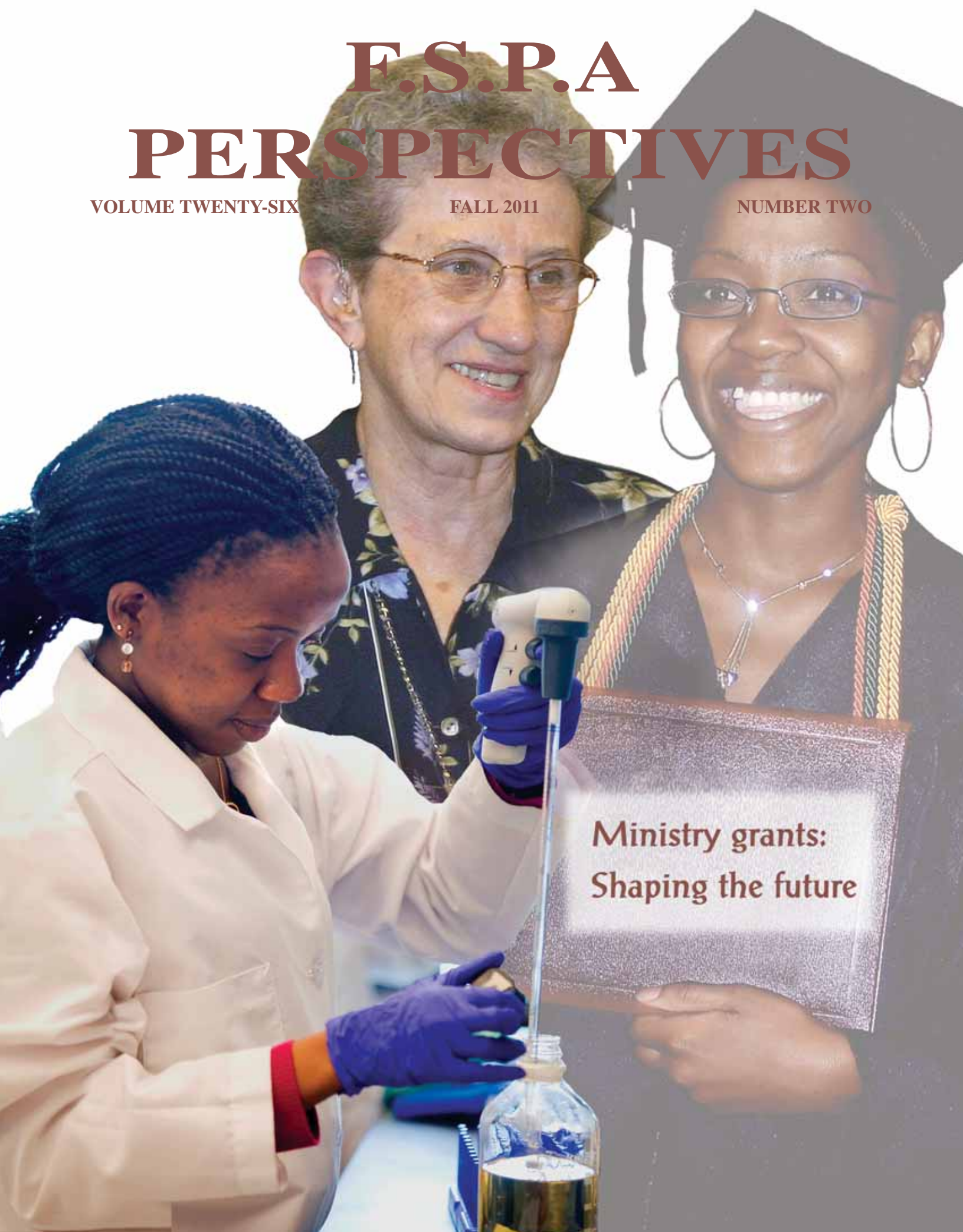


F.S.P.A PERSPECTIVES

VOLUME TWENTY-SIX

FALL 2011

NUMBER TWO



**Ministry grants:
Shaping the future**

In this issue

The FSPA Ministry Fund supports a diverse range of projects and focuses on those that benefit the poor and oppressed. The fund is supported by gifts from you, our families and friends of FSPA.

In this issue of *Perspectives* we share stories of our ministry grants in action. First, you'll meet Tambudzai Shamu (featured on our cover). Tambu, a recipient of FSPA's International Student Ministry Grant, shares her story of arriving in the U.S. a shy girl from Zimbabwe who developed into a confident woman—crediting her success to both FSPA support and her Viterbo degree (pg.3). We tell the story of how, through your donations, homeless families—mostly those of single mothers—find comfort through the Hands of Faith interfaith community program (pg. 4).

This issue also includes a special feature: Gifting for Good. We share gift ideas that are made from the heart—including how a simple plastic bag motivated a sister to create a gift that now helps fund an orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City (pg. 10). And, we announce a project underway to encourage good gifting through charitable donations that will help to make water a reality for villages in El Salvador (see A Drop in the Bucket, pg. 16).

Our *Development Update* section (pg. 8) includes an uplifting letter we received from two FSPA friends who, inspired by FSPA teaching, live simply and give back to the FSPA mission. We also introduce you to our new planned giving opportunity, Circle of Perpetual Friends. The circle honors our partners who value the FSPA mission and ministries and their continuance into the future (pg. 9).

We hope you're both inspired by and proud of the stories shared inside. It is with your support that our rich heritage of healing, teaching and praying continues.



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

President:

Sister Linda Mershon

Vice President:

Sister Eileen Lang

Mission Councilors:

Sister Rose Elsbernd

Sister Paulynn Instenes

Sister Suzanne Rubenbauer

“The Harpist” (pictured above) is a watercolor portrait of Sister Malinda Gerke created by Janet Mach Dutton. The painting has won awards in exhibitions in southwest Florida. According to Janet’s website, jmachdutton.com, “the angel depicted has tools of the trade . . . as does Sister Malinda. I tried to capture her angelic spirit as she works here on Earth.”

Cover photo: Sister Georgia Christensen with ministry fund recipient Tambudzai Shamu. See story pg. 3.

