



FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF CHICAGO

125 YEARS OF LOVING, JOYFUL MINISTRY

DECEMBER 8, 1894— DECEMBER 8, 2019

PART EIGHT — THE EIGHTH PERIOD, 1985 to 1994

The eighth period of the history of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago covers the years of 1985 to 1994. At the beginning of this period President Ronald Reagan was inaugurated for a second term. Shortly thereafter, as millions watched via television, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff, killing all seven crew members. It was the worst accident in the history of the U.S. space program.

In 1989 George H. W. Bush was inaugurated as the 41st president. That same year the oil tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound, Alaska, spilling more than 10 million gallons of oil. It was the largest oil spill in U.S. history. Later that year U.S. forces invade Panama in an attempt to capture Gen. Manuel Noriega, who previously had been indicted in the U.S. on drug trafficking charges.

Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in 1990, leading to the Persian Gulf War. The following year saw the U.S. lead an international coalition in a military operation (code named "Desert Storm") to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait. Iraq accepted the terms of an UN ceasefire, marking an end of the war.

Following the breakup of the Soviet Union in Dec. 1991, President Bush and Russian president Boris Yeltsin met at Camp David and formally declared an end to the cold war.

Meanwhile, back in the United States in 1992, the acquittal of four white police officers charged in the 1991 beating of black motorist Rodney King in Los Angeles set off several days of rioting, leading to more than 50 deaths, thousands of injuries and arrests, and \$1 billion in property damage.

Bill Clinton was inaugurated as the 42nd president in 1993. Later that year a 1,200 lb. bomb exploded in the basement garage of the World Trade Center in New York, killing 6, injuring 1,000, and causing more than \$500 million in damage.

After 51-day standoff with federal agents, Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Tex., burned to the ground, killing 80 cult members. The incident was triggered by the state and federal agencies' suspicion that the group was stockpiling illegal weapons.

This period ended, however, on a peaceful note with President Clinton signing the North American Free Trade Agreement into law which allowed for free trade among the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

In the Catholic Church during this period of time, efforts to encourage the Church to consider the ordination of women led Pope John Paul II to issue two documents to explain Church teaching. *Mulieris Dignitatem* was issued in 1988 to clarify women's

equally important and complementary role in the work of the Church. Then in 1994, *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis* explained that the Church extends ordination only to men in order to follow the example of Jesus, who chose only men for this specific duty.

For the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago this period began just after the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the congregation. That anniversary celebration included the establishment of the Mother M. Theresa Heritage Room at the Mother-



The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago created a Home Office to link their varied sponsored ministries. This later became the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation, a registered entity in the State of Illinois. The corporate logo features the Tau sign of St. Francis.

house in Lemont, where her memorabilia and those of the congregation's early foundational days could be viewed.



Sister M. Helene Galuszka standardized financial reporting for the sponsored ministries of the Sisters.

In the early 1980s, it had become increasingly clear that if the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago were to remain faithful to their historical charism, spirit, and ministry as well as to new developments in the Church's self-

understanding, they must seek new ways to relate to their separately incorporated ministries. Diminishing numbers of Sisters, changes in the governance of the religious institute, the growing practical importance of civil law, and the mandates of Vatican II for a true collaboration with the laity in Christian ministry contributed to the examination of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago's relationship to their sponsored ministries. Consequently in 1986 the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago opened a Home Office at the Motherhouse. The purpose of the Home Office was to place all the congregation's corporately owned and sponsored ministries into a single entity for systematic management and service.

The two year experience of the Home Office showed that centralized stewardship yielded positive results for the ministries. The long term goal was to

standardize financial reporting and to create and implement programs for mission integration for both acute healthcare and eldercare sponsored ministries.

Through her experience and education in obtaining an MBA degree, Sister M. Helene Galuszka was invaluable in standardizing the financial reporting process. Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik developed the mission integration program and process for the acute healthcare ministry. Sister M. Francis Clare Radke then adapted that excellent program to fit the needs of the eldercare ministry.

In 1988 the Home Office concept was reorganized and incorporated in the State of Illinois by the Sisters as the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation ("FSCSC") to support, manage, and operate all facilities sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and to assist the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in establishing and extending their charitable mission in health care, social services, pastoral care, and education.

As the eldercare ministries flourished, the Sisters responded to the needs of the Lemont area by establishing Franciscan Village on the extended grounds of the Motherhouse. And, as this period ended, the Sisters partnered with a Crown Point, IN, businessman, Donald J. Burrell, to found St. Jude House. The facility, which can house up to 30 persons, provides temporary shelter for survivors of domestic violence

and sexual assault and their dependent children.

Meanwhile the ministries of the previous period continued despite the lack of new vocations. Thus, at the end of this decade the total ministries of the Sisters were: teaching at one elementary school, one high school, and one junior college; directing religious education at two parishes and at a mission in Mexico; and ministering at five eldercare facilities, one hospital, and two child care facilities.



Sister M. Francis Clare Radke and Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik developed mission integration programs, the former for the eldercare setting, the latter for the acute healthcare environment.