

CROSSROADS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF CHICAGO



ISSUE 38 - SUMMER 2022



FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF CHICAGO

Celebrating 127 Years of Compassionate Service to Those in Need

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**ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL, UNITED IN PRAYER AND COMMUNITY,
WE SHARE FRANCISCAN JOY AND SERVE GENEROUSLY.**

--- Mission Statement of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, December 8, 2010

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, General Minister
Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie, General Vicar
Sister M. Helene Galuszka, General Councilor/General Secretary

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On the Cover: Wood carving of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus on the second floor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Chapel at OLV Convent.

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JUBILARIANS 2022

This year five Sisters are celebrating Jubilees:

Sister Doloria Kosiek, Sister M. Gabriel Lazarski, Sister M. Francine Labus, Sister M. Monica Sendlosky, and Sister Jean Therese Jarosz. Congratulations to our Sisters!

Sister Doloria Kosiek - 75 years of religious life!

Sister Doloria Kosiek was born on January 5, 1930, in Chicago, Illinois. She entered religious life on July 2, 1947, and professed her vows on August 12, 1950. Sister started in the ministry of education in 1947, when she was assigned to teach third grade at Sacred Heart in Tolleston, Indiana. She was assigned to teach at Five Holy Martyrs in Chicago, where she taught third grade (1950 - 1951), fifth grade (1951 - 1952), second grade (1952 - 1953), and fourth grade (1953 - 1954). Sister Doloria was then assigned to teach at St. Florian in Chicago where she taught third grade (1954 - 1955), fourth and fifth grade (1955 - 1956), and sixth and seventh grade (1956 - 1957). Sister went on to teach fifth and sixth grade at Sacred Heart in LaPorte, Indiana, until 1960, then seventh and eighth grade at St. Florian in Chicago until 1967. In 1967, Sister Doloria was assigned to teach at Blessed Sacrament in Gary, Indiana, where she taught fifth grade (1967 - 1969) and seventh grade (1969 - 1970).



Sister Doloria Kosiek

Sister received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education and her Master's degree in Education focusing on Counseling and Guidance from Loyola University. She also received her Master's degree in Pastoral Studies from the Institute of Pastoral Studies in Chicago.

Sister Doloria took a new direction in her career when she entered the ministry of religious education. Sister served as the Director of Religious Education at St. Matthias in Crown Point, Indiana, from 1970 to 1975 and then as the Director of Religious Education at St. Pascal Parish in Chicago from 1976 to 1980. She continued on as Director of Religious Education at Our Lady of Ransom Parish in Chicago (1980 - 1991), St. Hugh Parish in Lyons, Illinois, (1991 - 1994), and St. Mary of Celle Parish in Berwyn, Illinois, (1994 - 1995). Sister Doloria was also a Pastoral Associate at St. Thecla Parish in Chicago from 1992 to 1994.

Sister Doloria taught English as a Second Language (ESL) at St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr School, in Chicago, starting in 1995, and also served as the Assistant Principal (1998 - 2000). From 2000 to 2001, Sister worked on the Fostering Faith Program with the Office of Catechesis in Chicago. Then beginning in 2000 she taught literacy in the ESL program at Oakton Community College until 2001, and at Triton Community College until 2002. Sister continued her work at Madonna Convent in various roles including Vocation Minister (2001 - 2007), Affiliate and Candidate Minister (2007 - 2011), and Local Secretary (2009).

Sister Doloria now lives at Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont. She received the Franciscan Federation Peacemaker Award in 2014 for her work with the Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants. Congratulations to Sister Doloria Kosiek on 75 years of religious life!

Sister M. Gabriel Lazarski – 75 years of religious life!

Sister M. Gabriel Lazarski was born on January 10, 1926, in Chicago, Illinois. She entered religious life on February 2, 1947, and professed her vows on August 12, 1949. As a novice for the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in 1948, Sister Gabriel began working in the dining room and infirmary at St. Joseph Home in Chicago, (now called St. Joseph's Village). Sister was then assigned to work in the ministry of education in 1949, when she started her first teaching position at St. Florian in Chicago, teaching second grade.

From 1950 to 1954, Sister taught first and second grade at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr in Chicago, then taught first and second grade at Assumption in New Chicago, Indiana, from 1954 to 1959, and taught second grade at St. Louise de Marillac in LaGrange, Illinois, in 1959. Her teaching ministry took her to teaching first grade at Blessed Sacrament in Gary, Indiana, from 1960 to 1965, seventh and eighth grade at St. Joseph in East Chicago, Indiana, from 1965 to 1968, and seventh and eighth grade at Sacred Heart in Gary, Indiana, in 1969. During this time she also completed her Bachelor of Science in Education degree at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana. In 1969, Sister Gabriel was named principal at Five Holy Martyrs in Chicago and served there until 1974.

Sister Gabriel was called to leadership in the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago as a General Councilor for two terms (1974 - 1985). During that time, she was also the Apostolate Coordinator (1976 - 1977), Retirement Coordinator



Sister M. Gabriel Lazarski

(1977 - 1979), and motherhouse superior (1977 - 1979). While continuing the role of general councilor, Sister returned to teaching in 1979 when she was assigned to teach eighth grade at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr in Chicago and also served as the local superior (1979 - 1982), assistant principal (1980 - 1981), and then principal (1982 - 1985). During this time, Sister Gabriel received her Masters of Education Degree in Administration and Supervision at Loyola University in 1983. She also served on the boards of St. Joseph Home and Madonna High School.

From 1985 to 1987, Sister served as the first Director of Mission Effectiveness at St. Anthony Medical Center in Crown Point, Indiana. She returned to the motherhouse in Lemont as the Novice Director and Formation Minister until 1990. In 1990, Sister became the Director of Religious Education at Five Holy Martyrs in Chicago. She served there until 1993, while also volunteering part time at the Port Ministry, a ministry that provides various services for impoverished people. Sister Gabriel became the Director of the Mission Integration Program in 1993 at St. Joseph Home in Chicago and served in that role until 2006. Sister then assisted in various roles at St. Joseph Home and Madonna Convent. Sister Gabriel retired in 2012. She received the Franciscan Federation Peacemaker Award in 2013. Congratulations to Sister M. Gabriel Lazarski on 75 years of religious life!

Sister M. Francine Labus - 70 years of religious life!

Sister M. Francine Labus was born on November 30, 1936, in Chicago, Illinois. She was inspired to join the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago while she was a student at her parish, St. Hedwig in Indiana. Sister Francine entered religious life on August 22, 1952, and professed her vows on August 12, 1955.

Sister started in the ministry of education in 1954, when she was assigned to teach fifth grade at St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr and then the fourth grade the next year. In 1956, Sister taught fourth grade at St. John Cantius in East Chicago, Indiana. From 1957 to 1968, Sister Francine taught multiple grades at St. Louise de Marillac in La Grange, Illinois. She also served as local treasurer from 1965 to 1968. She was also the Director of Junior Professed. During this time she received her Bachelor of Science in Education degree at Loyola University in Chicago in 1966, and her Master of Education from Loyola in 1968.



Sister M. Francine Labus

Sister Francine continued her work in education by serving as principal and superior at St. Pancratius in Chicago from 1972 to 1974 and then taught religion to tenth graders from 1974 to 1975 at Madonna High School. From 1975 to 1980, Sister served as principal and local secretary at Five Holy Martyrs in Chicago. She served as secretary of Archdiocesan Principals' Association, Council 15, from 1978 to 1979 and was also a board member of the Sisters Vocation Association.

From 1980 to 1983, Sister Francine was one of the founding Sisters at the St. Francis House of Prayer on the Our Lady of Victory Convent (OLV) campus in Lemont. She also served as the assistant organist at OLV convent and assisted in transcribing Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik's spirituality manuscript. In 1983, Sister Francine began to serve in various leadership roles in the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. She was elected as a Councilor and appointed General Secretary in 1983, and re-elected as a Councilor in 1988. She served in that position until 1993 and then General Vicar from 1998 to 2008.