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La Crosse, Wisconsin

International students travel to Viterbo and far beyond with FSPA

“I have good news to share,” begins Tambudzai Shamu, an international student who graduated in 2007 from Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wis., with a bachelor’s degree in biology supported by a FSPA ministry grant for global education. In this email message she composed last spring to Sister Georgia Christensen, Viterbo’s Dean of Graduate, Professional and Adult Education, Tambudzai continues, “I was fully funded to take a one-year master of philosophy course in translational medicine and therapeutics at the University of Cambridge. If it wasn’t for you and the other Franciscan Sisters’ support,” she concludes, “I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to reach this far.”

Since 2000, Sister Georgia has sponsored FSPA’s International Student Ministry Grant (that originated with Sister Anita Beskar to assist with Viterbo’s growing international student population). Having shared these inspirational words with those in the FSPA and Viterbo community who know Tambudzai (Tambu), Sister Georgia replied, “We are so proud of you.”

This recent exchange of gratitude and pride originated in Zimbabwe where Tambu was born and raised, the youngest in her family of seven. During her final year of high school she was selected by the U.S. Embassy for the United States Achievers Program and learned of the FSPA grant for Viterbo. “I was attracted to the small campus and the personal interactions between students and professors,” she says. From there, Tambu submitted her application

and worked with a panel of conduits that included Beth Moore, Viterbo’s former Global Education Department director, and was accepted into the program. A year later she flew to La Crosse to meet with Sister Georgia, her Viterbo ambassador.

Then, remembers Sister Georgia, the Tambu who walked into her office was a “small, shy girl with her head hanging low.”

Their somewhat common vision of Zimbabwe, however, sparked instant eye contact and tied the two together. “I knew the region Tambu lived in,” recalls Sister Georgia, who had recently returned from serving five years for the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference as a staff development officer for the Education Committee, “the conditions she’d left behind.” Tambu had talked about her family there, about her brother who’d died of HIV.

Their time together during Tambu’s years at Viterbo transpired a relationship of inspiration. “Yes, I was timid, but Sister Georgia became a mother to me—her warmth welcomed me to drop by every now and then to share my experiences and challenges of immersion into a new culture.” When further along in her coursework and her confidence Tambu had returned to Zimbabwe for an internship with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention office in Harare. “I think that experience and her knowledge of the terrific need,” says Sister Georgia, “deepened her desire to



Tambu Shamu’s biology degree from Viterbo gave her a strong foundation to begin her career, conducting prostate cancer research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Photo courtesy of Tambudzai Shamu

further her medical studies.”

Now Tambu works at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, N.Y., doing prostate cancer research with an eye toward designing new treatment options for patients. “My Viterbo degree gave me a strong foundation that prepared me well for a job in a renowned biomedical research institution like MSKCC.” She’ll begin her studies this fall at Cambridge in the Translational Research Program “that is aimed at training clinical scientists with the skills to translate science into medicine.” Cancer in the Third World particularly calls Tambu to become a physician scientist. “The scourge of HIV has left cancer grossly neglected,” she asserts, and just as treatment evolves in the United States, “I see many opportunities to treat and cure people who are now dying in Africa.”

For the past 11 years FSPA’s international student ministry grant has supported 26 different students from eight

Continued on page 5

Beloit, Wisconsin

FSPA reaches homeless families with her hands of faith

“From the very beginning, the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration has been a community that responds to the unmet needs of people,” begins Sister Rosalia Bauer, who’s living and ministering in Beloit, Wis. Sister Rosalia is a faithful pro-life advocate whose mission to perpetuate FSPA’s commitment to effect just treatment also includes families both homeless and housed inadequately, mostly those of single mothers ages 18-22 and their children. Her mission supports emergency shelter for these underserved families to which Sister Rosalia is both a FSPA ministry grant sponsor and volunteer. Her mission “definitely fits into Gospel living and FSPA’s Constitutions and Rules,” she affirms. Her mission supports the interfaith community program called Hands of Faith.

Hands of Faith and Sister Rosalia go spiritually, conceptually, tangibly, effectively and adoringly hand in hand. The mission statement for the nonprofit organization “resolves to lessen the burdens of our brothers and sisters by raising their hope and dignity” and, given her life as a Franciscan Sister and her 58-year ministry as a nurse, she

serves to meet the spiritual well-being of these people. “I believe I’m responding to the call that God’s given me. He’s instilled in me a great passion to help the people society doesn’t pay very much attention to. This opportunity for me is really an extension,” adds Sister Rosalia, “of the privilege of working in health care.”

She initially reached out through Hands of Faith as a member of a Social

on new leases, or provisions to cover back rent for current leases to avoid eviction—all to meet the ultimate goal of independent living.

Sister Rosalia continues to touch Hands of Faith through hands-on interaction with the program’s guests. Volunteers like herself help to provide transportation and laundry services, prepare meals and snacks, and assist in setting up and taking down cots. Sparse sleeping quarters, separated by partitions, allow room for three to four families each night. “When I see the small space in which moms and children rest for the night I return to my apartment counting my blessings for space, friendship, food, fresh air and a home.”

Jeff Hoyt, executive director for Hands of Faith, has witnessed Sister Rosalia’s effectual presence for his cause. He’s watched as the ministry grant helps to sustain the operating budget. “We have other fund-

ing sources but her passion for what we do provides an essential link between us and FSPA—a blessing of support for our overall mission. I hope it will continue as such.” He also experiences her sensitivity for those he works hard to help. “Shelter populations fluctuate at times, and when our beds are not full Sister Rosalia questions me. It’s not perceived as animosity but rather as concern that we’re providing maximum service for maximum families. To me,” says Jeff,

Continued on page 5



After eating dinner and doing homework, these children prepare to play games with Sister Rosalia Bauer, back left, and volunteer Charlene Tolmie, back right, at St. Thomas Hall in Beloit.

Photo by Joselda Kuhle, FSSF

Justice Committee representing three Catholic churches in Beloit. The group conceptualized the organization in 2001. It’s now facilitated by 24 churches, 12 of which serve as rotating host sites from Sunday to Sunday. The other parishes fulfill volunteer support—Sister Rosalia’s parish, St. Jude Catholic Church, is one of them. For approximately 30 days families are provided meals, safe overnight accommodations and social service assistance. The FSPA ministry grant contributes to first-month rent expenditures

Viterbo students

continued from page 3

different countries from Belize to Bulgaria to Zambia, and each year continues to see great educators and health care innovators of the future in all of them. Also every year Tambu visits her former seventh grade teacher's classroom in the primary school she attended in Zimbabwe. She's begun a scholarship program for underprivileged students there. "Nothing is impossible," she tells them. "They can become whomever they want to be if they work hard for it."

