

Perspectives

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A Publication of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration



Collaboration for the Common Good

From ancient desert monks to contemporary religious sisters, brothers and priests, a small band of men and women in every generation choose to consecrate their lives to God with unique vows that give radical witness to the Gospel.

– 2015 Vision Vocation Guide

In this issue we celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life, which calls us to remember our past and look toward our future.

We feature an interview with Marie Leon La Croix, FSPA, who looks back over 75 years of consecrated life with gratitude for her ministries as eucharistic member and teacher. We also share “Thank a Nun” sentiments sent in from all over the country. Women and men shared with us how Catholic Sisters helped to shape their lives and how they remain forever grateful.

We embrace the future with hope through collaboration—collaboration for the common good.

In our human trafficking story you’ll learn that through collaboration with FSPA, local educators, police departments and state representatives “... so much more can be done together than any one person can achieve alone.” And carrying that sentiment to another continent, you’ll read how a partnership—a Common Venture—is helping to train physicians, nurses and health care staff at the only cardiac center in Central Africa. You’ll also read how you can share in this Common Dream to educate our partner sisters there.

And finally, you’ll find an invitation to join us this year as we celebrate religious life. In our Furthering your Spirituality article you’ll learn more about opportunities at our sponsored spirituality centers and through our Global Awareness through Experience program. The back page includes a list of ways for you to join us in adoration, to volunteer in days of service with religious, to consider learning more about living life as an FSPA—through a Come and See experience—and to be with us for a special St. Francis Day celebration.

Let’s wake up the world.



St. Anthony Regional Hospital & Nursing Home Auxiliary members shared this throw-back photo with FSPA during 2015 National Catholic Sisters Week. “Thank you, Sisters Mary Ronald Myers and Muriel Stork, for helping found the auxiliary which today has over 360 members.”

Photo courtesy of St. Anthony Regional Hospital

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: At Dawn’s Place, story on page 3, residents—women affected by commercial sexual exploitation—are provided activities that promote holistic forms of healing, such as bracelet design.

Photo courtesy of Dawn’s Place

Awaken to Common Good

Collaboration for the eradication of modern slavery

It will take a village—a global community of caregivers—to exterminate modern slavery. It will take world-wide warriors such as legislators, law enforcement, health care providers, educators, social service professionals, organizations, religious communities and everyone in-between to physically and mentally liberate sex trade victims who are identified as, on average, 12 to 13-year-old children with mortality expectancies not far beyond the next seven years of their lives. It will take the transparency of international faith leaders—including Pope Francis—who signed the World Faith Leaders' Universal Declaration Against Slavery. It will take increasing consciousness through conduits like January 2015's National Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

And it will take, for FSPA, collaboration with a task force of nationwide defenders and the presence of safety

"The task force has—and continues to—educate the community about human trafficking ... opening a dialogue to gather support and create the necessary resources to address it. With that, La Crosse police officers can focus on a victim-centered approach, protecting our precious children and arresting the perpetrators. I expect to see justice prevail as we continue to work together."

Sargent Linnea Miller
La Crosse Police Department

inside the walls of a safe house to free victims of such atrocity.

La Crosse Task Force to Eradicate Modern Slavery

Collaboration, says Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, founding member of the La Crosse Task Force to Eradicate Modern Slavery, "happens when people simultaneously perceive crucial need that would benefit from a common effort—a need so great it triggers an internal passion for good in the world. This mobilizes action ... because so much more can be done together than any one person," she affirms, "can achieve alone."

And there is strength in numbers. Task force members—some 50 strong—are "making a significant and growing impact on the perceptions and activities in bringing this evil," she says, "to justice in our world."

Their hearts on fire for justness, the group hosted a conference in 2014, bringing together a confluence of collaborators—legislators, law enforcement, educators, health care providers, social service professionals and religious organizations—to educate and motivate them as front-line caregivers.

Public outreach is critical, and the task force is raising the collective conscious in 2015 via media campaigning. Efforts have included, as part of National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, area billboards, a magazine ad and local news talk radio interviews. Wisconsin Representative Jill Billings held a human



This billboard was created and shared by U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking.

trafficking symposium in Madison, uniting first responders and organizations to share grounded resources, successful efforts and necessary next steps. She is currently pursuing a

"We've reached over 1,600 groups and over 64,000 people, but there is more to do! There are major efforts ... to weave a safety net for survivors addressing a variety of needs: housing, drop-in center, hotline, trauma counseling, drug and alcohol treatment, legal assistance, a court docket for human trafficking, etc. We are now planning for how we will address ... the Republican National Conference in 2016."

Anne Victory, HM, RN, MSN
U.S. Catholic Sisters Against
Human Trafficking

Safe Harbor bill that would exempt minors who report trafficking from prostitution charges—legislation that is increasing convictions in other states.