Sister Francine served at St. Anthony Home in Crown Point, Indiana. She was the Chairman of the Board of Directors there from 1985 to 1998 and served as the Mission Integration Director from 1991 to 1999. She also was the local assistant superior (1995 - 1997), a member of the board at St. Anthony Medical Center (1991 - 1996), and the Chairman of the Corporate Ethics Committee for Long-Term Care (1995 - 1998). During this time, she served as the Corporate Director of Mission Integration for Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation (FSCSC) from 1993 to 2001 and a board member for FSCSC from 1988 to 2012. Over the years Sister Francine attended many educational seminars, religious retreats and Catholic healthcare symposiums. All this was integral to her development of various mission integration programs for St. Anthony Home and FSCSC.

Sister Francine served as the Beatification Liaison for the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago from 2002 to 2014, promoting the cause of sainthood for Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik, foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. Sister Francine retired in 2013. In 2014, she was honored with the Franciscan Weaver Award. Congratulations to Sister M. Francine Labus on 70 years of religious life!

Sister M. Monica Sendlosky - 70 years of religious life!

Sister M. Monica Sendlosky was born on January 18, 1934, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. She entered religious life on September 8, 1952, and professed her vows on August 12, 1955. Sister began her work in the ministry of education in 1954, when she was assigned to teach at Five Holy Martyrs in Chicago. Sister taught multiple elementary grades there from 1954 to 1969. During this time she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Loyola University in 1968.

From 1969 to 1970, Sister taught fourth grade at St. Hedwig in Gary, Indiana, where she also served as the local secretary. Sister taught second grade at SS Philip and James in Cleveland, Ohio, from 1970 to 1974, and then returned to St. Hedwig from 1974 to 1976, teaching second grade.

Sister Monica was transferred to Madonna High School in Chicago in 1976. During her years at Madonna High School, Sister Monica fulfilled her responsibilities as librarian, library aides coordinator, audio-visual coordinator, and student council moderator. She also was involved with the school's musicals. Sister likewise served as the local minister, local treasurer, and local secretary during her years at Madonna Convent.

Sister Monica was a board member at St. Joseph Home from 1981 to 1983, and at St. Anthony Medical Center in Crown Point, Indiana, from 1986 to 1991. In 2001, Sister went to work at St. Joseph Home, serving in the finance department, and also in pastoral care.

Sister served in leadership for the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago when she was elected General Councilor from 2003-2008, and then appointed General Secretary from 2008 to 2013. Sister returned to Our Lady of Victory Convent in 2015 and has served as assistant local minister. Congratulations to Sister M. Monica Sendlosky on 70 years of religious life!



Sister M. Monica Sendlosky

Sister Jean Therese Jarosz - 60 years of religious life!

Sister Jean Therese Jarosz was born on April 12, 1948, in Gary, Indiana. She entered religious life on August 26, 1962, and professed her vows on August 12, 1967. Sister Jean Therese was inspired by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago who taught her while she attended first through eighth grade at Assumption B.V.M. School in Hobart, Indiana. Sister began her work as a novice in 1967, serving and helping at St. Joseph Home in Chicago and at the convent. During this time she took courses to become a certified nurses' aide. From 1967 to 1968, Sister served as an infirmarium aide at Our Lady of Victory Convent. From 1969 to 1970, Sister served as a Resident at St. John's Hospital in Huron, South Dakota, while she worked on her certification as a certified nurses' aide (CNA). Once she received her CNA certificate, she returned to work at Mother Theresa Home in Lemont in 1970 and worked there until 2011.



Sister Jean Therese Jarosz

Over the years, Sister dedicated her time to all the residents there and provided care and support for them. She served as a secretary and sacristan from 1970 to 1986 and as a certified nurses' aide from 1978 to 1991. Sister also worked as a ward clerk from 1991 to 2002, doing a variety of jobs such as assisting with blood work, and providing transportation for Sisters and residents.

Sister became a Mother Theresa Home Associate in 1999 and worked part-time in pastoral care. She also served in the chapel as a Eucharistic Minister and lector. Sister helped bring residents to Mass for prayer and often attended the wakes of residents from Mother Theresa Home and Franciscan Village, providing support and comfort. After 42 years of service, Sister Jean Therese retired in 2011. Sister received the President Award at Mother Theresa Home in 2001 honoring her devotion and dedication there. "With the life and spirit of our foundress, Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik, I gave my love and spirit, following her path and caring for our residents," Sister Jean Therese said.

Sister has served as the local secretary at Our Lady of Victory Convent since 2008 and was the General Chapter teller in 2013. She continues to help the older Sisters at OLV Convent and often will assist the support staff in the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago administration building. Congratulations to Sister Jean Therese Jarosz on 60 years of religious life!

A CHICAGO HERO

Joe Malham, an artist-in-residence and iconographer at St. Gregory the Great Church in Chicago, was recently featured in *Chicago Catholic* for his beautiful art series entitled “Chicago Heroes.” The series focused on holy Catholics who ministered in the Archdiocese of Chicago and accomplished great things in their lifetimes. It featured prominent Chicago Catholics such as Augustus Tolton and Dorothy Day. This particular series was a subset of a larger project that he developed. “I was working on a series called ‘Heroic Catholics of the 20th Century,’ which featured men, women, people of color, lay people, and religious of all nations. I wanted to do a new interpretation and not iconographic. It was more representational and raw, capturing them as they were. While I was working on these, Father Bob Cook from St. Gregory the Great, where my studio is located, suggested that I do a series of panels on Heroic Catholics of Chicago,” Joe said.



Joe Malham's panel of Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik was featured in his series, 'Heroic Catholics of Chicago.'



The Sisters commissioned Joe Malham to create this iconographic interpretation of Venerable Mary Theresa.

Joe began to research his subjects to help him decide whom to feature. One of the Chicago heroes Joe selected was Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik, foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. “I became familiar with Mother Mary Theresa from my association with Father Augustin “Gus” Milon, who helped run the Port, a soup kitchen. Sister M. Claudiana Jachimowicz, a Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, also volunteered there and helped Father. Father Gus had a great devotion to Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik, and that’s where I first discovered her and the great work that she did.”

The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago saw the Chicago Catholic article that featured Joe’s series and contacted him to meet with him and also to purchase a copy of his panel of Venerable Mary Theresa. This canvas reproduction was unveiled to the rest of the Sisters during this year’s May Crowning ceremony and now hangs in the infirmary at Our Lady of Victory Convent. The Sisters then commissioned him to do an original iconographic interpretation of Mother Mary Theresa.

Joe has held a long interest in iconography and sacred art. He attributes this interest through his Greek and Assyrian heritage, two cultures rich with art history and tradition. This led him to study art in Rome and then later receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Loyola University. He developed his iconographic style by using the traditional methods of Byzantine and Russian artists. His artwork has been acquired and displayed by churches and congregations around the United States.



Artist Joe Malham presented the Sisters with his iconography of Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik. (From left to right) Joe Malham, Sr. M. Francis Clare Radke, Sr. Jeanne Marie Toriskie, Sr. M. Bernadette Bajuscik, and Sr. M. Helene Galuszka.

After a couple months, Joe finally presented the finished piece to the leadership of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in May. During the presentation, Joe discussed his creative process and the choices he made while creating the artwork. “I wanted to introduce certain elements into the icon that retained the Byzantine language of iconography. There is an ethereal quality to Mother Mary Theresa as she is slightly out of proportion. The object is not to show the way she was human, but to illustrate her slightly elongated, which shows she’s been transformed into her divine state. She is then situated against a gold background, symbolizing God’s own created light. The two pillars to left and right of her represent the Scripture and tradition of the Church. This is where we get the stories of the lives of the Saints, so we can venerate them and raise them to the altar as models of humility,” Joe told the Sisters. There is great detail in Venerable Mary’s Theresa’s habit, face and hands as Joe spent lots of time developing her face and hands. “The detail in her habit projects some movement. I also worked very hard on her hands. The left hand is pointed to Christ – all icons are Christo-centric and always point to Christ. The right hand is blessing and has the three fingers joined together symbolizing the Trinity and the two fingers are raised to symbolize peace, and also the humanity and divinity of Christ.”