Long after her studies at Cambridge Tambu will certainly continue to model Viterbo's mission to prepare students for faithful service and ethical leadership. "It's a tremendous value that I try to live by. I've truthfully realized that this life is not worth living," she says, "if we cannot be of service to those more in need than we are."

Looking back now, almost five years ago to Tambu's graduation, Sister Georgia recalls a conversation they'd had and the pride she'd felt for knowing those Franciscan values will undoubtedly be carried out. "I remember when I first met you," she had said, "the Tambu who was a shy girl, walking into my office, her head hanging low. Now I see a confident young woman in her cap and gown, her head held high. Your transformation," shared Sister Georgia with Tambu that day, "reveals a person who really can reach out and touch the world." ■

Sister Rosalia

continued from page 4

"that reflects the spirituality of Hands of Faith."

Perhaps it's the affection between Sister Rosalia and the shelter's children that most upholds the meaning and the significance of Hands of Faith. For the past several years she's been an activity

host, helping with homework, playing games, setting puzzles and reading stories to kids whose ages range from eight months to 14 years. "One day 11-year-old Jenny looked so sad. She'd sassed her mom, and when I told her I'd misbehaved when I was her age she looked surprised." Sister Rosalia offered the suggestion of making an apology. "Jenny ran over to me later feeling

better and then joined in a game of Chicken dominoes." It's times like those, says Sister Rosalia, when she walks out of the shelter with contentment. "My heart goes out to them because they've got so many emotional, material and physical needs," but on that particular night "I realized I've done the best I know how to do." ■

With the aid of FSPA ministry grant funding two new international students from Latin America, Joseph E. Stamp Romero from Belize and Juliana Muñoz of Colombia, are currently undertaking studies at Viterbo University.

Joseph says, "I am one of the blessed recipients of a FSPA international student ministry grant, and I'm studying to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a major in art administration. I am able to enroll in the program, which would have been impossible due to lack of financing, because of the FSPA



Juliana Muñoz and Joseph E. Stamp Romero

grant. I can now take back the knowledge of the arts to young people in my country and help build a program that will see the arts used as a source of empowerment and education for all."

"The global education program made it easier for me to come to the United States," says Juliana, who's majoring in business management with a minor in Latin American studies. "Without the grant, I wouldn't be able to study at Viterbo University or gain a different perspective about the world and other ways of living.

"The people at Viterbo have been of great help. You can see how the Franciscan values impact them not as an obligation but as a way of living. I have been lucky enough to learn by the example that other people on campus give me and have had the opportunity to implement them in my life as well. When I talk to people outside of Viterbo, I realize the impact these values have in the community and that they aren't as common as we think they are everywhere else.

"Finally, the FSPA have been great examples for me of leadership, kindness and support. They are true role models, inspirations in my life, and hopefully one day I will be able to give back to other people what they've given me."

La Crosse, Wisconsin

My Perspective: Funds support Catholic Charities immigrant ministry

written with

Mary Ann Gschwind, FSPA

One challenge with the immigration system is understanding the system itself. This is a challenge for everyone in the United States—documented or not.

With FSPA ministry grant support Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wis., is able to staff the Migrant, Immigrant and Refugee Assistance Program. Through this program, staff assists immigrants in the diocese with legal issues and all residents with immigration education.

According to Chuck Berendes, Catholic Charities immigration attorney, “A challenge to providing immigration-based legal services in western Wisconsin continues to be the required travel. Most of the immigrants in the Diocese of La Crosse live in rural communities and the nearest immigration offices are located in Milwaukee, Wis., and Bloomington, Minn.—with court services in Bloomington only. This requires an average of five hours travel for interviews or hearings.” Chuck adds that the funds provided by FSPA help cover these travel expenses.

Catholic Charities established the Migrant, Immigrant and Refugee Assistance Program in 2000 in response to the growing number of immigrants moving to West Central Wisconsin. The program’s staff provides a range of immigration counseling and representation to immigrants and their families.

As chair of the Catholic Charities

board Sister Mary Ann Gschwind recognizes the program’s value. “It serves as a conduit to create change in attitudes and how to embrace our neighbors in need,” she says. “The program helps clients understand immigration law and learn to exercise their rights under the law.”

Through the program several relationships have forged inside the Diocese



Through the Migrant, Immigrant and Refugee Assistance Program’s services, Catholic Charities immigration attorney Chuck Berendes, left, is able to present Curtis Smith Seañez with a United States Certificate of Citizenship.

Photo courtesy of Catholic Charities

of La Crosse. “New relationships are forming with domestic violence shelters, law enforcement agencies and parish priests,” said Chuck. “Through these relationships I am able to connect with immigrants in their own parishes which increases their comfort level while making my services more convenient.” Chuck adds that he not only works directly with immigrants and families but also presents to community groups as well. “I speak to all different kinds of people including high school students and social justice groups. My goal is to let people know that this service exists and to clear up any misconceptions.”

The assistance program’s success rate is very high, having served more than 350 people since inception, and “It is clear that the services provided are, in many ways, life changing and valuable,” says Chuck.

For one La Crosse-area resident, the program’s services proved life changing indeed. Chuck met Curtis Smith Seañez who for more than 30 years believed he was illegally living in the U.S. Convicted of using a fake ID, Curtis stood to lose everything. Through research, Chuck discovered that Curtis’ father was a U.S. citizen. “I spent time researching his now-deceased father. I found his grade school records, military records—proof that through his father Curtis acquired U.S. citizenship at birth,” explains Chuck. “For more than 30 years Curtis was scared, but we were able to turn his life around and he was able to continue living in the U.S.”

Without the Migrant, Immigrant and Refugee Assistance Program, Chuck believes many people in these rural areas would “do nothing as they do not have the means to afford an attorney.” He adds that, “Through the generosity of FSPA and others we’re able to provide help; we’re able to create hope.” ■



Sister Mary Ann Gschwind serves as chair of the Catholic Charities board and is the sponsor for this FSPA ministry grant. In addition to her board memberships with

other La Crosse organizations, Sister Mary Ann serves as FSPA archivist at St. Rose Convent.

Spirit of Ministry: Transformation begins at Unity House for Women

Uby Linda Wissing, affiliate Unity House for Women is an eight-bed residential treatment program for chemically dependent women 18 years or older. Women are treated for their addictions in a home setting located in La Crosse, Wis., near St. Rose Convent. I serve as the primary counselor and work with a multidisciplinary team including medical staff, mental health counselors and counseling service technicians. We are a 24/7 facility that addresses addictions and prepares women to abstain from mood-altering chemicals, develop fellowship with other recovering individuals, return to their families and become productive community members. I have had the privilege of working with individuals with addictions for the past 35 years—it has been both a humbling and rewarding mission.

