deeply involved in assisting teachers and parents with the teaching of religious education to young children. She would often speak at religious education conferences and edit religious education materials. Sister Rose Rita served as a volunteer at the Villa (1985 to 1990) and tutor/volunteer at St. Rose Convent and the Franciscan Spirituality Center (1991 to 1994). From 1994 to 1999, Sister Rose Rita was a tutor at Immaculate Conception School, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, before retiring at St. Rose Convent. She moved to Villa St. Joseph in 2004.



Continued on page 5

Read the complete FSPA obituaries
under News/Events at www.fspa.org.



Addenda

Franciscan Federation Award bestowed upon Sister Rochelle



Rochelle Potaracke, FSPA, “a Franciscan who embodies the best of our teaching tradition ... the values of being incarnational, personal, communal, transformative,” is the recipient of the 2017 Franciscan Federation Award.

Themed “Bonaventure’s Journey Into God: Franciscan Inspiration for the 21st Century,” the conference (and banquet to honor award recipients) was held in Buffalo, New York. FSPA leadership named Sister Rochelle as the recipient for her personification of the aforementioned qualities as well as her mission “to educate and mentor the future teachers of the world.” Said Sister Rochelle, “I accept the honor for all the other wonderful teachers that our community has sent forth throughout the years.”

Attending the banquet with Sister Rochelle were Sisters Sue Ernster, Catherine Kaiser, Corrina Thomas and Lisa Zmuda, and Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis Mary Mark Verjai and Fatima Nkuo.

Sister Joanne honored for hospitality ministry



“We couldn’t do it without you,” reads a certificate awarded to Joanne Moeller, FSPA, by the Sisters of St. Francis. Sister Joanne received the honor for her work as “outstanding director of the Stonehaven Event Center,” a venue for weddings and other milestone events and part of the Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Sister Joanne’s award came with the recognition of “creating the new ministry,” one that served 24 weddings and 29 other special events in 2016, “and making it successful.” In turn she said of Stonehaven, “We’ve ministered to a new group of clients who we were able to touch with Franciscan hospitality and joy.”

Human rights recognition given to Sister Marlene

The La Crosse Area Church Women United presented its 2017 human rights award to Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, at its human rights celebration themed “Kindling New Fires of Hope” in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Two years ago, the group invited Sister Marlene, founding member of the La Crosse Task Force to End Modern Slavery, to speak about human trafficking. Her presentation moved the group to action. With Sister Marlene, they developed a training program for La Crosse-area hotel managers and are collaborating with New Horizons Shelter & Outreach Center’s human trafficking coordinator to ensure training for each facility.



Thanking Church Women United for the recognition, Sister Marlene honored the survivors she has met. “For the woman released from jail looking for a safe place to go, thank you. For K.N., born into a fundamentalist cult and forced to marry at age eight, thank you.”

The La Crosse Area Church Women United began its human rights celebration 12 years ago as a way to begin to make connections and link individual dignity with mutual destiny for people. Sister Eileen Lang serves the organization as president-elect and Sister Karen Flottmeier as member, having served as La Crosse president and state treasurer in the past.

Furthering your spirituality

Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center: Hiawatha, Iowa

In this age of deep ambivalence about humanity's future, seekers find consolation in listening for signs of emergent life! The Dec. 8 to 10 retreat "Is There LIFE in There?" will be led by Ellen Bruckner, Ann Jackson, PBVM, and Laura Weber. These spiritual directors will help you draw on the wisdom of contemplative practice and enter into the deep listening posture that winter engenders. As a spiritual explorer, you will meet hope and generativity in the unfolding of convergent consciousness. Learn how to be fully present to others and all of creation, to engage in active listening, to drop down deeply into the center of your own consciousness and to awaken to what lies at the core! More information is available at www.prairiewoods.org or by calling 319-395-6700.

The Christine Center: Willard, Wisconsin

Begin the new year with grace and spiritual poise! The retreat "Soul-tending, Dream-listening: Welcoming 2018!" (Dec. 27 to Jan. 1) is an opportunity to attune to the wonderful energy of Dreams and the transformative heart of Silence. You are invited to join in the contemplative schedule of The Christine Center and to be nourished by both the deep winter quiet and our delicious vegetarian meals. Sisters Gabriele Uhlein and Marge Zulaski will facilitate daily morning sessions. There is an optional conversation circle each evening. Experience a special New Year's Eve ritual and celebration. Individual spiritual guidance is also available for an additional fee. For more information visit www.christinecenter.org, call 715-267-7507 or email christinecenter@tds.net.

Franciscan Spirituality Center: La Crosse, Wisconsin

Our 2017-18 Listening Series continues with the Feb. 2 to 3 retreat "Deepening Engagement: Essential Habits for Listening" led by educator, author and spiritual director Diane Millis. In the midst of daily difference of opinion that divides our community, family, and even ourselves, we become distracted and unable to listen to what matters most. This retreat is designed for all those wanting to connect, or reconnect, with what is genuine in themselves and others. During our time together, we will practice approaches for listening to ourselves and others through time in solitude, conversation and community. Registration details at www.FSCenter.org or 608-791-5295.

Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center: Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin

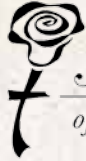
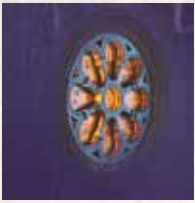
We welcome you for a personal retreat or sabbatical in the beauty of northern Wisconsin. Take time for rest, relaxation and renewal in a fully-furnished cabin on the shores of Trout Lake. Balance the benefits of solitude with support from the team of experienced and qualified spiritual directors. Plan your time away. For more information visit www.marywoods.org, call 715-385-3750 or email marywood.center@gmail.com

Blessing of Time

All are welcome to rejoice in the coming of 2018 at St. Rose Convent's Mary of the Angels Chapel in La Crosse, Wisconsin. A New Year's Eve service will be held Sunday, Dec. 31, with the Blessing of Time at 6 p.m. Please use the chapel entrance located at 701 Franciscan Way in La Crosse, Wisconsin. You will also find a handicap-accessible entry at 912 Market Street.

ParTee with FSPA: La Crosse, Wisconsin

The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and Affiliate Homelessness Initiative Committee is hosting the second annual "ParTee for a Cause: Chipping Away at Homelessness" on April 23, 2018, at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The indoor event will include golf-themed games, silent auction and dinner. Join us for an evening of fun and directly support local efforts to end homelessness in the La Crosse community! For more information visit www.fspa.org/Partee.



Franciscan Sisters
of Perpetual Adoration

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Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 28, 2017

**Coming together for a
day of global giving**

#GivingTuesday is the day for compassionate giving throughout the global community. FSPA is collaborating with its generous partners U.S. Bank and Robertson Ryan & Associates who will match donations made by you, our openhearted supporters. With such tremendous giving in 2016, FSPA's #GivingTuesday gift to those in need was more than \$25,000.

Child advocacy — care for our kids — is the ministry your gifts will support this year. Funds will provide more books for Head Start children to bring home; strengthen a program enabling reconciliation between youth perpetrators and victims; afford toys and activities for kids while caregivers are visiting incarcerated loved ones; boost behavioral and mental health counseling for youth organizations.

Please join us to give the gift of care and support to our children in need.

Donate on November 28, 2017

online at www.fspa.org

or by phone at 608-791-5282