 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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The Franciscan Federation, a national organization founded in 1965 to promote Franciscan evangelical life, held its annual conference on June 21st through June 24th in St. Louis, Missouri. This year's theme was entitled, "A Call to be Saints, Founders and Prophets: Franciscan Writings Addressing Contemporary Issues." The conference held discussions and speeches on Franciscan texts and how they apply to today's issues.

At the conference the annual Peacemaker Award was presented. The Peacemaker Award is an award presented every year at the Franciscan Federation conference to honor one member of each congregation. This award has a different set of criteria every year. This year's requisites for the award were the following:

- A Saint in the congregation's family (authentic incarnation of our TOR charism)
- A Founder in Franciscan tradition (initiator of a program, or ministry)
- A Prophet in our challenging times (radical witness to justice)

This year the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago selected their foundress, Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik, as the recipient of the 2019 Peacemaker Award. Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie, General Vicar of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, and also Director of the Beatification Outreach Program writes why Mother Mary Theresa was selected this year.

"As an authentic incarnation of the spirit of St. Francis, Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik (1860-1918), a Franciscan Tertiary, saw the poor elderly homeless on the streets of Chicago and brought them into her own apartment, giving them shelter, food, and loving care. Her heart was so touched by their plight that she surrendered her future of a comfortable life as a talented seamstress, to found and become a humble member of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in 1894 and to open the first nursing home in the city of Chicago five years later.

As a prophet she spoke not only with her words, but with her whole life, that the poor, homeless, and elderly were our sisters and brothers, not garbage to be left in alleys. True to her Franciscan charism, her daughters are celebrating 125 years of ministry, having taken her original call and applying it to the needs of our times. Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik is a Saint, Founder, and Prophet who continues to speak to our world today, which yet fails to respect life for people of all cultures, ages, faiths, and economic status."
Sister Joseph Marie Zenda: Bloom Where you are Planted

Sister, teacher, principal, General Minister and Chief Executive Officer, Sister Joseph Marie Zenda has served in many different roles in her time as both a Franciscan Sister of Chicago and a leader with Franciscan Ministries. 2019 marks the 31st year that Sister has served at Franciscan Ministries, since it was incorporated in 1988. The Sisters created Franciscan Ministries (originally named the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation or FSCSC), when they saw a growing need for better oversight of the corporate entities that they sponsored and operated. Sister Joseph Marie is also celebrating her 64th year in religious life as she joined the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in 1955. We asked her to reflect back on life as a Franciscan Sister of Chicago and on her years serving in leadership with Franciscan Ministries.

Why did you choose to become a vowed religious?

Sister Joseph Marie: "I believe that all vocations are a calling and that God plants the seed for how we can best use the gifts we have to serve Him and attain eternal life. We need to be attentive to the signs He provides along the way. In my case, I was drawn to consider religious life and was influenced most by the example and faith of my loving parents, the religious Sisters who taught me, and the close friends with whom I associated. I knew early in my life that I wanted to be a teacher or an architect. Looking back over the years, I know I made the right decision to become a religious because I now see how God has provided the means to utilize the gifts instilled in me to attain both – one through formal education and the other through the roles and responsibilities provided me in the course of my 64 years of religious life."

After joining the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in 1955, Sister Joseph Marie was assigned to teach first grade at St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr in Chicago. Over the next 15 years, Sister would teach various grades at several schools, such as Sacred Heart in Gary, Indiana, St. Leo in Cleveland, Ohio, and St. Joseph in Campbell, Ohio. Sister became the Assistant Principal of Madonna High School in Chicago in 1968 and also taught religion classes there. In 1970, she was promoted to President and Principal of Madonna High School, a position she held until 1983.

How did your experience as principal of Madonna High School prepare you for your later leadership roles?

Sister Joseph Marie: "When assigned to be the principal of Madonna High School, I was fairly young. I came equipped with a Master degree in education and was duly certified, but had no practical experience in administering a high school of 1200 students. I was preceded by Sister Hugoline, a dearly beloved and competent principal. I was also younger than most of the parents of the student body. Sister Hugoline was my mentor in those early years, and despite the difference in our ages, she became and remained one of my closest friends. It is a relationship I will always cherish. I feel that my experience as principal at Madonna High School greatly prepared me for my leadership role as General Minister of the Community. They were challenging yet enjoyable years, that kept me young and on my toes and helped me develop skills I would be called to utilize later in life."