Above Mother Mary Theresa are the logos of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and Franciscan Ministries which illustrate her legacy. They sit on a marble background, which symbolizes the strength of the Church. Because Mother Mary Theresa is still Venerable and not Blessed yet, she doesn’t have a halo. Thus Joe painted a brighter color around her head to give her a bit of an aura as she stands in the doorway between the pillars. “This brings the viewer into it and represents the beginnings of eternity,” Joe said. Lastly the iconography panel is framed with wood handmade by Russian woodworkers from upstate New York with the words “Made by the hands of Joseph” written on the back.

The Sisters thanked Joe and presented him with a reliquary, which contained a small piece of her habit. Joe continues working on his Catholic Heroes series with more panels coming in the future. He is also now a devotee to Mother Mary Theresa’s Cause. “I’m helping to spread the word about her Cause and her mission.”

THE FSC PEACE POLE

The war between the countries of Ukraine and Russia that unfolded this year has been a heartbreaking and devastating conflict as so many people in these countries continue to suffer the hardships of this war. We continue to pray for an end to this conflict and hope for a peaceful resolution. At the entrance of Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont stands the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago (FSC) peace pole. This peace pole serves as a monument to inspire others to spread the message and prayer of world peace with the hope that one day we may achieve a better world.

The FSC Peace Pole was installed on October 2, 2011, in a special blessing ceremony. Guests and village officials from Lemont joined the Sisters that day to dedicate the peace pole and participate in a moment of prayer for the world. It was placed in front of the entrance sign at the convent to honor the Franciscan heritage of promoting the cause of world peace. St. Francis's trademark greeting was, 'Pax et bonum' (Peace and all good). Thus, the peace pole is a modern representation of his peacemaking spirit and a call to all to be instruments of peace. On the peace pole is the phrase, "May Peace Prevail on the Earth" and is inscribed in eight different languages: English, Polish, Spanish, German, Korean, Potawatomi, Latin, and Swahili. These languages were chosen because of their connection to the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and every continent on earth is represented.



“I believe that prayer for world peace is the single most needed good action in today's world for bringing peace to the individual life and, at the same time, for playing a larger role in the achievement of world peace.”

- Masahisa Goi, Founder of the Peace Pole Project



The International Peace Pole Project began in 1955 by Masahisa Goi in Ishikawa, Japan. Mr. Goi dedicated his life to promoting world peace after the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This local movement slowly grew into an international movement by 1976. Mr. Goi believed that peace begins in the heart and mind of each individual. As war begins with thoughts of war, peace begins with thoughts of peace. The Peace Pole reminds us to keep peace ever-present in our thoughts. Today nearly 200,000 peace poles have been placed in over 200 countries.

MAY CROWNING 2022



Sister Jean Therese Jarosz stands with the crowned statue of Mary during the ceremony.

On Monday, May 2, the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago gathered on the second floor of the Sacred Heart Chapel in Our Lady of Victory Convent, to celebrate May Crowning. The Sisters began the ceremony with a Marian hymn called, “On this day, O beautiful Mother.” After the hymn, Sister Jean Therese Jarosz (assisted by Sister M. Francis Clare Radke) placed a wreath of flowers on a statue of Mary. Another wreath of flowers was placed on Mary within the wood carving of the Holy Family, on the wall of the chapel balcony. The Sisters sang “Bring Flowers of the Rarest,” during the crowning and “Hail, Holy Queen Enthroned Above.” Later the other statues of Mary around the chapel and convent were crowned.

May Crowning is a special Catholic ritual and Marian devotion held during the month of May. This yearly tradition honors Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth. A wreath of flowers is placed on the head of a statue of Mary to crown her and honor her. The month of May has long been associated with the beginning of life and rebirth as the season of spring comes into full bloom. Thus, the May Crowning of Mary is symbolic of the start of the new spiritual season. Thanks to the Sisters for sharing this beautiful ceremony and to Sister Jean Therese Jarosz for crowning the statue.



Various statues of Mary around Our Lady of Victory Convent were crowned during the May Crowning ceremony.

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM WHO STRENGTHENS ME

Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik Shares Part Two of Her Story



Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik

In our last issue of Crossroads, we featured an article on the life of Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, General Minister of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago that discussed her childhood and aspirations to join religious life. In this issue of Crossroads, we feature part two, which will explore Sister's life as a religious and the ministries she worked in.

As our story resumes in 1961, eighteen-year-old Sister Bernadette was embarking on a new journey in her life as she decided to follow God's call and become a vowed religious. Sister met with various congregations to look into joining them, but ultimately decided to join her friend Sister Cecilia Kondrc in starting a new American province. Sister Cecilia was a member of the Daughters of Most Holy Savior congregation and had escaped from communist Czechoslovakia, eventually living in Pennsylvania and serving as a teacher. After much discussion, the two women agreed to start the community in the United States, but needed a congregation to train Sister Bernadette in the life of a religious. A group of Sisters from the same community were living in Oakland, California. They had received permission from the Vatican to have a novitiate and invited Sister Cecilia and Sister Bernadette to join them. Thus, Sister Bernadette and Sister Cecilia decided to leave Pennsylvania and move west to California to live with them. "We were on the train for three days. We left 12 inches of snow and arrived to sunny skies and blooming fuchsias," Sister Bernadette recalled.



Sister Bernadette as a novice with her parents.

They arrived in California and moved into a convent on the grounds of a seminary and Sister Bernadette was considered an aspirant. On February 28, 1961, Sister became a postulant. Later that year she would become a novice on August 27. "During the novitiate we studied the Rule and the Constitutions, became familiar with some Canon Law, along with the spirit and living of the vows. Time in novitiate was very difficult as the various nationalities of the sisters caused much disharmony." Sister Bernadette attended college at Holy Name College in Oakland, California, and started on her Bachelor of Science degree in 1962. She majored in education with a minor in theology. Meanwhile, there was discord among the group of Sisters they lived with, partially due to differences in nationalities. They split into groups or moved out, leaving Sister Cecilia and Sister Bernadette in a bit of a bind to keep the community together. Sister Cecilia wrote a letter to the congregation's General Superior in Slovakia for guidance on the situation. Since it was still under communist rule, the letter had to be smuggled into the country and this took time. During this period, Sister Bernadette renewed her vows. "It was



Sister Bernadette's parents observed her making her final vows on August 10, 1968 at Holy Trinity Church in Gary, Indiana.

months before we received a response from the General Superior. My temporary vows expired so Sister Cecilia and I had the parish priest and the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary attend the renewal ceremony and I publicly renewed my vows in the sisters' chapel." Finally the Sisters received a response from the General Superior. She gave permission for the renewal of vows and suggested that they move to the Diocese of Gary, Indiana, as the Bishop there was of Slovak ethnicity and she thought that he would be helpful to other Slovaks. Thus, they heeded her advice and planned the move to Indiana. "In the summer of 1964, we said goodbye to our friends and left by train for Gary. We had lost track of the days and arrived on a Friday. While in the train station in Chicago, we found a hot dog stand. They smelled so good! Much to our dismay, the conscientious clerk reminded us that it was Friday. So while our taste buds were yearning for a hot dog, we had to choose something else!" Once the Sisters arrived in Gary, Sister Cecilia was named the superior, and Sister Bernadette continued working on her

education at St. Joseph College in East Chicago, Indiana. She graduated in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree. After graduation, Sister was hired to teach second grade at nearby Holy Trinity parish school. "I loved teaching and enjoyed my ten years at Holy Trinity. Besides teaching 2nd grade, I taught music theory and also taught songs and hymns to the other students. One of the teacher's aides played the guitar and together with all the children we had a relaxing and joyous time."