As outreach evolves and eradicators multiply, task force members are gaining momentum in the growing movement.

Continued on page 7

{1915~2015}

Spokane:

A Century of Faithful Presence



1915

The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration first came to Spokane to staff St. Xavier and St. Augustine schools, as well as St. John's Academy in Colfax, Washington.

There is something about living as a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration in the West.

In 1913, the Catholic community that had ministered to the Native Americans, prospectors and pioneers in Washington state—out West—established the Diocese of Spokane.

Most Reverend August Francis Schinner, the first bishop of the diocese (himself born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin), made a request that brought the first FSPA to Spokane. Five sisters made the journey from La Crosse, Wisconsin, to educate the children in parish schools there: first at St. Augustine and St. Francis Xavier, and later St. Ann, St. Anthony and Fatima. In 1929, FSPA established and staffed Marycliff High School for Girls.

1929

Marycliff High School founded.



1959

FSPA formation house moved to Mary of the Angels motherhouse on a 160-acre property outside of Spokane.

Sister Bridget Durkin was the first young woman to enter FSPA from Spokane. Then, vocations bloomed—due largely to the FSPA presence at Marycliff High School. The familiar names of Sisters Grace McDonald, Marie Leon La Croix, Patricia Alden and others have made lasting impressions on the many lives they touched there.



1967

Sisters serving in the West gathered for a congregational meeting to envision the future.



Celebrate with us:

Friday, July 24, 2015

7 p.m. Celebratory Mass

Reception to follow

St. Augustine Parish

428 W 19th Ave

Spokane, Washington

1970s

As the Diocese of Spokane merged schools, sisters continued their education ministry in the West, including serving as principal at St. Paschal School.



1993

Clare Center founded to promote spirituality, faith and personal growth.

2015

FSPA continue ministering in the Diocese of Spokane, serving on the Sisters Diocesan Vocation Team which hosts an annual vocation retreat for young women.



And so the Diocese of Spokane evolved and thrived. In the 1960s, parish schools merged into Catholic school systems and our sisters surveyed the changing needs of their mission of education. Though the sisters continued to teach in grade schools until 2000, FSPA established new ministries in Spokane: Emmaus House of Prayer, a transitional home for women discharged from prison and Clare Center Spirituality Center. Sisters have served as medical professionals and executive secretaries and continue to minister as counselors, religious educators, spiritual directors and parish and youth ministers. We are exceedingly proud of their ministries in Spokane.

For this momentous milestone—100 years of caring presence—we congratulate all FSPA who lived, worked and prayed with the people of Spokane.



Thank A Nun

During National Catholic Sisters Week 2015, friends of FSPA shared their favorite memories, gratitude and photos. Enjoy these shared moments.

The sisters are credited with the founding and administration of St. Anthony Regional Hospital and Nursing Home in Carroll, Iowa, since 1905. They remain an integral part of St. Anthony today. The sisters instructed nursing classes at the Antonian School of Nursing, providing well-trained nursing staff for the hospital, and took part in the groundbreaking for the remodel in 1971.

– Deb

Thank you, Sister Mary Ann Gschwind. Through teaching me about great literature in high school, I grew to love great authors of the past and present. You inspire me to do good for all through serving on numerous boards and groups. You inspire me to seek wisdom and to let Jesus speak through me. Thank you, Sister Marie Kyle. When I was a nursing student at Viterbo and new grad at the then St. Francis Hospital, you inspired me to always be fully present with the patient. I observed you being gentle and kind to every patient you served. Thank you, Sister Joyce Bantle. I loved listening to you. You always gave wise counsel and warm thoughts to contemplate. Thank you for being a mentor and role model



St. Anthony photos: top, Sister Marian Wieland with a patient; bottom, Sister Emerentia Reising in the pharmacy

Photos courtesy of St. Anthony Regional Hospital



L to r, Sisters Mary Ann Gschwind, Marie Kyle and Joyce Bantle

to me as nurse and leader. It is truly incredible that your vision for me to be involved in education now has come forth.

– Mary Lu

Sister Rochelle Potaracke was my undergraduate advisor, my student teaching supervisor, the education club advisor and today my colleague and friend. She always believed in me ... I am who I am today because of her. She never let me give up. She modeled compassion, integrity and sincere respect to all she came in contact ... I am grateful that I have had Sister Rochelle in my life ... she is a treasure and my hero.

– Lynda



Rochelle Potaracke, FSPA

Sister Mary Myron Stork, I will never forget your kindness, patience and devotion as our teacher. Thank you so much for the years you have given to Catholic education. Also, thanks for giving a 13-year-old girl a chance to grow in faith and develop a strong relationship with Our Lord!