Sister Joseph Marie was elected General Minister of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in 1983. During her ten-year term (Sister was reelected in 1988), the Sisters established FSCSC. FSCSC’s goal was to unite all of the communities
and ministries sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, and place them under one corporate umbrella. These entities would be imbued with the spirit of St. Francis and Mother M. Theresa Dudzik and uphold the traditions of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. The members of the original FSCSC staff consisted of Sister Joseph Marie Zenda, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer; Sister M. Francis Clare Radke, Director of Mission Effectiveness; Sister M. Ralph Stawasz, Treasurer; and Sister M. Helene Galuszka, Director of Fiscal Services.

**Why was FSCSC created?**

**Sister Joseph Marie:** "FSCSC was born out of need when St. Anthony Medical Center approached me about establishing a Franciscan Holding Company with oversight over several for-profit entities. My General Council and I explored the idea from both a canonical and legal perspective. The outcome of our research led to the incorporation of FSCSC. The creation and incorporation of FSCSC in 1988 specifically addressed the needs of the hospital while giving the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago the canonical oversight mandated by Church Law. I became the President of FSCSC and the General Council of the Congregation became the first members of the FSCSC Board of Directors. All our other ministries remained separately incorporated and reported directly to the General Council, who together served as Members of those respective corporations. It soon became apparent that it would not only be practical, but legally and canonically advisable to expand the oversight of FSCSC over all corporate entities owned and operated by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. This included St. Anthony Medical Center, all senior living facilities, Madonna High School and Guardian Angel Daycare Center."

**You went from being a principal to being elected General Minister and then Chief Executive Officer of FSCSC – how did you handle this change?**

**Sister Joseph Marie:** "As vowed religious we are often sent (or elected) to minister where needed and the place or responsibility given us may not always be one of our own choosing. There is a short scripture verse that I have found meaningful under such circumstances. It simply reads ‘Bloom where you are planted.’ It’s as if God were expressing..."
his desire or plan for me - sort of represents God’s marching orders. 'This is my plan for you; use the gifts given you to bloom and prosper.' For people of faith, this scriptural phrase can be easily applied to all walks of life. It became my mantra when elected to office and remains so even to this day.

When initially elected to office in 1983, we had about 250 sisters engaged in ministry, serving primarily in education and health care. Most of the Sisters elected to community leadership that year, however, were educators. We approached our leadership positions as an opportunity to serve our fellow Sisters in community. Never did we ever realize how much time and effort we would be spending in interacting and providing administrative leadership to our health care ministries. During the first two years in office, I spent considerable time balancing the need to attend to community affairs while still being actively engaged in ministerial leadership.

Sister Francis Clare became my traveling companion and confidant in those days. Together we attended seminars, workshops, and spoke with the leadership of other religious orders - all in an attempt to acquire the knowledge needed to govern and even improve the operations of all our ministries. From 1983, prior to creation of FSCSC and 1993, when my second term ended, my council and I served as management for our ministries. While our facilities had always operated autonomously, we quickly realized the need for operational consistency among our facilities. The climate of health care was on the cusp of change in 1983 and we needed to be prepared. Our educational skills proved invaluable as we attempted to work with our administrators to revise and standardize corporate by-laws and define the administrative authority of leadership. We held educational conferences for those in leadership positions and worked together to develop simple guidelines and systems in budgeting and finance, salary administration, hiring practices and operational policies."

Since its creation in 1988, FSCSC has grown to nine senior living communities and two senior housing communities. The Sisters also sponsor St. Jude House (a family violence prevention center) and the Madonna Foundation, (a public charity that increases access for young women to attend all-girl Catholic high schools in the Chicago area). In 2015, Franciscan Ministries moved from Homewood, Illinois to Lemont, Illinois, right next to Our Lady of Victory Convent.

What are your thoughts on the growth of the Sisters’ ministries and all they have accomplished over the years?

Sister Joseph Marie: "I believe that everyone hopes that the ideas, projects, and things one initiates will bear the test of time. I am happy to see that there are several initiates born within the early years of Franciscan Ministries that have met that criterion and have served as foundation stones for the future growth and development of Franciscan Ministries. I’m also happy to see that we are willing and able to extend assistance to other religious orders seeking help in the management of their ministries while also recognizing and meeting the needs of our established communities as they too, age in place.