Meanwhile, as more young women joined their community, the Sisters moved to two houses across the street from Holy Trinity school. With their congregation slowly growing and more women were entering, the Sisters needed assistance from other communities for retreats and training. "We were no sooner settled in Gary, when we needed to make our annual retreat. We contacted the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ in nearby Donaldson, Indiana, and they graciously allowed us to attend a retreat. These Sisters also helped train our novices." The small community would also often meet with other congregations for events. "The Notre Dame Sisters, who taught at the cathedral school and the Poor Handmaids invited us to their parties and events to give us some sense of community. I was lucky to have the opportunity to interact with two other communities of Sisters." Sister Bernadette found recruiting for their new congregation to be a challenge, as many women during this period in the 1960's were leaving religious life. The most members the group had at one time was six. "It became apparent to me that because of many ethnic differences and the lack of vocations, we were not going to be successful in starting our community in the United States." Sister Bernadette decided to go to Germany to meet with the German Provincial of the Daughters of Most Holy Savior to discuss the situation. The Sisters in Germany asked her to come join them, but Sister didn't want to be that far away from her family and she was still working on her Master's degree in education. When Sister Bernadette returned to the United States, she knew it was time for a change. She began to look at transferring to another congregation. "I finally realized I needed to make a change while I was still young enough to do so. I transferred communities after 14 years as a Daughter of the Most Holy

Saviour. This was an extremely difficult decision as not only was I leaving everything I knew and held dear, I never before quit anything I had started. I also knew that when I left, the entire endeavor would fall apart and it weighed heavy on my heart."

Sister was familiar with the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago through mutual friends and decided to contact them. "My first impressions of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago were extremely positive. The General Minister (Sister M. Hugoline Czaplinski) gave me her time and she listened attentively to my story. She was very compassionate and so gracious that I knew I had found my new community." They agreed on a one year trial period. Meanwhile, Sister finished teaching at Holy Trinity and then transferred to St. Louise de Marillac School in La Grange Park, Illinois. She also finished her Master's degree in Elementary Education from Indiana University during this time. "I was one of thirteen sisters in this parish. I thought I had died and gone to heaven. The school had everything imaginable to assist the learning process of its students. The area was beautiful and peaceful." After a year's trial, Sister Bernadette officially joined the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in a ceremony on June 10, 1976. Sister continued to help Sister Cecilia as they remained close over the years. "Even after I left the Daughters of Most Holy Savior, I continued to help Sister Cecilia. I assisted her in becoming a resident at St. Anthony Home (sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago) in Crown Point, Indiana. Sister lived there for several years until she passed away in 1985. I said to Sister during my last visit with her, 'We started together and we're ending together, not in the way we had expected, but together.'"



Members of 'Daybreak' - the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago singing group (from left to right): Sr. Maureen Battista Tuohy (former member), Sr. Lora Ann Slawinski (former member/deceased), Sr. Diane Marie Collins, Sr. Emilie Marie Lesniak, Sr. Joan Klimek (deceased), and Sr. Bernadette Bajuscik



Guardian Angel Day Care Center (Left to Right) Sister M. Mildred Bieda, Sr. M. Bernadette Bajuscik, Sister M. Edna Perciach, Sister M. Dosithea Ruz, Sr. M. Vincent Swies, Sister M Rose Ann Zmich

In 1981, Sister Bernadette was transferred from St. Louise de Marillac School to Guardian Angel Day Care in Chicago, a childcare ministry the Sisters operated. This was a difficult endeavor for Sister. "It was an extremely tough mission for me. At the time I wasn't interested in administration as I just wanted to teach elementary school children." Once Sister started working there, the director of the center suffered an injury and had to take a leave of absence, thus Sister had to quickly rise to the occasion and help run the center. "No one seemed to know what to do and we were to open the center in a few weeks. So I quickly learned the job of the director, got the staff and Sisters organized and together we got everything ready to open the center. I quickly realized that I was living and working with hard-working and dedicated Sisters and staff." Once the director returned, Sister worked

as her assistant until she was eventually promoted to director. Sister Bernadette held this position until 1984 when she was approached by the General Minister to make a career change. The Sisters' childcare and education ministries were slowly coming to an end as the number of Sisters available to teach dwindled. "I mentioned to the General Minister that I was praying for five years for guidance on what to do when our ministry in education no longer existed. She asked me then and there if I would go back to school for a second Master's Degree, but in Healthcare Administration. I wasn't sure what it meant, but I said I would and it felt like the answer to my prayers." Thus Sister Bernadette went back to university life in 1984 and soon graduated from St. Louis University in 1986, with a Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration.



Sister Bernadette worked at St. Anthony Medical Center for almost 15 years.

After graduation and serving in a residency, Sister Bernadette was assigned to work at St. Anthony Medical Center in Crown Point, Indiana, a ministry the Sisters sponsored. She was assigned to be the administrative assistant to the President but two years later she was promoted to Vice President of Administrative Services. This position covered many areas and departments including Mission Integration. "The Spirit was really with me when I was assigned the task of developing the mission integration program for the hospital. This was a very new concept in the 80's so that is why I give credit to the Spirit who directed and inspired me. Over a period of a couple years of hard work we had an extremely successful mission integration program. Our program was so strong that our patient satisfaction surveys were 95% and above across all categories and our employee satisfaction surveys were high as well. It was also during this time that Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik, the foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, and her life story became more important to me. I felt it was part of my job to have the employees relate to our foundress and her works, as well as to her virtues and values, so I helped educate others on her life." During this time Sister Bernadette joined forces with a physician from St. Anthony Medical Center to establish a health clinic. "I started the St. Clare Health Clinic in Crown Point, with the help of Dr. Ray Drasga. This was a place that provided healthcare to the uninsured and the under-insured. The clinic was very successful and still exists today."

Late one night in 1991, Sister received a call from her family in Pennsylvania that her father had fallen severely ill. She quickly flew in and went to the hospital with her mother and sister Peggy. "We were outside my father's room when he passed. I remember the three of us huddled together in a circle outside his room praying. I had always thought that because I was always stationed far away from home that I wouldn't be there when my parents died. I made peace with this and gave the sacrifice to the Lord. Well, our Lord is never outdone in His kindness and generosity. Not only was I home when my father died, I had a religious sister attend the wake and another the funeral." The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago sold St. Anthony Medical Center to Franciscan Alliance in 1999 after 25 years of sponsorship. Sister Bernadette stayed there for a couple more years after the sale. "I was very sad that in 2002, my ministry at St. Anthony Medical Center had ended after almost 15 years, but God has a way of bringing

good out of sadness. Not long after, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and I asked to go home to Pennsylvania to help care for her. I was given permission and I drove home with only a suitcase, thinking I'd only be there for a couple weeks. I was in Pennsylvania for a little over a year to help care for her until she recovered." The next few years Sister worked in various positions with the Sisters such as Formation Director and also the Director of the FSC Associate Program. "To this day I remain the director and I love the program which provides many religious experiences. The FSC Associates have become a valued extension to our community and our charism." One major career highlight during this time was when Sister Bernadette made a holy pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome in 2004. "I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Franciscan Pilgrimage and be in St. Peter's Square on my birthday to see the Holy Father. I was also delighted to be in Assisi, Italy, on October 4, the feast of St. Francis. In fact the entire pilgrimage was a blessing."

The next chapter in Sister's life began when she was elected General Vicar for the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in 2008. "In this position I was responsible for community days, scheduling and coordinating the annual retreat, organizing the jubilee celebrations, mission integration with our associates and many other things as needed. I found these responsibilities very rewarding because they were directly related to our Sisters." Later that year, Sister's mother became ill. "This was another gift from God as I arranged to move her to the infirmary at Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont. All arrangements were made within two hours. The Sisters welcomed my Mom with warm hearts and open arms. The infirmary staff along with Hospice gave my mom excellent care. For my mother, she got her greatest wish, to come to Lemont and be with the Sisters when she passed away. It was the first time in many years that my eight siblings and I were together. The gathering of the nine of us helped ease the pain of our loss."