I have witnessed many miracles of individuals beginning their journey at the bleakest and darkest time of their lives

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

Nelson Henderson

to discovering their beauty and becoming beacons of light for themselves and others. One miracle is of a 29-year-old woman who, while intoxicated, was walking on the ice-covered Mississippi River. With thoughts of suicide, she hoped to plunge through the ice to her

death. After treatment and support from others she now has almost four years of sobriety and two beautiful daughters. Many of our women have returned to school, including La Crosse’s Viterbo University where the academic setting has cultivated their talent and celebrated their recovery.

The definition of unity is “the state or quality of being one; of being in accord; harmony; the combination or arrangement of parts into a whole; unification.” This meaning embodies the Franciscan Sisters’ community, which is the centerpiece of my work: inviting women isolated by their addiction into a community that as a whole will face the challenges that life presents. The void of addiction can only be filled with love, acceptance, support and a belief in a power greater than ourselves. The respite once sought in drugs is now found spiritually. Spirituality does not come easily to the women whose shame prevents them from appreciating their value and ultimately the ability to forgive themselves. I have the women visit St. Rose Convent initially by taking a chapel tour. They are always struck by the serenity, acceptance and sense of a powerful female community. This community has inspired them to rejoice in all that women can accomplish when they work with others toward a common goal.

The Franciscan tradition of “all are welcome” offers great comfort and healing to the women. In my affiliate experience I learned to find the gift in all areas of life, particularly the challenges. I have been able to live this for my patients and this example with a distrustful population is powerful to enable change. The



Affiliate and addictions counselor Linda Wissing, left, is reunited with former client, Emily, whom she journeyed with four years ago. Also pictured are Emily’s two daughters, Olivia (left) and Ellisia (right).

Photo courtesy of Linda Wissing

Franciscan Sisters have always lived the spirit of harmony and cooperation, which has inspired me to pass on the power of being in communion with others.

There is an adage used in the 12 Step program, “But for the grace of God go I.” This speaks to the Franciscan philosophy of humility and appreciation for God’s creation regardless of its appearance. My commitment is to be mindful that our place in life can change at any given moment. These women face many obstacles and biases; we must see our faces in the faces of others and be willing to give a hand up. ■

Affiliate Linda Wissing is a La Crosse resident who grew up in Milwaukee, Wis. She graduated in 1994 with a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and has enjoyed a 35-year career as a licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor.

Development Update

Greetings Dear FSPA Friends,

You, our benefactors, are a part of the unfolding mystery of religious life. As our family of friends and supporters grows, so does our sphere of influence and our ability to help those in need and to continue our work for justice and peace.

Your support has allowed us to contribute financially toward many projects, including one of our sponsored institution's major building campaigns—the state-of-the-art Viterbo University nursing center in La Crosse, Wis., that opened this fall. We were also able to increase the number of ministry grants extended—from Camp Winston offering family support in Canada to the Tools for Literacy Program in Wisconsin and to Tubman House, a program providing transitional living in California.

And, this year I was honored to witness a ministry grant in action while visiting Zimbabwe, Africa. There I met the 26 families living a life of subsistence thanks to the help provided by the FSPA ministry grant-funded Goodwill Project. These families rely on this support to get through each month and to receive an education—your gifts make it possible.

We also celebrated with our young women in formation this year. In June Sister Amy Taylor professed first vows and in September Sister Sarah Hennessey professed her final vows with the congregation. We are blessed by our sisters, our young women in formation and our affiliates and prayer partners who all carry forth our mission by the good work they do.

We sincerely thank you for your support and for joining your vision with ours—for helping us in our work to bring peace to our world.

Peace & All Good,



Sister Linda Mershon
FSPA President

Dec 4, 2010

Dear Madalene Beelow,

Enclosing 2 checks from Elizabeth Theisen & Dollie Newlun. Also 2 extra envelopes to be recycled for future use. Having been taught by the good Franciscan Sisters on how to be frugal, has also benefited our entire lives. We never have had credit card debt, but have always tried to be saving.

When we get together with our nursing classmates we often speak of the exceptional values we were taught, and all are grateful for it.

We're donating to the Convent this year because when we had a tour, we appreciated the beauty of the Chapel and convent and hope it will always be!

Blessed Christmas
Lette Theisen
&
Dollie Newlun



These children posed for this photo taken during Sister Linda Mershon's visit to Zimbabwe, Africa.

Planned giving: making a lasting gift

by **Madalene Buelow, FSPA development director**

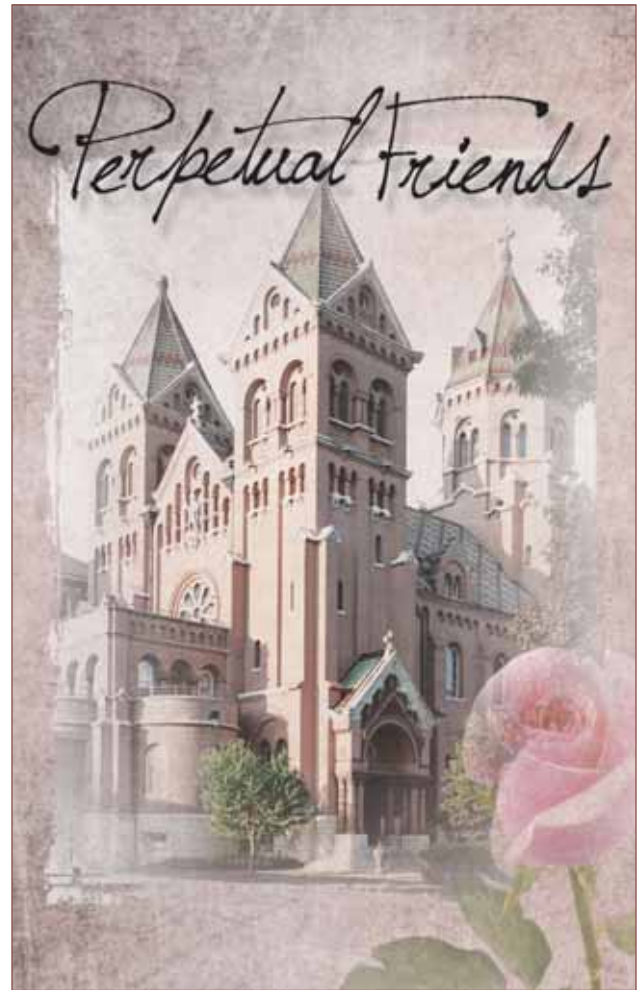
Have you ever purchased and wrapped the perfect gift for your spouse, child, niece, nephew or close friend, and watched with excitement as the person tore away the paper? You knew the gift would be a hit and you could hardly stand it as the anticipation grew.