Most of all I pray that we remember that we are first and foremost a ministry of the Church and that we must remain faithful to its beliefs and values in the fulfillment of ministry. Growth for growth’s sake is not a Franciscan value. Years ago we used to refer to our ministries as 'apostolates.' We were to carry on God’s work as apostles..."
in service to others as cited in the corporal works of mercy. This still needs to remain the motivating force prompting our growth and we will be blessed beyond imagination. May we always remember, 'With God, all things are possible.'

There is a song by Steve Green entitled, “Find Us Faithful” that I offer for reflection. The lyrics speak rather directly reminding us to acknowledge that we’ve been given a legacy not only for us to build upon, but to pass on to others who follow in our footsteps. The lyrics are below:

"We’re pilgrims on a journey of the narrow road
And those who’ve gone before us line the way
Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary
Their lives a stirring testament to God’s sustaining grace.

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
Let us run the race not only for the prize
But for those who’ve gone before us, Let us leave to those behind us
The heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives.

O may all who come behind us find us faithful
May the fire of our devotion light their way
May the footprints that we leave, Lead them to believe
And the lives we live inspire them to obey
Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful."

**The Sisters are celebrating their 125th anniversary this year. What are your thoughts on this incredible milestone?**

**Sister Joseph Marie:** "I look upon anniversaries as opportunities to celebrate God’s abiding presence in our lives. How else can we explain how the life of one individual, Josephine Dudzik, a young Polish immigrant, was able to affect the lives of so many? It is a legacy we should accept with gratitude and with resolve. It’s also an opportunity to thank and acknowledge a whole host of wonderful people, both lay and religious, who throughout these 125 years have provided guidance and professional services meaningful to the growth of our ministry."

Sister Joseph Marie Zenda is now the Vice President of Ministry Development with Franciscan Ministries and works at Mount Alverna Village in Parma, Ohio. "I currently live and work in my hometown and despite my 40 some years away from Cleveland, have been contacted by some of my closest friends and fellow classmates. I also have the unique experience of meeting some of my former students who recognize me when coming to visit their parents, now residents at Mount Alverna Village. Life is indeed beautiful and the relationships we make truly and thankfully live on."
St. Jude House News
The children of St. Jude House receive a new playground.

New St. Jude House Playground

The families and children of St. Jude House have received a wonderful addition right in the shelter’s backyard in Crown Point, Indiana. On Wednesday, September 25th, a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration was held to unveil a brand new playground. This playground was built with help from the Crown Point Community Foundation, the Dawn Brancheau Foundation, and the Service League of Northwest Indiana as part of the 'Let Kids Be Kids' campaign.

The playground has multiple sections with a slide, a climbing wall, and a bounce ride. After the ribbon cutting ceremony, the children of St. Jude House enjoyed the new playground. "This is a game changer for us because we serve more children than adults,” said Ryan Elinkowski, St. Jude House Director. "To have something like this, which will last for so many years to come, will truly bring joy to the children that we serve. It’s a really exciting time for us.”

The playground equipment was acquired and constructed with the help of the Crown Point Community Foundation in cooperation with the Dawn Brancheau Foundation. The Service League of Northwest Indiana helped with obtaining and placing the woodchips. After the ribbon cutting, all of the contributors were honored with a hand painting made by the children of the residents of St. Jude House. "For the past nine years, the Dawn Brancheau Foundation has supported projects for children and animals internationally," said Marilyn Kazwell, who cut the ribbon on behalf of the Dawn Brancheau Foundation. "That was Dawn's passion, so it’s a great pleasure to do something for St. Jude House."

The playground will serve as a place of happiness for all the children who come to stay at St. Jude House. "To watch these kids playing and having a good time is huge," said Jim Larsen of the Crown Point Community Foundation. "Before they came here, they might be struggling 90% of the day. So to see them smiling out here, it makes me wish we could give even more."

Many thanks to the Crown Point Community Foundation, the Dawn Brancheau Foundation, the Service League of Northwest Indiana, and all who contributed to make this fun project a reality.
24th Annual Candlelight Vigil

St. Jude House held its 24th Annual Candlelight Vigil on October 1st, in Crown Point, Indiana. The ceremony began at the steps of the Crown Point Courthouse as crowds of supporters walked to Bulldog Park in Crown Point, Indiana. Many marchers carried signs of support that honored the victims and survivors of domestic abuse. Bulldog Park was decorated with paper lanterns that were designed by the clients of St. Jude House.