Sister's role in leadership for the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago continued in 2013 after her time as General Vicar ended. "I was installed as the General Minister in a lovely ceremony on August 2, 2013. Once again I felt called to the position and even though it carries many heavy responsibilities, I feel blessed to be able to serve my fellow sisters and prepare for our future. As General Minister I have the honor of conducting Canonical Visitation sessions with every Sister. These sessions allow me the opportunity to visit with each Sister personally and to see how she's doing physically and spiritually. It was truly a heart-warming experience, one that I will treasure for a long time." Sister was honored in 2017 with the Peacemaker Award, an award presented every year at the Franciscan Federation conference to honor one member of each congregation. Sister Bernadette was reelected in 2018 and has served as General Minister since then. In 2019, the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago celebrated their 125th anniversary, a momentous occasion that honored all the Sisters who served over the years. "Along with a few guests we had a celebratory Mass and dinner. It was a special and wonderful occasion, enjoyed by all who were able to participate." Sister continues to serve as General Minister and recently celebrated her 60th year as a religious in 2020. "I continue to pray daily for the wisdom to make good decisions for our Sisters and staff. My Scriptural quote, 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me,' continues to fortify me as I continue fulfilling the remaining years of my term."

FRANCISCAN COMMUNITIES RECEIVE NATION'S TOP SENIOR LIVING RECOGNITION



Seven Franciscan Communities have been recognized as part of U.S. News & World Report's Best Senior Living ratings for 2022 - 2023 in the categories of Best Independent Living, Best Assisted Living, and Best Memory Care.

U.S. News reviewed resident surveys from the past year that highlighted the community experience of more than 200,000 current residents and family members at senior living communities across the nation. To receive the 2022 - 2023 Best Senior Living designation, communities had to receive the highest possible rating from satisfaction surveys administered between March 2021 and February 2022.

"We are honored to have our senior living communities recognized as the best in the country," said Franciscan Ministries President and CEO Judy Amiano. "Our Ministry has served older adults for more than 125 years, and this national recognition is a reflection of the outstanding work done by the associates in our communities and the commitment to our mission of Celebrating Life and Serving with Joy."

Addolorata Villa achieved the highest possible rating for independent living, assisted living and memory care offered at the Wheeling, Illinois community. Of the nearly 1,300 communities recognized this year, Addolorata Villa was one of only 25 in the nation to receive recognition for all three service areas.

Marian Village, our senior living community in Homer Glen, Illinois, earned recognition for independent living and assisted living. St. Joseph Village of Chicago has been named among the nation's top assisted living and memory care communities. Mount Alverna Village in Parma, Ohio, and The



Addolorata Villa, Wheeling, Illinois



Marian Village, Homer Glen, Illinois

“ This national recognition is a reflection of the outstanding work done by the associates in our communities and the commitment to our mission of Celebrating Life and Serving with Joy. ”

— Franciscan Ministries President and CEO Judy Amiano

Village at Mercy Creek in Normal, Illinois, were rated top assisted living communities. The Village at Victory Lakes in Lindenhurst, Illinois, and University Place in Lafayette, Indiana, received top recognition for independent living offered at their communities.

The inaugural U.S. News Best Senior Living ratings and profiles offer comprehensive information and exclusive analysis of consumer satisfaction data, evaluating such factors as community and activity, food and dining, caregiving, and management and staff for nearly 2,500 communities in the continental U.S. and Hawaii. For more than 30 years, U.S. News has served the American public as an unbiased arbiter of quality across a variety of important choices. Whether picking a college, selecting a hospital or moving to a nursing home, consumers go to U.S. News to research and make consequential life decisions.

“Until now, families have had limited information when comparing providers of independent living, assisted living, memory care or continuing care,” said Ben Harder, managing editor and chief of health analysis at U.S. News. “The Best Senior Living ratings fill this informational gap with comprehensive and transparent data to help older consumers and their families identify high-quality senior living communities that meet their needs and preferences.”



In photos: (1) St. Joseph Village, Chicago, Illinois (2) Mount Alverna, Parma, Ohio (3) Village of Victory Lakes, Lindenhurst, Illinois (4) University Place, West Lafayette, Indiana (5) Mercy Creek, Normal, Illinois



Family Violence Prevention Center & Shelter

Sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

MEETING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS WHERE THEY ARE

St. Jude House Family Violence Prevention Center and Shelter Launches the First-Ever Mobile Advocacy Program in Northern Indiana

St. Jude House announced that it will be adding Mobile Advocacy to its extensive services and programming offerings later this year. While hundreds of women and children find safe shelter annually and hundreds more utilize non-residential programming at St. Jude House, there are still many more who suffer in isolation with no access to help. Homicide rates associated with domestic violence have increased in Indiana by 181% since the start of the pandemic.

This innovative mobile advocacy model is designed to better serve victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and even stalking. Through this new innovative approach, St. Jude House will reach more victims and survivors through increased access points, locations, and services by working within the communities. The significant difference is meeting victims where they are – in a safe location of their choice.

“While we have helped more than 14,500 women, children and men since opening the doors of St. Jude House in 1995, we are painfully aware that hundreds more throughout the Region either do not know our services exist or they simply have no means to get to Crown Point, Indiana to access help,” said Ryan Elinkowski, Executive Director at St. Jude House. “We believe mobile advocacy will enable us to reach individuals and families who may be in danger and those who may have never reached out to us for services before because of the barriers often associated with entering a shelter.”

Mobile advocacy is a client-focused model that allows greater customization of services to a more diverse population. One of the most significant advantages is advocates can provide flexible meeting locations for services rather than clients coming to the shelter for services. This new model has been proven successful across the nation.

Nationally, domestic violence shelters are only reaching about 5% of individuals who are experiencing abuse. By adding mobile advocacy, programs can significantly increase the reach of their services by removing challenges

victims must often overcome to access services. The transition to mobile advocacy in other communities has provided advocates the unique ability to serve victims more effectively by going to them – in a safe and secure location.

Emerging evidence in the domestic violence field shows the effectiveness of the mobile model for reaching more survivors. When programs across the state of Iowa transitioned to the mobile service model in 2014, they doubled the number of domestic violence survivors served, and quadrupled the number of sexual violence victims served.

STAND UP FOR ST. JUDE HOUSE COMEDY NIGHT

St. Jude House's annual major fundraiser was another big success this year!

On Friday, May 20, St. Jude House held its largest fundraiser of the year: “Stand up for St. Jude House Comedy Night driven by Toyota of Merrillville.” This year was another successful sold out event as nearly 500 guests attended the festivities at the iconic Industrial Building at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Crown Point, Indiana. This year the event was emceed by Robin Rock, of 93.9 LITE FM. The fun-filled evening included live music from Dick Diamond and the Dusters and stand-up comedy from three local comedians. It was a successful night as over \$40,000 was raised during the paddle raise auction.

Toyota of Merrillville was the sponsor again for the third straight year. “We are so grateful to our customers who continue to trust Toyota of Merrillville with their automotive needs, providing us the opportunity to give back to the community we work and live in,” said owner Mike Bauner. Tricia Bauner continued, “Domestic Violence is a public health emergency that demands the attention of the business community. When Toyota of Merrillville and its customers support organizations like St. Jude House, who stand on the front line to make a better life for our local women and children, we are sending a strong message of support to those who need the life-saving services offered at St. Jude House.”



The staff of Toyota of Merrillville present Ryan Elinkowski, Director of St. Jude House, a check to sponsor this year's 'Stand Up for St. Jude House Comedy Night.'



(Left) Some of the St. Jude House staff with special guest Congressman Frank MrVan (Right) Stand Up for 'St. Jude House Comedy Night' had over 500 guests this year.

St. Jude House Executive Director, Ryan Elinkowski thanked Mike and Tricia Bauner for their sponsorship. “We are so grateful for the continued giving from our friends at Toyota of Merrillville, as this gift plays an important role in St. Jude House’s ability to not only empower our clients but also provide them with the tools and resources to break the cycle of violence in their lives.” St. Jude House thanks everyone who attended and participated in this major fundraiser and for their continued support.