– Margaret



Sisters Mary Myron Stork, left, and Emma Kriz at David School in Kentucky

Thanks to all the FSPAs who served in the communities of West Point, Houghton and St. Paul in southeast Iowa. You inspired and challenged us and for that, I am deeply grateful.

– Ann

To those FSPA who taught me as a child at St. Mary's in Odanah - Thank you.

– Steve

I love the FSPA! They taught in Guttenberg when I was in school. Many were very progressive, bright and dedicated non-sanctimonious women who served as wonderful role models. A big shout out to Sister Lorraine Forster still going strong in her 90s teaching in Las Vegas, Nevada.

– Sharon ■



Lorraine Forster, FSPA

Human trafficking

continued from page 3

Dawn's Place

Collaboration led Marie Des Jarlais, FSPA, to Dawn's Place: a housing trauma recovery program missioned to proactively support women affected by commercial sexual exploitation—what's known as a safe house—in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "I see Sister Teresita (Medical Mission Sister Teresita Hinnegan, co-founder of Dawn's Place) Sunday mornings at liturgy. I've had good conversations with her about the work and reality of the women ... who can be removed from imminent and immediate sources of violence and begin to heal. We can offer them a new lease on life."

And through a ministry grant sponsored by Sister Marie, FSPA is extending that lease to the program and the home's 10 residents (its



Dawn's Place provides evidence-based trauma treatment focused on care that includes individual psychotherapy and whole person healing, ranging from twelve-step exploitation recovery to physical activities like Pilates.

capacity), specifically with the means of transportation. "It's for them to move forward in the recovery of their dignity and the healing necessary for victims of trafficking and exploitation for commercial sex," says Missionary Sister of the Holy Rosary Terry Shields (co-founder and president of Dawn's Place) of the outreach that includes after care above and beyond the 12-month program.

"Our women, who have ranged in age from 18 to 65, come to us with a myriad of issues that cannot always be attended to within the confines of the residence. Most have significant health concerns due to years of abuse and neglect and require multiple visits to clinics, dentists, etc. Many have been controlled by their traffickers or pimps through the use of drugs and are required to participate in daily meetings at rehab centers." And some clients require transport to social service agencies to settle responsibilities like legal and immigration concerns.

Every woman who dwells at Dawn's Place is given the keys to empowerment. For those who learn better in a classroom setting there is access to GED and ESL classes (and community college courses) offsite. "Job training, employment placing and procurement of adequate housing," says Sister Terry, "also require flexibility in travel."

But perhaps it's the mental and



Sister Marie Des Jarlais commends "the wide sphere in the U.S." in which an FBI agent from Wisconsin called Dawn's Place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to ask if there was room for a trafficked victim. She also believes that religious communities can reinforce this important work by providing financial support—a direct impact on the women who have no resources to make this life change alone.

Photos courtesy of Dawn's Place

physical freedom and joy of conveyance that has the power to transcend years of degradation, isolation, manipulation and exploitation.

"Visits to museums, historical sites, gardens, movies, plays, the mall, the beach, are all part of the Dawn's Place experience; are all part of our holistic approach to effect well-being and recognition of the dignity that has been denied them." With it, and the assurance of safety, some women have even re-connected with their families.

"We value our women and their courage to deal with the harsh realities of their lives. Our women," avows Sister Terry, "could not move forward without such human rights, without Dawn's Place." ■

For additional information visit www.ahomefordawn.org. Read more about task force members' convictions of collaboration at www.fspa.org/modernslavery.



Awaken to Consecrated Life

My Perspective: Waking Up the World: the past, present and future of consecrated life

“ ... look to the past with gratitude
... live the present with passion
... embrace the future with hope”

In his apostolic letter “to all consecrated people on the occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life,” Pope Francis spelled out these three aspirations—actions of devotion for all religious congregations—to shake the world awake. Now, in the 76th year of her own consecrated life, Marie Leon La Croix, FSPA, sees these visions as right “on target” and reflects on her own grateful past (in ministry as an English teacher and founder of the theatre department at Viterbo University), passionate presence (in prayer and witness) and hopeful future (with confidence that Gospel presence will wake up the world).



Marie Leon La Croix, FSPA
Photo by Theresa Smerud

Consecrated life in the past

In 1849, a group of inspired, fearless, God-filled women left Ettenbeuren, Bavaria, to start a community of religious women in the United States. Their vision was to bring the Gospel to all they touched by establishing schools and teaching. As all beginnings, they faced many problems but with trust in God, courage and determination they never lost faith in their vision. We are grateful to these religious women for embracing God’s call to serve the church and for establishing the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

I have had a lifelong relationship with these dedicated religious women. They educated me at St. Xavier School in Spokane, Washington, from first to 12th grade. It was this group of joy-filled, dedicated women that inspired me to join them in 1936.