Then the magic moment came as the box was opened. You smiled at the expression of surprise and joy. You beamed as words of gratitude filled the air. Even though you were not the recipient, you had great fun giving the gift because you knew it was just what the person needed and wanted.

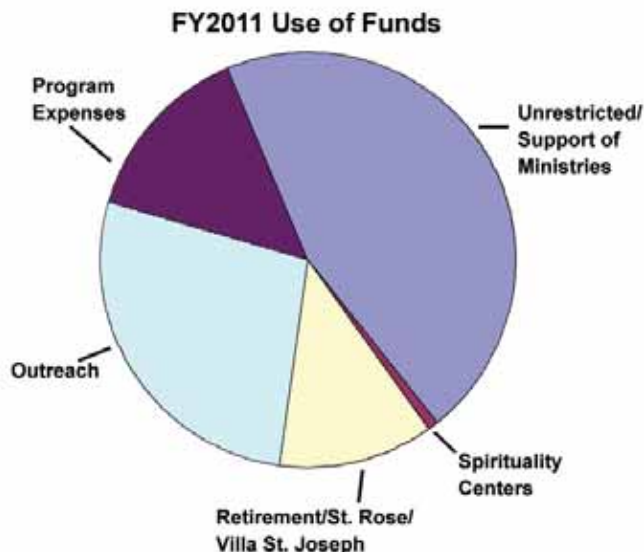
A well-planned charitable gift can bring happiness as well. When you take the time to discover what the needs of a particular charity are and how you can structure your gift to do the most good, you find yourself anticipating the actual gift. A gift like that would be a blessing for the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. You and your legacy become a part of our mission and ministries. Together we become gift to others.

In the coming year the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration will unveil the Circle of Perpetual Friends, a new planned giving program. Information explaining the ways in which your legacy gift can perpetuate the ministries of the congregation and a response card indicating your willingness to participate as a Perpetual Friend will be mailed to you soon after the New Year.

The FSPA Development Office enjoys helping our friends plan lasting gifts. Information regarding Perpetual Friends is available at www.fspa.org/Donate/plannedgiving.htm. You may also contact the development office for more information, 608-791-5282 or mbuelow@fspa.org.



FSPA Development Office Accountability Report July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011



Source of Funds:

General Contributions	\$407,368	74%
Memorial Fund	12,678	2%
Bequests/Planned Gifts	59,651	11%
Support from Congregation	70,890	13%

Total Revenue **\$550,587** **100%**

Use of Funds:

Unrestricted/Support of Ministries	\$277,361	50%
Spirituality Centers	4,484	1%
Retirement/St. Rose/Villa	60,202	11%
Outreach	137,650	25%
Program Expenses	70,890	13%

Total Expenses **\$550,587** **100%**

Gifting for Good

Gifts made from the heart keep on giving

Sister Kathryn Roberg has recycled plastic bags from Spokane, Wash., (where she ministered until 2009) to La Crosse, Wis., (where she resides and ministers now). They are grocery bags, newspaper bags and produce bags, and with old shower curtain rings for handle attachments (15 for 99 cents) and discarded buttons for embellishment, she uses them to knit reusable tote bags for most anything you might put in them. Sister Kathy has used her own bag to carry groceries in for the past three years. She makes them from a pattern she discovered in Spokane, one that was passed on from the wife of an Orthodox priest. “From then on people were saving bags for me. I have tons of bags,” laughs Sister Kathy, “literally.” She gives them as gifts for any occasion: “Every woman in my family has one, and the response has been that they love them.”

But for Sister Kathy, the good of her bags goes beyond gifting for special occasions. She also makes and offers

them as means to environmental sustainability. “There are too many plastic bags in the world,” she laments, speaking about the animals she’s seen eating plastic and questioning the dangerous levels of contaminants found in it for all creation. “I’m very concerned about the world and the environment as a whole. We need to do as much as we can to preserve the universe and bring it back to its natural state.”

Unknowingly to Sister Kathy, her craft has also become a vehicle for economic sustainability. A friend, Ev, made a recent trip to an orphanage where her daughter works in Ho Chi Minh City, Saigon. Ev was carrying one of Sister Kathy’s tote bags on her arm and also happened to have the pattern with her. The bags thrilled the children and inspired the staff to begin making and selling them to help support the orphanage financially. “I was so touched by this,” says Sister Kathy. “One never knows how the small things we do affect others, especially

children who are more eager and open to challenge themselves. Who knows what it has evoked over there.” She mentions countries like Guatemala that are working for financial freedom by selling local products through cooperatives. Including FSPA “there are now so many groups



Sister Kathy Roberg is shown here making her 16th bag. She uses approximately 40 to 50 bags in addition to about eight bags for the handles to make one bag. When not giving them, she sells them for \$20.

in the world that are consciously standing up for what is valuable, for what needs to be done, which is counter-cultural in so many ways,” she says. “It’s just a beautiful thing.”

The splendor of it all—the recycling, the sustaining and the gifting—comes from the heart of ecospirituality just as it comes from the heart of Sister Kathy and the FSPA community as well. “St. Francis cared for the environment. He respected all of creation as a gift from God, as a gift that is given to us to cherish and to care for, as a gift given to us freely. That’s really being Franciscan” says Sister Kathy, “to me.”

The spirit of Sister Kathy’s concern and care is shared with other FSPA members who gift for good in many of the following ways:



Created with plastic bags of many different kinds and colors each bag is unique, like vibrant works of art.