MADONNA FOUNDATION

*Franciscan Ministries sponsored by
the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago*

The Madonna Foundation hosted the second annual Madonna Roast, a coffee and conversation event held on Saturday, March 5, 2022. The event held via ZOOM brought together a variety of Madonna Foundation supporters including alumnae, donors and former Madonna Foundation scholarship recipients. The theme for the year was the importance of girls’ Catholic education. Denise Makowski, principal of Cyrus McCormick Elementary, Madonna High School alumna and advisory board member kicked off the event with a discussion about the importance of equal educational opportunities for young women and also shared her personal journey. Laura Curley, President of Trinity High School, shared why the all-girls Catholic high schools are ahead of the curve in preparing young women for college, careers and successful futures.

Our last speaker, Ashanti Teruel, a former Madonna Scholar, joined us from her college dorm room at the University of Illinois at Champaign. Ashanti moved all of us by her remarks as she recounted the support that

Madonna Foundation has given her and her family on her journey to higher education. Ashanti is a great reminder of why we all support this wonderful organization that works to realize dreams for its recipients. Thanks to all who participated in another successful Madonna Foundation community event. We are also grateful to our event sponsors who made this event possible. All proceeds raised were used to support Madonna scholarships.

First Look for Charity

On Friday, February 11, Franciscan Community Benefit Services participated as one of the 18 charities benefiting from this black tie fundraising event held at McCormick Place. We are so grateful to all our donors and supporters who make this event possible for us. Thank you to all who attended and participated in this annual event.



Ashanti Teruel

Madonna Scholar Snapshots!



Congratulations to all graduates as they begin the next stage of their educational journey:

Isabella Palomares

University of Illinois at Champaign

Amira Shackelford

Loyola University

Raquel O'Malley

Purdue University

Autumn Wilson

Western Illinois University

Amelia Krewer

University of Illinois at Chicago

Abigail Burgos

Dominican University

Damaris Ramos

University of Illinois at Chicago

Jahmiyah Madison

Louisiana State University

Arlene Galvin

University of Illinois at Chicago

Angela Lopez

Arrupe College of Loyola

Ariel Ayala

Loyola University

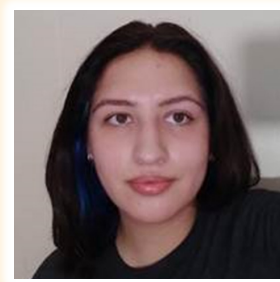
Milly Freire

Illinois College

Madonna Scholar Alumna Spotlight - Meet Sabrina

Sabrina is a current junior at Loyola University and former Madonna scholar. While she was a Madonna Scholar, Sabrina worked part-time at St. Joseph Village, one of Franciscan Ministries' senior communities in Chicago. St. Joseph Village graciously gave her the opportunity to work part-time with a flexible schedule so she could continue her studies. Sabrina, like so many of our Madonna scholars, is able to have these life changing opportunities because of your dedication to our ministry. On behalf of Sabrina and all our scholars, thank you for helping to create these opportunities for the next generation of compassionate leaders.

My overall goal should I become a physician would be to help people make informed decisions that result in either a cure or a higher quality of life. My specific interest in aging and biomedical research arose from my experiences working at St. Joseph Village, an assisted living facility. For the past few years, I worked as a dietary aide and frequently spent time conversing and performing basic assistance with feeding and hygiene. This arrangement allowed me the unique opportunity to observe various stages and types of age-related illnesses. My curiosity exploded and I wanted to learn all that I could from the patients and the nursing staff. This is why I am on the pre-med track at Loyola University and plan to specialize in geriatric care.” - Sabrina, Madonna Scholar



Madonna 5k Run/Walk

Madonna Foundation invites you to attend our 4th Annual Madonna Miles on Sunday, August 14, at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, Illinois. This year, we are pleased to announce we are expanding our event to a 5K Run/Walk. Come out and join us for a morning of fun. It is \$25 to participate or \$40 to receive a t-shirt. You may also participate in the event virtually starting August 1st. Awards will be given to each age division. Register for the event here: [madonnascholars.org](https://www.madonnascholars.org), and click on the banner for the event to view information. For sponsorship information, contact Betsy Garbrecht at 331-318-5170.

EULOGY



Eulogies are prepared by Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, General Minister. A memorial has been established for each Sister in the Legacy Fund and gifts can be made in their memory at any time. Often those close to our Sisters remember their deaths and death anniversaries with a memorial gift. When a Legacy Fund gift is received soon after a Sister dies, we respond with a personal note of thanks and enclose the Sister's prayer card that includes her picture. All gifts are promptly acknowledged. Please join us in prayer for our departed Sisters and for all those who loved them.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF SISTER M. ROSEMARY FERUS

Birth date: May 10, 1931

Entered Religious Life: September 30, 1952

Born Into Eternal Life: January 5, 2022

"I shall sing to the Lord all my life, make music for my God as long as I live. (Psalm 104.33)

Loretta Jean Ferus was born in East Chicago, Indiana, on May 10, 1931, and was baptized a couple of weeks later on the 24th of May at St. Stanislaus Church. Loretta's father Albert was from East Chicago, Indiana and her mother Mary was from Chicago, Illinois. Loretta was the second of five children of Albert and Mary Ferus.



She had two brothers and two sisters. Loretta attended St. Joseph Grade School in East Chicago, Indiana, and at the age of 14, Loretta made her confirmation on March 16, 1945.

After graduation from Bishop Noll Institute of Hammond, Indiana, Loretta joined the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago on August 12, 1949. On February 2, 1950, Loretta became a postulant and later that year on August 12th she entered the novitiate and received the name of Sister Mary Rosemary. Two years later, Sister made her First Profession of Vows on August 12, 1952, and her Final Profession on August 12, 1957.

As a postulant, Loretta went to teach second grade at Five Holy Martyrs in Chicago, Illinois. She returned to Five Holy Martyrs as a second year novice to teach the fifth grade for five months and then was sent to SS. Philip and James in Cleveland, Ohio, to teach the sixth grade for the next six months. After her first profession, Sister returned to SS. Philip and James for another year to once again teach the sixth grade.

Over the next ten years, Sister Rosemary was at St. Casimir in Cleveland, Ohio, where she taught grades 2, 3, 4, and 8. In 1963 Sister obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from St. John College in Cleveland, Ohio. Afterwards Sister was living at St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr convent in Chicago for a year while she attended classes at Loyola University. During this time Sister gave piano lessons for beginners.

From 1964 to 1990, Sister Rosemary was at Madonna High School in Chicago, Illinois. In January 1966 Sister Rosemary obtained a Master's of Science Degree with a major emphasis in guidance and counseling. Sister began her 26 year career at Madonna as Director of Guidance, followed by Director of Education, the National Honor Society Moderator, and the Registrar until 1982, when she became the Assistant Principal. She was also the Director of Postulants and Aspirants for eight years, Local Minister for seven years, and Juniorate Director for two years.

In 1990 Sister Rosemary moved to Lemont, Illinois, to serve at Franciscan Village and Marian Village. During the first 14 years, Sister held various positions: receptionist, Director of Mission Integration, Chair of the Total



Sister Rosemary worked at Madonna High School from 1964 to 1990.

Quality Management Program, Director of Resident Services, and Registrar. In 2004 Sister changed her status to part-time and became the organist at Franciscan Village and Marian Village. After a year Sister was the organist only at Franciscan Village, a position she held for the next five years. During her time at Franciscan Village, Sister enjoyed being with the residents and accompanied them on many of their outings.

After many years of service, on November 11, 2011, Sister Rosemary moved from her coach house in Lemont to live at Our Lady of Victory Convent. For the next 10 years Sister entered a life of prayer and retirement. Sister particularly liked playing Rummikub, working jigsaw puzzles, playing computer games, and eating ice cream.

In the 72nd year of religious life and at the age of 90, Sister M. Rosemary peacefully entered into eternal life at 3:35 P.M. on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, to be with Jesus whom she loved and served with all her heart.



Sister Rosemary served at Franciscan Village and Marian Village for many years.