Growing up, I had no intention of becoming a nun. I was going to be a costume designer. Yet during a retreat I attended in high school a sudden conviction came over me: “I need to go to the convent.” I fell in love with God and never regretted it.

Over these 75 years I have gratefully been a part of the Franciscan Sisters as a eucharistic member and a teacher. After serving for 15 years as a teacher in elementary and high schools in Spokane, I was called in 1955 to Viterbo College (now known as Viterbo University) in La Crosse, Wisconsin, to start a theatre department. Without a theatre, we performed in our gym and at Aquinas High School. After 13 years, it was decided a center to house music, art and theatre would be built. I was fortunate to help with the design. This bold vision of our Franciscan Sisters culminated in the opening of the Fine Arts Center in 1971. La Crosse is now a landmark for fine arts and Viterbo students are inspired to use leadership skills and ethical means, in study and on stage. For the glory of God and the glory of entertaining people, that was my ministry as a Franciscan Sister. The pope implores us to live religious life not half-heartedly but with passion. That was my passion. I have been

blessed by the support and guidance of my community and by God’s lovely guidance in all I did. For this I give thanks.

Consecrated life in the present

Now, as a retired FSPA, my passion is prayer and witness: a ministry of time I didn’t have before retirement. There is such peace here at the Villa (FSPA’s skilled-care retirement home outside of La Crosse), so conducive to contemplation and quiet with my God. I read poetry and news to the sisters with failing eyes. I pray for the world and ask God to be with us.

Consecrated life in the future

With Pope Francis as our leader I have great hope for the church and religious life for women. He’s unafraid. When you speak of him, people of all faiths smile. It’s anticipation. I’ve seen many changes in our way of living and in ministering the Gospel but because of today’s culture, it’s going to be so different. It has to be.

The number of women entering religious life is declining, the ministries are changing, but the dedication to carry out the ways of the Gospel is strong and alive. Franciscans will center their ministry on those marginalized in society, will share their gifts and prayer from a place of communal and Gospel living. I feel very strongly about this. I see women living a vowed life with a rule; with devotion to a life of prayer; as vital members of the church and its need for the poor; working with other faiths and cultures; accepting new ideas; sharing their hopes and joy and dreams. Not preaching it—but living it—as followers of Jesus and the Gospel. ■

Awaken to Affiliation

Spirit of Ministry: the journey from student to Catholic Worker to affiliate

by Zachary Johnson, affiliate

Be-coming an affiliate has been a drawn out process for me. I lived in La Crosse, Wisconsin, for almost six years. During that time, I was a student at Viterbo University where I met the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and learned about their brand of Franciscanism.

In the odd and rare way you can sometimes feel the holiness of a moment as you live it, my life in the Franciscan driftless region was rose colored, like a memory even as I lived it. It was almost dreamlike as I felt gravity in things that happened there—gravity I don't usually feel until after the moment passes.

In La Crosse I met my wife and became a Catholic Worker. I also shed the kid-faith where I stubbornly imitated Jesus-the-white-male-son of our white-male-God. I began to struggle with a quieter faith rooted in paradox and mystery in which God feels more like an ineffable process than an ultimate being.

When I left La Crosse to live with the Minneapolis Catholic Workers and work with homeless people in Minneapolis shelters, I could feel my roots in the Franciscan way of the driftless region strain for me to somehow recognize them. This is when FSPA affiliation finally made

sense to me. It's the way I stay connected to the time and place where I began to grow into who I am still becoming.

Conviction and reflection are two practices of faith that grew directly from my experience with FSPA. I try to let these practices play together. It's difficult to do this in the chaos of marriage, poverty work and community living. This is why I spend time in retreat.

Recently my mother and I each spent a few days in the Franciscan Spirituality Center hermitages on FSPA land just outside of La Crosse. It takes conviction to take a retreat. I noticed as my retreat date came closer, I grew restless. My mom felt the same thing. She describes it this way: "I was fearful. Fearful of spending so much time alone and not knowing what I was supposed to do with it all, without a set time or schedule. I usually spend my days thinking about my daily agenda and wondering when I'll get my tasks completed. At the hermitage, I didn't have things that needed to get done. This was an uncomfortable process for me."