Several guest speakers with their own perspectives on domestic abuse attended the event, such as Maryam Afshar, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with Lake County SVU, and Ellis Dumas III, Indiana DCS Regional Manager, as well David Uran, Mayor of Crown Point. "I had the opportunity as a police officer here in Crown Point to respond to domestic violence. We were fortunate to have a facility like St. Jude House here in the community to be able to provide resources and opportunities for people involved," Mr. Uran said.

The final speaker was Darcy Fultz, a survivor of domestic abuse, who gave an emotional speech. "I was terrified to even make the call, but when I did, it was like a whole new world of healing opened up to me," she said. "My children and I love to come to St. Jude House still to this day, and I sometimes think it’s their second home. I’d also like to thank everyone who was up here supporting St. Jude House. I want you to know that you’ve made a difference in my life, my six children’s lives and to the 13,000 people who have walked through the doors of St. Jude House." At the end of the ceremony, there was a moment of silence with each attendee carrying a candle in honor of all the victims of domestic violence.

Please visit [www.stjudehouse.org](http://www.stjudehouse.org) to find out more on how you can help St. Jude House. There is always a need for household and pantry items, adult and children clothes, and other necessities.
Our 2019 Graduates

All nine Madonna Scholar seniors graduated this spring and will attend college in the fall. Their hard work and dedication resulted in multiple acceptances and scholarship offers from colleges and universities coast to coast. The aggregate total of scholarship offers was more than $3,000,000! Karime Sanchez received the Quest Bridge scholarship to Columbia University in New York City and Princeanna Gibson received the Posse scholarship to Pomona College in Claremont, California. Congratulations to all of the graduates as they begin the next stage of their educational journey.

Madonna Scholars 2019
Karime Sanchez, Columbia University
Princeanna Gibson, Pomona College
Melissa Lara, University of Wisconsin
Sarah Herbert, Judson University
Sabrina Martinez, Loyola University
Maria Soto, Illinois Institute of Technology
Katherine Alfaro, Gettysburg College
Sequoia Cook, Northeastern Illinois University
Amanda Delgado, Carthage College

Career Day Event

To gain an understanding of potential career paths and exposure to a variety of professional environments, Madonna Scholars visited Northwestern Hospital, Nuveen Investments, and Opportunities for All. At Northwestern they were treated to a behind the scenes tour of the hospital surgical sterilization unit, the physical therapy department, and the outpatient surgery area. The scholars learned that in addition to traditional medical careers, a hospital offers careers in management, finance, and hospitality. We are grateful to Maria Guerreno at Northwestern Hospital, Tara Liceaga at Nuveen Investments and Nancy Cortés at Opportunities for All for arranging these opportunities.
Service and Spiritual Retreats
To instill and foster the spirit of giving back, the Madonna Scholars participated in a number of service projects including a missioning retreat and volunteer opportunity at Misericordia Home in Chicago; a Christmas party for the residents of St. Joseph Village, a Franciscan Ministries senior living community in Chicago; and a fun-filled visit discussing life after high school with residents at University Place, a Franciscan Ministries senior living community in West Lafayette, Indiana. A scholar described the impact of these service projects by saying, “I believe these sorts of experiences help strengthen my desire to have a hand in the life and care of people.”

Madonna Foundation Partners with Mother McAuley
In August 2019, the Madonna Foundation added a sixth partner school: Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School on Chicago’s southwest side. Now the Madonna Foundation will have a presence in all remaining, all-girls Catholic high schools in the Chicago area. Our five current partner schools include: Resurrection College Preparatory High School, Josephinum Academy, Trinity High School, Our Lady of Tepeyac High School, and Regina Dominican.

Madonna High School Reunion
On Sunday, September 22, 2019, Madonna High School alumnae and former teachers attended a Mass and reunion luncheon at Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont, Il. This year there was a wonderful turn out. Thank you to all who attended!

Go to www.madonnascholars.org to learn more about the Madonna Foundation.
Heritage Hall Gets New Update

The new update was unveiled on September 20th in tribute to Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik’s death anniversary.