Join the League/Guild of **Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik**

The League/Guild of the Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik, under the coordination of Sister Mary Venantia Rec, was formed in 1962 to promote the Beatification Cause of Mother Mary Theresa. Membership in the League/Guild helps the Beatification Cause. Members are remembered daily in the prayers of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. Membership is \$10. Call 630-243-3556 for more Information.

Please make your check payable to the: Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and mail to: 11500 Theresa Drive, Lemont, IL 60439. A membership card and receipt will be mailed to you promptly upon receipt of your dues payment.



HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

December 10, 2021- June 8, 2022

The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago thank their donors and friends for partnering with them. The Sisters offer their gratitude and sincere appreciation for their donors' generosity, which has allowed them to continue the ministry started by Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik.

These donations have helped the ministries of the Sisters in a profound way. Their sponsored ministries include affordable housing for seniors, a shelter for victims of domestic abuse, senior retirement communities, and scholarships for all-girls Catholic high school tuition.

The donor list in this issue is recorded from **December 10, 2021 - June 8, 2022**. The Sisters make every effort to keep accurate records and each gift is acknowledged promptly. Should something be amiss, however, the Sisters ask the donors to call them at once. Inquiries should be directed to Vicki Olsen at (630) 243-3556 or email: volsen@chicagofranciscans.com.



THE POOR AND THE NEGLECTED WERE THE COMMITMENT
OF
MOTHER MARY THERESA DUDZIK
FOUNDRESS OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS
OF CHICAGO
BORN 1866 IN POLAND DIED 1918 IN CHICAGO
EPOSTLE OF MERCY FROM CHICAGO
IS HER DESERVING TITLE

RESTRICTED GIFTS

Restricted Gifts enable the Sisters to purchase the items that donors specifically request their donations be used for. The explicit designation by the benefactor allows the donor to become an integral part of the ministries of the Sisters.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The Unrestricted Fund is important because it allows flexibility for the Sisters' use. Gifts are directed to where the need is greatest. The Sisters are able to use unrestricted gifts immediately or to allow them to accumulate until a significant need arises. The thoughtfulness of unrestricted gifts is greatly appreciated.

John Albee
Jerry Borrelli
Eleanor F. Brasky
Linda Caine

Sandra Chafen

Carol J. Esler

Samantha Fastenau

Kathy & Joe Filipiak

Tom & Mary Finnegan

Cathleen M. Finn

Adrienne L. Forstneger

Reverend Norman Gajdzinski

Dolores Grantz

Louise Karwowski

Theresa Kolczak

Marion Jelcz, M.D.

Rosanne Maltese

Claudine Milkowski

Diane Milkowski

Mary I. Mosser

Raymond & Marlene Mosser

Theresa Dudek Schneider

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Soukup

Daniel F. Stempora

James J. Strzyz

Frank Swiderski

Pat Tarczewski

Thomas W. Dower Foundation

Sylvia Ulicny

Sophie Wolniakowski

John A. Zuraw

Loretta Zurek

VENERABLE MARY THERESA DUDZIK BEATIFICATION FUND

Gifts sent to the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago for the Beatification Cause are sent immediately to this Fund. Gifts received through the League of Mother Theresa are used to cover the cost of operating the League Office and once a year (or more often) money from the League is transferred to the Beatification Fund. Thanks to everyone who has helped build the Beatification Fund. Every step in the process requires fees and the Beatification Fund must continue to grow so that funds are there when needed.

Dr. & Mrs. Peter Doris
Dorothea Przybycien

NON-CASH

The Sisters are restricted by law and policy as to the kinds of non-cash gifts they can accept. Among those items are medications and some used items or partially used items. Some changes in legislation also affect the donor. In fact, Congress passed new rules for deducting household goods, clothing and other items. Unless the item is in good used condition or better or was donated before August 18, 2006, donors will not get the tax deduction. Congress wanted to stop people from using charitable organizations to dump unwanted items in order to write off a donation of minimal or no value. It is always best to call the Development Office at 630-243-3556 before giving a non-cash gift. Dropping off something the Sisters cannot legally accept often requires the Sisters to pay for the disposal of these items, which assuredly was not the donor's intent.

RETIREMENT FUND

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

Lois D. Dohra

Stanley F. Kedzior

LEGACY FUND

Using the envelope included with this issue of Crossroads is the easiest way to contribute to any of the Sisters' funds and it makes it especially easy to direct a gift to the Legacy Fund. There are several categories to which a Legacy gift can be directed — the two most popular are Memorials (for deceased loved ones) and Tributes (in honor of living individuals or groups). Some donors make

regular gifts to this fund on anniversaries as in the case of memorials, birthdays, marriages, and our Jubilarians. General, undesignated gifts may be made to this fund as well as donations for one's own special intention. The Legacy Fund is the Sisters' Endowment, which they continue to grow by reinvesting the income from the fund. A gift to the Legacy Fund also continues to grow in perpetuity.