Mom is right. Even as reflection is a keystone for my faith, I turn it into task mode. By scheduling time for reflection, I try to control it. On retreat, reflection consumed me; it controlled me while I simply



"It takes conviction to take retreat," says Zach Johnson about recent time spent in these hermitages on FSPA land just outside of La Crosse. Photo courtesy of Franciscan Spirituality Center

tried to guide my reflecting mind with prayer, sleep, reading, writing and eating. Here's how my mom describes that feeling: "In truth I don't think I could have gotten more from any other kind of retreat. I taught myself instead of someone else teaching me about myself. I learned to rely on me, and really feel God at my side. As the weekend progressed, I felt less and less alone and more and more at peace. I really don't know how to describe it other than a sense of blessed peacefulness. I need to stop, and be with God. Give him the time to be with me. I don't think there's a more important lesson I could have learned than that. It's not a new lesson; it's nothing I haven't heard before, but this retreat brought the lesson home: how important it is to truly stop and be with God."

Affiliation is my way of staying connected to the practices that root me in a faith I began to build—and whose traces I can always rediscover—in the Franciscan driftless area. ■



Zach Johnson poses here with a fellow Catholic Worker he serves with regularly in Minneapolis.

Photo courtesy of Zachary Johnson

Zachary Johnson is a Catholic Worker living in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is an affiliate in process with the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.



Awaken to Common Dream

Sisters share stories, invite health care specialists

by Joel Badzinski

Sister Jethro Nkenglefac speaks in quiet, measured tones as she explains the many challenges of running the only cardiac center in Central Africa.

Shisong Cardiac Center, operated by her religious order, the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis, is part of St. Elizabeth's Catholic General Hospital in Cameroon. Sister Jethro has served as the center's administrator since it opened in 2009.

On any given day, Sister Jethro might deal with a power outage, encounter a patient who hasn't eaten in days, or counsel a crying mother who has just been told the price of necessary surgery for her infant.

"There are moments you feel like crying," she said.

But her voice fills with joy when she tells the story of Sing Fred.

The seven-year-old boy had been sick for a long time and finally diagnosed with rheumatic heart disease. He needed two valves replaced. His parents brought him to Shisong looking for help. They had no money.

"The Franciscan value of helping everybody is there; we can't send anybody away," Sister Jethro said.

Following the valve replacement surgery, Sing Fred developed breathing problems and was diagnosed with heart arrhythmia. He would require a pacemaker.

There was no time to wait for another sponsor. Sing Fred had already been in the intensive care unit for 48 hours.

"He needs a pacemaker before you can write a story that is finished," Sister Jethro said. "I close my eyes, I say a prayer.

'God, I don't know how we are going to do this but somebody will pay for it.' I give the permission to go ahead."

The procedure was a success, and soon Sing Fred was feeling better.

Sing Fred was discharged and sent home two weeks later, but the story didn't end there. One month later, the pacemaker stopped working and the child and his parents were back asking for help.

"Not again," Sister Jethro said. "I ask, 'Jesus, what do we do?'"

Good news came after Shisong doctors examined Sing Fred and found that the battery was still good



those procedures, he was one of our success stories," Sister Jethro said. "Just that he could play like all the other chil-

dren—that kept him alive."

Sister Jethro and Sister Helen Mbuoh Anshoma, a physician at St. Elizabeth's and the cardiac center, traveled in the United States during the summer of 2014, sponsored by the Cameroon Professional Society.

The sisters visited six cities, including La Crosse, Wisconsin, New York City, New York, Houston and Dallas in Texas, and Washington D.C., meeting with doctors and health care administrators. They co-presented on *Using Innovative Solutions to Solve Healthcare Problems in Cameroon* at Rice University during their stop in Texas.

"Our goal is to share our story and establish a link to the United States that the Cameroon population can benefit from," Sister Helen said. "We're hoping for something positive."

They were eager to share the challenges and triumphs of the Shisong Cardiac Center, but their trip was about more than just raising awareness. The sisters hoped to convince cardiac surgeons and cardiologists from the United States to donate their time and expertise.

"We want them to come on a mission," Sister Helen said. "If you come, you see, you believe, and then you become a part of it."

Eileen McKenzie, FSPA, worked in the nursing school at St. Elizabeth's from 1995 to 1998. She returned



but had been displaced. They performed surgery to re-implant the pacemaker and battery.

Sing Fred, full of energy again, spent another two months at the center before being sent home.

"The joy we had with Sing Fred running around, all the joy after

to Cameroon for a visit in 2014.

“The need is so great there,” Sister Eileen said. “And they’re so grateful for what they get, it’s really kind of humbling. You go there and you can see what a big difference a small intervention will make. You see what you give and how it goes so far, it just changes your heart.”

You’ll see firsthand what started as a three-room facility in the main hospital is now a stand-alone clinic with a staff of one cardiac surgeon, two cardiologists, 54 nurses and more than 30 technical, maintenance and administrative workers. The center relies on doctors and surgeons, whose visits can last one day or as long



Sister Eileen McKenzie, in a recent visit to Cameroon, says it’s humbling to witness what small things can do.

francs, about \$6,300 U.S., far more than an average family in Cameroon makes in a year.