- From Sister Shirley Morrissey: “I usually make homemade candies and breads for Christmas gifts.”
- “For family,” offers Sister Jean Moore, “I try to find something I have from my mother or dad (both deceased) to give to my nieces and nephews on special occasions, birthdays or Christmas. Also for friends and those who’ve done favors for me I’ve made jewelry or wooden objects.”
- Sister Rochelle Potaracke makes dolls, heart boxes and vases for gifts to give for Christmas, birthdays, jubilees and other occasions.
- Handmade gifts like shawls and note cards (in which she inserts her own notes so the recipient can then reuse them) are often given by Sister Mariquita Luby. She’s also been the recipient of birthday gifts from a friend “like taking me shopping or helping me use the computer. It’s very nice . . . not something you can see but you can still appreciate.”
- The FSPA Share a Sheep program was gifted \$100 last year on behalf of Sister Kathleen Kenkel’s family. Having been raised on a farm in Iowa Sister Kathleen “knows the value in this kind of investment.”
- In her retirement, making baby quilts and gifting them to organizations for families in need is a passion for Sister Dorothea Burr.
- Creatively, Sister Clara Mae Kuempel has made both woodcarvings for Christmas

gifts and icons to donate for a silent auction; collectively, she’s joined her FSPA local group, Joyful Hearts, to contribute shoes for the children in Sister Janet Dalton’s Arizona school; and personally, she’s given shelter to a woman displaced by flooding.

- Instead of exchanging gifts or gathering for a meal at a restaurant, Sister Maris Kerwin’s FSPA community group, Peace Seekers, has donated to causes like A Place of Grace and Share a Sheep.
- Downsizing and reducing consumerism is a tact that Sister Rita Feeney takes in regard to gift giving. Planting a tree, cleaning house and buying lunch are gifts she’s given others. “Most of us have more things than we need or often want.”
- Free trade gifts, handcrafted in Third World countries and sold each year before Christmas at the Ten Thousand Villages event in La Crosse, are purchased by Sister Joan Weisenbeck and given to her family and friends. “The church doesn’t make any profit from the sales,” says Sister Joan, “and it’s solely facilitated by volunteers.”
- Sister Carlene Unser, who formerly taught weaving at Viterbo University for 30 years, now makes and gives her pieces as gifts. “To me, weaving is very reflective as prayer.” ■



Right column, top photo, heart boxes made by Sister Rochelle Potaracke, Santa carved by Sister Clara Mae Kuempel, jewelry by Sister Jean Moore; weavings by Sister Carlene Unser. Above, quilts made by Sister Dorothea Burr; card by Sister Mariquita Luby.

In Memoriam

Rejoice, you who are alive in Christ

Sister Catherine (Alexine) Theurer **Oct. 8, 1920-April 2, 2011**

Sister Catherine was born in Rozellville, Wis.

She ministered in elementary education as a teacher for 31 years and as a principal for 24 years in schools in Iowa, Spokane and Wisconsin. Sister Catherine served as principal at St. Mary's School, Wausau, St. Mary's School, Durand, and St. Paul's, Bloomer.

She moved to Prescott in 2003 and volunteered in the school and parish. Sister Catherine retired at Villa St. Joseph in 2005.



Sister Carita Carey **May 14, 1929-May 4, 2011**

Sister Carita was born in Churdan, Iowa, and was named Helen Carita.

She ministered as a teacher and/or principal in elementary schools in Iowa, Utah and Wisconsin from 1949 to 1972 including six years in Spencer, Iowa. For the next seven years Sister Carita taught at Kuemper High School, Carroll, Iowa. She worked in pastoral ministry at St. Francis Medical Center, La Crosse, and then became the administrator at the FSPA Franciscan Center for Wholistic Living in St. Paul, Minn. From 1987 to 1990 Sister Carita was chaplain and Clinical Pastoral Education supervisor at St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth,



Minn. She ended her active ministry in service to her FSPA community as membership director for the Central Region and in affiliation ministry.

Sister Carita retired in Cedar Rapids in 2002, moved to St. Rose Convent in February 2006 and in July 2006 made Villa St. Joseph her home.

Sister Alice (Aloyene) Rohn **Feb. 7, 1922-May 15, 2011**

Sister Alice was born in Arcadia, Wis.

She taught for 37 years in Iowa, Wisconsin and El Salvador. During her time in El Salvador, Sister Alice helped establish Madre del Salvador School in Santa Anna. She ministered in El Salvador for 19 years.

She then served as pastoral minister in Beaufort and Frogmore, S.C. In 1986 Sister Alice moved to Davenport, Iowa, to work at the Diocesan Hispanic Center. She ministered at Immaculate Conception Parish in Eau Claire, Wis., before retiring to the Villa in 2002.



Sister Romaine Kleinheinz **July 30, 1915-May 17, 2011**

Sister Romaine was born in Wausau, Wis. At her baptism she received the name Ruth Helen.

Sister Romaine ministered as a music teacher for 52 years in parochial schools in Iowa, Washington and Wisconsin including nine years at St. Vincent School, Wisconsin Rapids, six years at Blessed Sacrament, La Crosse, and 20 years at St. James



and St. Mary's, Wausau. From 1986 to 1992 Sister Romaine gave organ and piano lessons at Marathon.

She retired to St. Rose Convent in 1992 and to Villa St. Joseph in 2004.

Sister Francelyn Arnold **April 3, 1918-June 20 2011**

Sister Francelyn was born in Bozeman, Mont., and was named Margaret.

Sister Francelyn ministered in La Crosse, Wis., teaching at Aquinas High School for one year, then in elementary schools for six years and at St. Michael's Home before going into nursing at St. Francis Hospital. She ministered in nursing at Villa St. Joseph, St. Joseph Home, La Crosse, and St. Anthony Hospital, Carroll, Iowa. She served in pastoral ministry at St. Anthony Hospital and as activity director at Villa St. Joseph. Sister Francelyn worked as assistant librarian at Viterbo College and St. James School in La Crosse, Cathedral School in Superior, and St. Joseph's School in Stratford.

Before retiring to St. Rose Convent in 1990, Sister Francelyn volunteered in the La Crosse area. She retired to the Villa in 1998.

Sister Julia Anne Maus **March 24, 1905-June 26, 2011**

Sister Julia Anne was born in Albany, Minn. At baptism she was given the name Julia Agnes.

She taught high school students and used her journalism skills for



21 years in parochial schools in Washington and Wisconsin including 15 years at Aquinas High School in La Crosse. From 1970 to 1975 she worked in pastoral ministry at St. Thomas More Parish in Troy, Mich. After two years as sisters' coordinator at Villa St. Joseph, Sister Julia Anne ministered at the Church of the Epiphany in Coon Rapids, Minn.

She retired to St. Rose Convent in 1994 and to Villa St. Joseph in 2000.