TRIBUTES

In Honor of

the Nawara Families

Therese G. Nawara

In Honor of

Therese G. Nawara

Therese G. Nawara

In Honor of

Mary F. Reynolds

Jean Reynolds

In Honor of Reverend Donald

Roszkowski's 25th anniversary

Sally Franz

MEMORIALS

In Memory of

Genevieve Balsitis

Joe & Therese Perna

In Memory of

Sister M. Amabilis Bellock

Nancy Balvin

In Memory of

Sister M. Claudia Bomba

Robert & Anna Marie Bomba

In Memory of

Sister Mary Clare Brunkala

Marie Kedzior

In Memory of

Sister M. Alacoque Czartoryski

James & Marilyn Straz

In Memory of

Sister M. Rosemary Ferus

Bernice B. Kostrzewski

Marsha Urbanczyk

In Memory of

Marie & Stanley Gancarz

Marie H. Gancarz

In Memory of

Sister M. Epiphany Gorski

Dennis Wilde

In Memory of

Sister M. Alvernia Groszek

James & Marilyn Straz

In Memory of

Jean, Stan & Staś Jarosz

Mary V. Jarosz

In Memory of

Kane Joseph

Roselyn Lucas

In Memory of

Sister Mary Kulik

Joe & Michele Gulas

In Memory of

Sister M. Olga Kulik

Joe & Michele Gulas

In Memory of

Mildred Lang

Marie Maciejewski

In Memory of

Sister M. Rosaline Lenart

Roselyn Lucas

In Memory of

Sister M. Dorothea Micek

Nancy Balvin

In Memory of

Sister M Hermenegilde

Moszczyński

William Napiwocki

In Memory of

Sister M. Altissima Netzel

Marie A. Ernst

In Memory of

Kathleen "Cookie" Obara

Eugene Obara

In Memory of

Sister M. Dolorine Piwowarski

Vincent Sztul

In Memory of

Mary Reynolds

Jean Reynolds

In Memory of

Ray Randolph

Marie H. Gancarz

In Memory of

Sister M. Methodia Ryzner

Geraldine B. Biel

In Memory of
Sister M. Placidia Rzonca
Keith & Karen Urban

In Memory of
Mary Rita Rzonca
Keith & Karen Rzonca

In Memory of
Sister M. Methodia Ryzner
Geraldine B. Biel

In Memory of
Sister M. Albertine Schab
John & Bernadette Vlock

In Memory of
the Sisters who served at
St. John School of Nursing
Joan Gratz

In Memory of
Sister M. Marylla Stanislawczyk
Cliff & Karen Chuey

In Memory of
Sister M. Natalie Uscinowicz
Nancy Balvin

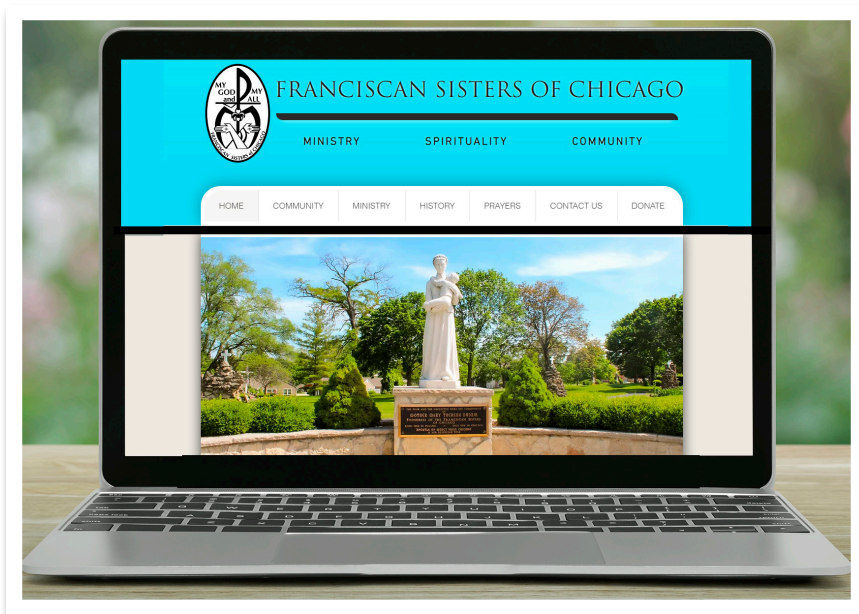
In Memory of
Sister M. Agatha Walerski
Amanda Keithley
Van & Rita Stout

In Memory of
Judith A. Williams
Larry G. Williams

In Memory of
Harry, Sophie &
Carol Witkiewicz
Patricia Witkiewicz

In Memory of
Annette Wontor
Keith & Karen Rzoncz

In Memory of
Reverend Sergius Wroblewski
Mary A. Grever



Please visit our newly
designed website!

Chicagofranciscans.org

Our website has a new look and style
with easily accessible information
about the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago,
their history, their ministries, and the
Beatification efforts for Venerable Mary
Theresa Dudzik.

MOTHER MARY THERESA DUDZIK SPIRITUAL ENROLLMENT

December 10, 2021- June 8, 2022

The Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik Spiritual Enrollment Program provides an opportunity for the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago to share their prayer with others in a special way. A monthly Mass is celebrated for all those enrolled, living or deceased. The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago remember everyone who is enrolled in their prayers. The Spiritual Enrollment card with a matching mailing envelope is exquisitely designed and easy to use. It may be used to celebrate any occasion or to remember a loved one. Please be sure to complete the section requesting the donor's name and address so that the Spiritual Enrollment Book has the donor's name as well as the name of the person being enrolled. A one-year enrollment is \$15. To obtain the enrollment packet, please contact Vicki Olsen at (630) 243-3556.

SPIRITUAL ENROLLMENT - LIVING

Reverend Regis Norbert Barwig

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Bill Bennett

Enrolled by Pat & Joe Budzyn

George Bolokowicz

Enrolled by Pat & Joe Budzyn

Mary Burkaret

Enrolled by Pat & Joe Budzyn

Evelyn Cedzidio

Enrolled by Pat & Joe Budzyn

Frank Fleischer

Enrolled by Pat & Joe Budzyn

Brother Bill Hallas, C.R.

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Reverend Jordan Hite

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Ray Ingham

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Linda Jellema

Enrolled by Pat & Joe Budzyn

Jill Kachin

Enrolled by Anonymous

Lemont Fire Protection District

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Lemont Police Department

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Reverend Gerald Riva

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Alan Zordan

Enrolled by Pat & Joe Budzyn

SPIRITUAL ENROLLMENT - DECEASED

Magin Louis Aviles

Enrolled by Marea Gonska

Genevieve M. Balsitis

Enrolled by Sister Emilie Marie Lesniak

Jerome E. Barton (Jerry)

Enrolled by Chuck & Judy McMahon

Judy Bringe

Enrolled by Lauren & Dan Faxel

Mary Lou Cowperthwaite

Enrolled by Mary I. Mosser

Patricia A. Coughlin

Enrolled by Tim & Wendy Bellagamba

Daniel Daley

Enrolled by Marea Gonska

Sister Regina Marie Dubickas

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Jozefa Dziadek

Enrolled by Patricia Carroll

Sister Mary Fisher, O.P.

Enrolled by

Sister Jean Therese Jarosz

Sister Kathleen Melia

George W. Ferrell

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Robert Giffels

Enrolled by Pat & Joe Budzyn

Anne Gonzini

Enrolled by Sister M. Helene Galuszka

Mitch Granda

Enrolled by Pat & Richard Knowski

Ed Handtmann

Enrolled by Deborah Wagner

Suzanne Herrholz

Enrolled by Gayla & Richard Janicek

Jan Hyc

Enrolled by Joe & Pat Budzyn

Michael Janicek

Enrolled by Gayla & Richard Janicek

Shirley Jeffrey

Enrolled by Gayla & Richard Janicek

Douglas Keleman

Enrolled by Sister Jean Therese Jarosz

Genevieve Koontz

Enrolled by Dorothy Walega

Maureen Krol

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Lottie Kupiec

Enrolled by Sister Jean Therese Jarosz

Jeanne St. Laske

Enrolled by Pat & Joe Budzyn

Kenneth Greig Lyall

Enrolled by Tim & Wendy Bellagamba

Barbara Maine

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Jim Maza

Enrolled by Karen Maza

Carl & Estelle Mick

Enrolled by Karen Maza

Melanie Moak

Enrolled by Diane Milkowski

Norma Jean Mulrooney

Enrolled by Marea Gonska

Thomas M. Nawara

Enrolled by Peggy Hogan

Ellen Noonan

Enrolled by Marea Gonska

Reverend John Nowak, C.R.

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Anne Olszta

Enrolled by Marea Gonska

Josephine Petrick

Enrolled by Pat & Joe Budzyn

Lillian Piekarz

Enrolled by Sister Jean Therese Jarosz

Steven Rys

Enrolled by Diane Milkowski

Robert D. Sanders

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

James J. Strenk

Enrolled by Rich & Pat Knowski

Bonnie Szczech

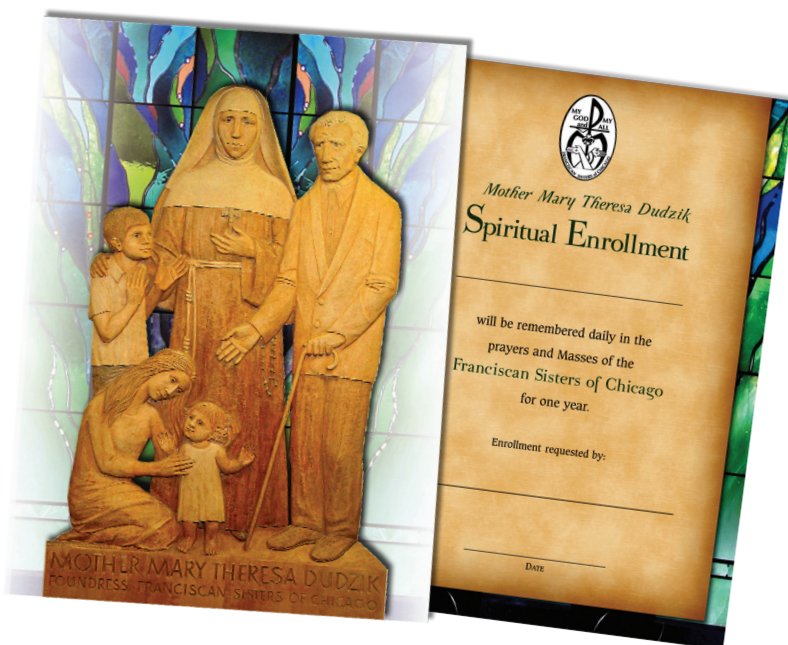
Enrolled by Pat & Joe Budzyn

Patricia Tiernan

Enrolled by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Ed Wieczorek

Enrolled by Klub Miasta Dobczyce
C/o Chuck & Judy McMahon





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Autumn Dinner Dance

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

The Crystal Grand Banquets, Lemont, IL
Call (630) 243-3556 for more information