Sister Jethro often faces the heartbreaking task of telling parents the price of surgery for their sick child.

“You see a baby—not even able to move—with its parents, and they are sitting in front of you,”

she said. “I give them a brochure: ‘This is the price of your surgery,’ and the mother is on the floor wailing. First you are a nurse but you are a nun, moved with compassion.”

Even with private sponsorships, some families must sell their land or stop sending another child to school to cover the cost of a procedure.

“Once you get into the cardiac center story it just pulls your heart and you don’t know how to leave it anymore,” Sister Jethro said. “So we have been telling the story all around the world and people have made impressions. For some time now we have been praying that it shall be the turn of the U.S. and I think God did answer the prayers.” ■



as two months. In four and a half years, there have been 450 cardiac surgeries performed at the center.

But the challenges continue.

And the biggest challenge is financial. Most, if not all, of the cardiac center’s patients do not have the means to pay for even a small portion of necessary care. For example, open heart surgery costs three million Central African

Joel Badzinski is a communications professional from La Crosse, Wisconsin, who contributes his writing skills to the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and other organizations.

Photos for this article were provided by St. Elizabeth’s Cardiac Center—Shisong. They demonstrate the care and compassion provided there.

Common Dream: furthering the journey through education

The Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis feel deeply encouraged to continue their work in Cameroon knowing that their congregational sisters and friends in the United States support their educational endeavors.

FSPA set a goal to raise \$150,000 in three years to support the Cameroon Education Fund, which assists Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis who are seeking a bachelor or graduate degree. In less than one year, 71 benefactors have gifted \$22,125, or 15 percent of our goal. We are blessed by this support.

As we enter the second year of this campaign, we invite you to join us. To learn more or to support the Common Dream, contact Madalene Buelow at 608-791-5281 or mbuelow@fspa.org.

Become a companion in a movement for healing the world and together we can bridge a continent, encourage goodwill and make a difference.





In Memoriam

Rejoice, you who are alive in Christ

Sister Barbara (Octavia) Freed

Aug. 14, 1916-Oct. 20, 2014

Sister Barbara was born in Coulee City, Washington.

She served for eight years as a music teacher in elementary schools, 11 years in high schools (including nine years at Marycliff in Spokane, Washington), and nine years at Viterbo University. After leaving the classroom, Sister Barbara became involved in social concerns, serving as FSPA Justice and Peace coordinator for two years. She moved back to Spokane for a year, and then to Las Vegas, Nevada, where she was named coordinator of the Franciscan Center for Peace and Justice, a satellite of the Catholic Community Service News. From 1996 to 2002, Sister Barbara ministered at Clare Center Spirituality Center, Spokane. Her last three years of active ministry were with the CHORE program of Catholic Charities, Spokane.

Sister Barbara moved to Villa St. Joseph in 2005.



Sister Marian (Mary Marlys) Kluesner

Dec. 31, 1932-Nov. 2, 2014

Sister Marian was born on the family farm near New Vienna, Iowa.

She taught middle grades and high school in Wisconsin and Iowa. After 20 years in the field of education, she studied occupational therapy and served as therapist at Villa St. Joseph. In 1976, Sister Marian moved into the social service field and worked for Catholic Social Service and Catholic Charities in Oklahoma and in Texas. She was director of Catholic Charities, then director of Emergency Assistance for El Paso Diocese for 25 years.

Sister Marian retired to St. Rose Convent in 2012.



Sister Alice (Annita) Kaiser

Aug. 28, 1929-Nov. 27, 2014

Sister Alice was born in Stratford, Wisconsin.

She served as an elementary teacher for 10 years in

Wisconsin and Washington, and as an English teacher for 13 years in junior/senior high schools in Ashland, Eau Claire, Superior and La Crosse (Aquinas) in Wisconsin; and Fridley in Minnesota. After leaving the classroom, Sister Alice became residence life director at Viterbo University before being named Dean of Students in 1976.

In 1983, she changed ministries and became pastoral associate at Our Lady Queen of the Universe Parish in Woodruff, Wisconsin. Sister Alice served a four-year term as FSPA president from 1990 to 1994. In 1995, she began a four-year period as an English teacher at Viterbo.

After retiring in 1999, Sister Alice made the Villa her home.



Sister Leclare Beres

July 21, 1926-Nov. 28, 2014

Sister Leclare was born on a farm near Elroy, Wisconsin, and was named Marcella Evelyn.

She worked in pediatrics and as director of nursing for 30 years at St. Francis Medical Center (Mayo Clinic Health System-Franciscan Healthcare), La Crosse; St. Anthony Hospital, Carroll, Iowa; Sacred Heart Hospital, Idaho Falls, Idaho; and Guam Memorial Hospital. Sister Leclare served her FSPA community as health care coordinator from 1976 to 1980 and as a member of the formation team from 1982 to 1987. She was director of the Indochinese Screening Clinic in La Crosse for 14 years. In 1993, St. Clare Health Mission was founded and Sister Leclare was appointed director. After 10 years she retired from that position, but continued to volunteer at the mission.