Sister Agnesita LeDuc
March 13, 1921-July 27, 2011

Sister Agnesita was born in Wausau, Wis. She was baptized with the name Mary Magdelene.

Sister Agnesita ministered most of her 50 years as a teacher with the "little ones" as she called them. She taught in schools in Iowa, Utah and Wisconsin including 11 years at Mosinee. During that time she also taught CCD and was sacristan. Sister Agnesita cared for her mother until her death and then served as a substitute teacher, tutor and librarian in Bloomer, Wis.

She retired to the Villa in 1996 where she volunteered until 2007.



Sister Helen Koopmann
Feb. 4, 1921-Aug. 18, 2011

Sister Helen was born on a farm near New Vienna, Iowa.

She taught in elementary schools for 27 years in Iowa and Wisconsin before teaching at

St. George High School, Lansing, Iowa, from 1968 to 1973. Sister Helen



then served as Director of Religious Education in Lansing, Calmar and Festina, Iowa. Beginning in 1982 she ministered as pastoral associate in Charlotte and Petersville, Iowa, St. Anthony Parish, Knoxville, Iowa, and Immaculate Conception Parish, Gilbertville, Iowa.

She retired in La Crosse in 1994, moving to St. Rose Convent in 1998 and to Villa St. Joseph in 2006.

Affiliates

Mary Ann Prebich
Dec. 1, 1913-May 6, 2011

A lifelong resident of Hibbing, Minn., Mary taught in rural schools for several years and owned Youthtown/Prebich's Fashions for 30 years. She was a member of the Catholic Women's League and Holy Rosary Circle at the Blessed Sacrament Church and a 70-year member of the



Catholic Order of Foresters.

Mary and her husband Emil had two daughters and two sons, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Mary was preceded in death by her husband and a daughter, Elizabeth.

Pattie Ortner
March 25, 1938-June 18, 2011

Pattie was born in Waterloo, Iowa. She and her husband Max had three sons, four daughters, 23 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Pattie worked as nurse and taught nursing for many years at Hawkeye Community College.

Pattie and Max have been affiliates since 1990.



FSPA website
 Read the complete obituaries at
www.fspa.org/news

La Crosse's Viterbo University opened its new School of Nursing building this fall. Inside are state-of-the-art simulation labs, a premier nutrition and dietetics space and more. In the Franciscan tradition, the facility includes a meditation room and the Chiara Healing Garden, named after St. Clare of Assisi.

Sisters Mary Stadelman, Lydia Wendl, Eileen Lang, Maris Kerwin, Linda Mershon, Mary Ann Gschwind and Rita Mae Fischer (left to right above) attended an opening ceremony and visited The Heritage Room. This room credits the FSPA's solid foundation—including school of nursing founder, Sister Grace Clare Beznouz—that makes the nursing program what it is today.



Addenda

Sister Dorothy Dunbar chosen as Franciscan honoree

Each year the National Franciscan Federation selects honorees who “allow their ministry to be a light to the world and exhibit a passionate love of life and people.” This year Dorothy Dunbar, FSPA, was chosen as a Franciscan honoree. She was recognized at the federation’s 2011 conference held in July.



Dorothy Dunbar, FSPA

Sister Dorothy’s life as a religious sister began in 1951, her freshman year in high school, when she joined a religious community in Manitowoc, Wis. She professed her first vows with that community in 1956. Her teaching ministry spanned many years and took her to places throughout the Midwest. In all she taught at the grade school level for six years and at the high school level for 23 years, during which time she earned a master’s in English from Silver Lake College in Manitowoc.

In 1980 Sister Dorothy was transferred to Chicago where she taught English at Willibrord Catholic High School—a school with an all black student population. While ministering there she earned her Master of Pastoral Studies at Chicago’s Loyola University. It was during her time at Willibrord that Sister Dorothy’s passion for working with the poor was ignited.

The early 1990s brought change to Sister Dorothy’s ministry as well as a call to a new community. She transferred to the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in 1993. Then she was serving as GED instructor and parent volunteer coordinator for Cabrini Green, a public housing development on Chicago’s Near North Side, and Rockwell Gardens on Chicago’s West Side. She also taught basic skills at Chicago’s Midwest Women’s Center while serving as academic adviser at Loyola University.

In 1999 she was invited by FSPA to join the Membership Vocations Team on which she continued to minister through August 2011—exemplifying her passion for

religious life, sharing the FSPA mission and inviting women to follow in the footsteps of Saints Francis and Clare.

FSPA celebrate affiliation program’s 30th year

In the early 1970s the FSPA leadership attended the Leadership Conference of Women Religious where they learned of lay affiliate/associate programs in other congregations. This prompted FSPA to consider a connection with lay people more seriously.

In 1981, 30 years ago, Marcella Anibas, FSPA, presented research on affiliate programs and accepted the offer to become its director. One year later FSPA welcomed its first two affiliates: Mary Burkey and Jude Collins. Today more than 230 lay men and women have formally affiliated with FSPA.

Affiliates and sisters celebrated the program’s 30th anniversary during a fall gathering in October. To learn more about FSPA affiliation visit www.fspa.org, select “Join Us” then “Affiliate.”

Sister Lucille Kleinheinz: celebrating a FSPA centenarian

Sister Lucille Kleinheinz’s family and friends joined her in June to celebrate her 100th birthday, officially Oct. 23, 2011.

Sister Lucille retired in 1992 and moved to St. Rose Convent in 2001. She served in the field of education for more than 60 years, starting in 1929 as a teacher at St. Mary’s in Colby,

Perpetual Adoration: hospitality team directs your prayer requests

When you submit a prayer request to FSPA by phone or by email, the FSPA hospitality team and Michelle Frazier, FSPA associate and perpetual adoration coordinator, work together. They ensure that your request is added to the daily intentions inside Mary of the Angels Chapel, where two adorers pray non-stop.

A member of the hospitality team records the phoned-in prayer request and passes it to Michelle. For prayer requests submitted by email or through the sisters’ website, www.fspa.org, Michelle is at the other end ready to reply.

Together the team records more than 230 prayer requests per week.



Left photo, Jean Donley. Middle photo, Michelle Frazier. Right photo, hospitality staff, back row, Shannon Wurtzel and Vicky Ruegg; front, Pegi Olsen and Sandy Novinska; not shown: Susan Young, Emma Byom and Karen Wiste.