Heritage Hall, located on the first floor of Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont, Illinois, is an historical testament to the legacy of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. The room serves as an exhibition hall that highlights 125 years of the Sisters’ ministries in education, healthcare, pastoral and social services, and senior living communities. Over the years, the Sisters saved documents, books, articles, letters, and photographs relating to the history of their congregation and the tremendous growth it experienced. Here these historical artifacts are on display in six sections that begin with the birth of foundress Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik in Plocicz, Poland, and take the visitor through the entire history of the Sisters.
Originally opened in the 1963 Motherhouse, Heritage Hall was developed by Sister Anne Marie Knawa and Sister M. Jude Kruszewski. Sister Anne Marie is the Sisters’ historian and author of 'As God Shall Ordain', an historical chronicle of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. The original Heritage Hall was dedicated on December 6, 1992.

In 2002, a new convent was built and Heritage Hall was relocated to the new convent. Sister Anne Marie was once again tasked with supervising not only the transfer of the historical collection, but also the expansion and updating of the various sections. Thus, the new and improved Heritage Hall was opened on May 20th, 2003.

Recently the Sisters decided to update a section in Heritage Hall that focused on the development and leadership of Franciscan Ministries (formerly FSCSC) in 1988, and the senior living communities that have been opened in the past 30 years. Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie worked on updating this section, giving it a new look.

On September 20th, a very special day in the history of the Sisters, as it is the anniversary of the death of foundress Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik, Sister Jeanne Marie unveiled the newly-updated Heritage Hall section to all of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and various guests with a special tour. The Sisters listened as Sister Jeanne Marie showed the new display and gave a demonstration on how it was assembled with all the graphic elements. Items such as pictures of senior living communities that the Sisters sponsor, photographs of Franciscan Ministries' leadership, and famous quotes by Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik are on display.

Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie gives a tour of the new section to the other Sisters as Sister Anne Marie Knawa and Sister Monica Sendlosky look on.
On Tuesday, July 16, the Most Rev. Nelson J. Perez, Bishop of Cleveland, celebrated a Dedication Mass in the new Portiuncula Chapel in Ancora Memory Support at Mount Alverna Village. The Mass was followed by a blessing of the rehabilitation and life enrichment center, both on the Mount Alverna Village campus in Parma.

"It’s important that we stop and thank God for the many blessings He bestowed on us," said Sister Joseph Marie Zenda. "Today is an historic day for our community and it’s exciting to come together and reflect on the beautiful legacy we created together."

Approximately 150 people gathered to mark the event and see the result of this project which includes the construction of a new memory support assisted living; development of a unique, person-centered memory program; expansion of the in- and out-patient physical therapy space; and creation of a life enrichment center that can simultaneously accommodate several small groups or one large-scale community activity.

According to Mount Alverna Village’s Executive Director Patrick Welsh, "Many people will benefit from these enhancements. They include seniors who live on and off campus, their family members and friends. We’re now one of the most comprehensive and integrated senior living communities in the area."

Ancora Memory Support opened officially to residents in August 2019.
The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago held their annual dinner dance on Saturday, November 2nd, at Crystal Grand Banquets in Lemont. This year the Sisters celebrated the 125th anniversary of the founding of their congregation with the theme, "With Undivided Hearts". A newly-created 125th anniversary banner was placed at the entrance. This banner exhibited photos of the Sisters through the years and honored all who have served in the congregation as it displayed the names of every Franciscan Sister of Chicago, living and deceased.

Once visitors arrived, Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, General Minister of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, spoke to the guests and welcomed them. "Good evening, dear Sisters and friends. Thank you for joining us as we celebrate our 125th anniversary. It has been an incredible journey, a journey with ups and downs, twists and turns, challenges and successes. However, we have been fortunate enough to stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. It also has been a journey with God. And, what I have learned from my past experience is that when one journeys with God, you are never alone because He is always with you. And the other thing I’ve learned is that He sends friends, friends like you who are here tonight celebrating with us. Therefore, it is my pleasure to thank you for journeying with us and to promise you a remembrance in our prayers. May God bless each of you."