Sister Leclare retired at St. Rose in 2006. She moved to Villa St. Joseph in October 2014.



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

Affiliate Deaths

Rosella (Roz) Nelson

Feb. 23, 1950-Sept. 12, 2014

Roz worked as a registered nurse at the Virginia,

Minnesota, hospital. After she moved to St. Augusta, Minnesota, she was employed for many years at Opportunity Manor. She loved traveling and was a dedicated quilter.



Janet Stuhldreher
April 26, 1930-Oct. 30, 2014

Janet became a covenant affiliate in 1991 and was one of the first affiliates to make a lifelong commitment in 2000. Sister Lucille Winnike was her sponsor. Janet was also one of the first six affiliates to be commissioned as a prayer partner. Janet served two terms on the Affiliation Committee, acting as chair. She helped gather information for the affiliation history and was instrumental in starting the annual affiliation retreats.



Janet and her husband Harry had six children. She was very active in Al-Anon and at St. Patrick's Parish in Sparta, Wisconsin. ■

Faith was a central part of Roz's life. She was an active participant in her parish and became a prayer affiliate in 1982, with Anna Chernugal and Sister Fran Sulzer as sponsors. In 1983, Sister Joan Weisenbeck became her contact and, in 1993, Sister Rita Mae Fischer. While distance was a factor, Roz shared her expansive heart through letters, emails and phone calls.

Roz is survived by husband John and three sons, a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter.

FSPA
Join the
Campaign to
Change
Direction

The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration pledge to support the Change Direction initiative that aims to change the way America addresses mental health. We're committed to educate our sisters, affiliates, staff, partners in ministry and those we serve about mental health and wellness.

Together with Change Direction partners in the La Crosse, Wisconsin area, we pledge to continue our efforts



The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration pledge to share these 5 Signs of Suffering with partners in ministry and friends.

in mental health and wellness through our direct care ministries and create environments that enhance holistic mental health and healing. We pledge to provide education and to universalize conditions of mental health by incorporating them into our conversations, ultimately reducing stigma and moving one another toward compassion, empathy, understanding and support.

To learn more about the national movement to Change Direction, or to take the pledge, visit www.changedirection.org. ■

2015 Jubilarians

DIAMOND

85 Years

Sister Lucille Kleinheinz

80 Years

Sister Mary Myron Stork

75 Years

Sister Margaret Heil

Sister Carlene Unser

70 Years

Sister Rita Marie Bechel

Sister Rita Becker

60 Years

Sister DeSales Curti

Sister Betty Daugherty

Sister Juanita Hytry

Sister Rita Jansen

Sister Blanche Klein

Sister Geralyn Misura

Sister Rochelle Potaracke

Sister Johanna Seubert

GOLDEN - 50 Years

Sister Fran Ferder

Sister Nancy Hoffman

Sister Paulynn Instenes

Sister Carrie Kirsch

Sister Patricia Tekippe

SILVER - 25 Years

Sister Fran Browning

Affiliates:

Corrine Bauer

Theresita (Tessie) Caponigri

Max Ortnr



Addenda

Diocese of La Crosse honors FSPA during Year of Consecrated Life



Brother Joseph of the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate and Sister Jean Michael bring gifts to the altar.

Photo courtesy of *The Catholic Times* for the Diocese of La Crosse

La Crosse Diocesan Bishop William Callahan kicked off the Year of Consecrated Life during Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in February. During Mass the bishop thanked FSPA for its contribution to the diocese and invited Jean Michael Treba, FSPA (pictured at left), to carry the gifts to the altar.

After Mass attendees were encouraged to enjoy the FSPA display created by La Crosse Diocese staff member Jean McDonnell with assistance from two

FSPA: Archivist Sister Mary Ann Gschwind and Heritage Curator Sister Maris Kerwin. The display honors the FSPA's health care, education, fine arts and prayer contributions in the La Crosse community.



A section of the FSPA display at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman

on Corporate Responsibility, FSPA added its voice to wage resolutions submitted to Walmart, Verizon and Macy's regarding pay inequality. According to FSPA Treasurer Sister Sue Ernster, "It is our hope that we can have a constructive conversation on this issue and share ideas on how to lessen the gap between those in the highest income brackets and those workers whose wages are unable to ensure them even close to a living wage."

The partners filed resolutions with 20 companies.