Wis. Her ministry included serving La Crosse's Aquinas High School as a teacher and librarian from 1950 to 1992.

Following FSPA tradition, a tree was planted at St. Rose to honor Sister Lucille's 100th year.



Lucille Kleinheinz, FSPA

Viterbo honors sister with alumni award

Sister Mary Ann Gschwind received the 2011 Service to the University Award from the Viterbo Alumni Association. Sister Mary Ann's award was presented during the Alumni Weekend Awards Banquet in October.

Annual Blessing of Time event scheduled

A New Year's Eve prayer service will be led by FSPA on Saturday, Dec. 31, at 6 p.m. in Mary of the Angels Chapel, La Crosse, Wis. To welcome 2012, the evening service will include a prayer for peace, a blessing of time in the New Year and the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The service is open to the public.

Called to religious life? Come & See.

The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration invite women discerning religious life to participate in a Come & See weekend hosted at St. Rose Convent. These weekends allow participants to become better acquainted with our community through learning more about FSPA and Franciscanism in the 21st century as well as through prayer, reflection and discernment in a supportive spiritual environment. The 2012 Come & See weekends are April 13 to 15 and June 15 to 17. For more information contact the FSPA Membership Office at 888-683-3772 or membership@fspa.org. ■

Two sisters profess vows, continue journey with FSPA

Sister Amy Taylor professed first vows with FSPA on June 4. FSPA President Sister Linda Mershon offered the ceremony welcome and recognized the congregation's incorporation team, the Chiara House community and all FSPA and affiliates who have journeyed with Sister Amy to that day. She also recognized the FSPA membership team saying "the purpose of our membership office is not necessarily recruitment. Our goal is to help women discern the best choices for their lives. Amy, we are so glad and proud that your discernment process has led you to this community and to this day." Sister Linda closed by rejoicing on behalf of the entire community: "We are thrilled to participate with Sister Amy in this important next step in the journey."

Sister Amy used words from her FSPA mentors to create an image of the FSPA medal that she included in her ceremony liturgy guide. The sisters' words, describing FSPA, outlined the medal and included joyful, musical, simple, educated, artist, faithful, dedicated, focused, genuine, international, prayerful and more. "For me," said Sister Amy, "it represents both the individual members and the community as a whole. I pray that I can grow into all the history and tradition that our medal stands for and all that it will stand for in the years to come."

She recently began her new ministry as a pastoral associate at St. John Catholic Church in Spring Green, Wis., and St. Luke Catholic Church in Plain, Wis.



Amy Taylor, FSPA



Sarah Hennessey, FSPA

Photo by Nich Perez, CSC

Sister Sarah Hennessey professed final vows with FSPA on Sept. 24. In a blog entry published shortly after learning the news of her vow approval, Sister Sarah recalled parts of the journey that led her to FSPA: "When I was around 12 I first began to really experience God. That led me to become an active Quaker and to seek God through silence and service. Somewhere along the way I had a distinct moment when I knew I had fallen in love with Christ and it was then I knew I'd fallen in love with the people of God. Both have been essential to my journey."

Sister Sarah professed first vows with FSPA in 2005, after completing both her associate year and two years as a novice. About her life as a FSPA she said, "My heart has been tenderized by the journey and the vows already live in my self-identity, my relationships and the rhythms of my life. Jesus walks beside me and I long to live these already-made commitments with fidelity and humility." She continued, "I believe this choice only makes me 'more Sarah,' strengthening the woman God has made me to be. I hope to live into the challenges with fidelity, the joys with hopefulness, and the mystery with the answering 'yes' of my own soul."

Currently, Sister Sarah ministers as a pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Church in Owatonna, Minn. ■

A Drop in the Bucket: making clean water a reality for El Salvadorans

FSPA and their affiliates have taken on a project that aims to make water a reality for villages in El Salvador. Through the FSPA sponsored ministry, Global Awareness Through Experience, funds raised will be gifted to villages serving 300 families. So far they have raised more than \$9,000 toward their \$30,000 goal.

You're invited to get involved:

Watch and reverence water

Visit www.fspa.org/donate to watch *A Drop in the Bucket: The Sacredness of Sister Water*.

Gift for good: give a drop

You're invited to gift a drop to a loved one as a birthday, anniversary, Christmas or "thinking of



you" gift. The development office has a supply of water-themed cards that you can request when you make your donation. You can send the cards to your loved ones letting them know a donation was made in their name.

Give a drop online or by mail

Visit www.fspa.org/donate and, on the online donation form, select A Drop in the Bucket (if you'd like to receive a water-themed card, shown below, add a note in the comment box).

Mailed drops should be directed to FSPA, Development Office, 912 Market Street, La Crosse, WI 54601. Please mention A Drop in the Bucket with your gift.

Stay informed

Visit www.fspa.org/donate to watch the bucket fill. From now until Jan. 15, 2012, a bucket displayed on the website will keep you informed of the campaign's progress—watch it fill to the \$30,000 mark. ■

What's online: www.fspa.org

Common Venture co-founders facilitate gathering in Cameroon

Last spring Sister Linda Mershon, FSPA president, and Sister Marla Lang gathered with Franciscan Common Venture members in Cameroon, West Africa. The meetings reflected on the Common Venture's ongoing interface with the International Franciscan Conference. Networking efforts in light of the mega-trends that impact today's church/world were pondered. A review and evaluation of the Common Venture thus far in light of the values and characteristics of Franciscanism brought the group into a renewed sense of relationship and hope for what is yet to be. Enjoy the full story at www.fspa.org/news.

Sister's dream is fulfilled through mission trip to orphanage in Cameroon

During her recent six-month stay in Cameroon, Sister Mary Becker volunteered in the orphanage five days per week.

"There were 10 children living there during my stay. Three of the children would leave for preschool every morning and the other seven would stay with me for the day," she explained. Because toys are almost nonexistent for the children, Sister Mary tapped into her 30-plus years' experience as a primary school teacher to engage them. Enjoy the full story at www.fspa.org/news.

Retreats and cultural immersion programs scheduled

FSPA sponsored spirituality centers and its Global Awareness Through Experience program have numerous retreat and program opportunities scheduled for the rest of this year and into 2012. The spirituality centers are located in Arbor Vitae and La Crosse, Wis., St. Paul, Minn., and Hiawatha, Iowa. GATE will offer cultural immersion programs to El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala and Peru. For program information and links to more information visit www.fspa.org/news/eventscalendar.html. ■



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