After Sister thanked the crowd for coming, Dawn Mayer, VP of Mission Integration & Pastoral Care at Franciscan Ministries, gave a touching toast to the Sisters. The Very Rev. Thomas Paul gave the blessing before the meal. After dinner, the guests enjoyed a prize raffle and a 'split the pot.' Live music was provided by the Together Band as many guests danced the night away.
The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago express their gratitude to the following friends who partnered with the Sisters to make the Autumn Dinner Dance a success:

Belinda Alicea, Guy Alton, Judy Amiano, Anchor Capital, Jessica Basile, Patricia Carroll, Ed & Kay Burton, Sam and Cathy Coltun, Dr. & Mrs. Peter Doris, John Glover, Dolores Grantz, John Grele, Cindy Hall, Henry Bros., Peggy & Bill Hogan, Jim & Kathy Kelly, Francine Modelski, John Nania/Nania Energy, Daniel Noonan, Roberta Parkhill, Susan & Carol Schroeder, Dr. James J. Strzyz, Teresa Szymula, Thompson, Siegel & Walmsley, and Loretta Zurek.

Thank you to the following raffle donors: Car Quest, Celina's Fresh Market, Chicago Wolves, Embers Tap House, George's Restaurant, Davia Humphrey, Jameson's Charhouse, Jewel Osco, Juicy Luzy Sangria, Krystyna's Jewelry, Lange's Woodland Florist, Sister Emilie Marie Lesniak, Vicki Olsen, Carol Oprondek, Mary Mosser, Public Landing, Rosati's, Starbucks, Strike N Spare II, 3 Corners Grill & Tap, The Tap House Grill, and W.A. Jewelers.
The Together Band performed for the guests again this year.

**Thank you to all who attended:**

**Congregation of the Resurrection**
Br. William Hallas, CR
Rev. Joseph Malczyki, CR
Rev. John Nowak, CR
Rev. Gene Szarek, CR

**Immaculate Conception Parish**
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kamis
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Lee, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Lee, Jr.
Very Reverend Thomas Paul

**Sisters of St. Casimir**
Sister Virginia Garsis, SSC
Sister Janine Golumbickis, SSC
Sister Rita Marie Kerdock, SSC
Sister Theresa Papsis, SSC
Sister Margaret Petcavage, SSC
Sister Deborah Romanoski, SSC

**Symbria**
Jamie Arreola
Derek Brown & Guest
Jay Mandra & Guest
Matthew Scalzitti & Guest
Anna Sprlova

**Unidine**
Nicole Cekal
Annette Fischer
Matt King
Gerald Lemmer
Holly Pawlak
Jessica Rocha
Juan Salas
Jose Valdez

**Other Attendees**
Sr. M. Bernadette Bajuscik, OSF
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Bannon
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Belback
Sr. M. Joella Bielinski, OSF
Terri Black
Jim & Marsha Blake
Denise Boudreau
Ewa Chrzanowska
Mr. & Mrs. David Cohn
Lucien Conte
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Czerwinski
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Duckett
Catherine Duffin & Guest
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Dusatko
Ryan Elinkoeski
Sister M. Helene Galuszka, OSF
Marge Garbacz
Mr. & Mrs. John Grele
Vicki Had
Cindy Hall & Guest
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Harris
Judy Horka
Karen Hunsaker
Dorothy Huzior
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Ingham
Erika Jackson
Jean Jackson & Guest
Sr. Jean Therese Jarosz, OSF
Jill Kachin
Kathy Kelly
Fran Klappa
Sr. Doloria Kosiek, OSF
Ms. Olivia Kozy & Guest
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kozy
Sister Emilie Marie Lesnial, OSF
Sheila Lober
Mr. & Mrs. George Maddock
Dawn Mayer
Tim McLaughlin
Mary Mosser
Maria Mulcahy
Daniel Noonan
Vicki Olsen
Elizabeth Pienta
Radoslaw Poltarak
Corrine Pope
Sr. Lois Prebil, OSF
Alyssa Pridhan
Sister M. Francis Clare Radke, OSF
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Rogers
Barb Russell
Juan Salas
Christine Schuler
Kim Sefcik
Mr. & Mrs. John Szlembarski
Patricia E. Tarczewski
Michele Tomich
Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie, OSF
Mr & Mrs. Rich Truesdale
Mae Tyler
Brent Urban
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Wolniakowski
Sonja Wolniakowski
Steven Wolniakowski
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Zielke
On December 8th, the Sisters celebrated the 125th anniversary of the founding of their congregation. It was on this day, on December 8th, 1894, that Josephine Dudzik established the congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Blessed Kunegunda (the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago’s original name) at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Chicago. In observance of this special day, the Sisters held a Mass in Sacred Heart Chapel at Our Lady of Victory Convent. Afterwards they celebrated with a luncheon with friends and family. Congratulations to the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago on this wonderful milestone! Below is a message from Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, General Minister of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago.