Corporate responsibility partners focus on wage disparity issues

As a member of Interfaith Center

According to a Nov. 26, 2014, *National Catholic Reporter* interview with Father Michael Crosby, the executive director of the Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota Coalition for Responsible Investment (a branch of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility), "Once the resolutions are filed, a company has three choices. They can try to convince the filer to withdraw the resolution. They can go to the Federal Election Commission and attempt to disallow the resolution, usually resulting in a legal battle. Or they can roll with the punches and see what happens at the annual meeting." He added that "he's never seen as many Catholic orders come together within the ICCR over one issue as he has for the campaign on wage disparity."

In a recent update the coalition learned that while many of the resolutions were challenged, their voices were heard in the boardrooms and corporate behavior will change as a result.

Sister Thea Bowman: life and legacy on display

The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and the Franciscan Spirituality Center, La Crosse, Wisconsin, honored Thea Bowman, FSPA, on the 25th anniversary of her death, March 30. Through a series of events, including a panel discussion featuring friends of Thea, a celebratory Mass and a legacy display, her fellow Franciscan Sisters and friends witnessed the many ways in which Sister Thea's spirit continues to move people to find their deepest humanity.

Local news media documented the anniversary celebration, featuring Sister Thea on Wisconsin Public Radio, in *The Catholic Times* and *La Crosse Tribune* and local magazine *Klutch*, to name a few. To read Thea news visit www.fspa.org/theabowman. ■



Sister Malinda Gerke welcomes visitors to the Thea exhibit in the Franciscan Spirituality Center.



Encounter people of courage, faith and hope.
Learn of their dreams and challenges. Join us for
the opportunity to deepen your own solidarity with
our southern neighbors.

Guatemala

July 7-17, 2015

El Salvador

August 1-11, 2015

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E:gate@fspa.org

Furthering your spirituality

Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center
Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin

Forgiving: A Guided Retreat

Many of us carry a load of anger and a sack full of grudges around as we trudge through life. Each day the lack of forgiveness poisons our soul just a bit more. From June 14 to 18 we will explore ways of inching ourselves toward forgiveness. Each day, led by Carl Koch, will include some input and sharing, but also plenty of silent time to come to the peace and relief of forgiving. Registration details are available at www.marywoodsc.org or call 715-385-3750.

Franciscan Spirituality Center
La Crosse, Wisconsin

In the various stages of our life, we meet transitions, changing relationships, vulnerability and transforming grace. Compassion eases the journey. Through the eyes of mystics and Scripture, we will ponder the call of compassion within ourselves during the June 8 to 12 retreat, *In the Heart of Compassion*, with Janet Mallak, SSND. Each day of the retreat will include meditation and prayer, silence and conversation, time for rest and journaling in many forms. Find more information and register details at www.FSCenter.org or call 608-791-5295.

Christine Center
Willard, Wisconsin

We welcome you for a personal retreat or sabbatical. Live in a hermitage or guesthouse as spring and summer unfold around you in a beautiful woodland setting. Balance the benefits of solitude with support from the spiritual community. Join daily meditations. Receive spiritual direction. Eat homemade food made with love. Discover peace on our walking trails. To register call 715-267-7507 or visit www.christinecenter.org.

Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center
Hiawatha, Iowa

Is your heart stirred by a desire for social justice? Spiral deeply through paths of wonder, emptying, creating and going forth for social justice through art, storytelling, movement, drumming and star gazing. *Sacred New Story: A Conscious Meditation on Social Activism Retreat* (June 28 to July 3), led by Mary Plaster and Richie Townsend, is a beautiful combination of creation and interaction, play and powerful activism. More information is available at www.Prairiewoods.org or 319-395-6700.



Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration

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First Monday of every month Open Adoration

Join the sisters in prayer from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel. Come for a few minutes of quiet reflection or stay the entire two hours. 901 Franciscan Way, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Ongoing Come and See for Discerning Women

The Come and See program is designed for women, ages 21 to 45, to consider the call to live a Franciscan lifestyle. Participants become better acquainted with FSPA through prayer and reflection in a supportive spiritual environment. To begin planning a customized Come and See experience, contact Sister Amy at membership@fspa.org or 888-683-3772, or use the online form available at www.fspa.org/come-and-see.php.

Summer 2015 Day of Mission and Service with Religious

The FSPA-sponsored Franciscan spirituality centers in Wisconsin and Iowa welcome volunteers willing to offer their time and talents. Opportunities are many and include reception and hospitality, kitchen assistance, gardening and grounds work. Visit www.fspa.org/content/join/become-a-volunteer to learn more.

October 4, 2015 Celebrating St. Francis Day

The public is invited to celebrate Mass at Mary of the Angels Chapel, La Crosse, followed by tours and light refreshments. Watch our website for more information.

A full listing of Year of Consecrated Life events is available at www.fspa.org.