Dear Sisters, Associates, Relatives, Benefactors and Friends,

We, the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, are filled with joy and gratitude as we celebrate with each of you the 125th Anniversary of the founding of our religious community!

Our Foundress, Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik, a Polish immigrant, came to Chicago in 1881 with her family to escape the religious persecution, political oppression and economic hardships that plagued her homeland. They settled among other Polish immigrants at St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish where she recognized new issues – lack of adequate housing and neglect of the poor, infirm and elderly. She was driven by one thought which she wrote in her Chronicle: "I felt the misery and suffering of others... the thought of how I could be of service to the needy and the poor haunted me day and night." (Chronicle p. 1)

This strong concern for the welfare of those in need, especially the elderly, led Mother Theresa to forfeit the comfort of her home and to give of herself to care for the poor elderly around her. Her response to this desire to serve and her invitation to other women in her parish to join her in this ministry led her to agree to establish the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago – the first religious congregation to be founded in the city. Together, they established the first nursing home in Chicago, St. Joseph Home for the Aged and Crippled.

Mother Theresa and her fledgling group encountered numerous unexpected difficulties, but with the grace of God and through the intercession of St. Joseph they strengthened their resolve to persevere in their ministry. She wrote, "We continued working to attain the goal for which we had banded together." (Chronicle p. 17) We, the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, have dedicated ourselves to the ministry of the Church through healthcare, eldercare, education, pastoral care and social services for 125 years, always striving to be faithful to our call. We stand on the shoulders of many brave women who worked tirelessly for God’s people. We recommit ourselves to continue to give witness to the Gospel message through our dedicated lives and ministry to the Church.

As we celebrate this milestone in our heritage of loving service, we ask the Lord to bestow many blessings upon each of you.

In Christ,
Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik, General Minister, Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
In celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, we offer you some photos of the Sisters throughout the years. Please enjoy this look back into the past. (Below): The first four pioneer Sisters in 1900. (From left) Sister M. Anna Wysinski, Sister M. Angeline Topolinski, Sister M. Agnes Dzik, and Sister M. Theresa Dudzik.

A group of Sisters and postulants from 1911.

Sisters in a group photo from 1916.
(Above) The Sisters take a group photo outside the Motherhouse in 1928. (Left) Sisters and Postulants stand in front of St. Elizabeth’s Nursery in 1927.

(Left) The Sisters study chemistry in the 1940's. (Above) In 1939, the Sisters celebrated their 45th anniversary. (Below left) The Sisters gather for a celebration at St. John Hospital in Huron, South Dakota in 1952. (Below right) The Sisters sit in front of the Christmas tree in 1956.
A group of Sisters make their first profession of vows in 1963.

In 1966, a group of Sisters celebrate their Jubilee anniversaries.

The Sisters gather for their General Chapter in 1974.

The Sisters sing together in choir practice (early 1970’s).

This group photo of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago was taken in 1982.

A group photo of the Sisters from the late 1980's.

Sisters stand with Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik's casket before it was moved to the new convent in 2002.

The Sisters assemble in Marian Hall in Lemont in the 2000's.

Foundress Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik was honored with a street named after her in Chicago in 2011.
"We continued working to attain the goal for which we had banded together."

- Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik, Foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Sister M. Antonella Abramowicz  
Sister Jean Adamczyk  
Sister M. Innocenta Antosz  
Sister M. Fidelia Armaty  
Sister M. Purissima Babinski  
Sister M. Sponsa Bajorek  
Sister M. John Barczak  
Sister M. Hyacinth Barczewski  
Sister M. Paulette Barnak  
Sister M. Dionisia Baron  
Sister M. Costka Baron  
Sister M. Blanche Bartkowski  
Sister M. Elaine Bartkowski  
Sister M. Teresanna Bartuszewski  
Sister M. Elizabeth Baut  
Sister Susan Catherine Bayliss  
Sister M. Amabilis Bellock  
Sister M. Seraphia Bejrowski  
Sister M. Alberta Bialas  
Sister M. Ildephonsa Bidus  
Sister M. Mildred Bieda  
Sister M. Joella Bielinski  
Sister M. Albina Bieszczat  
Sister M. Theodosia Biss  
Sister M. Veronica Blaskiewicz  
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Sister M. Ernest Blazonczyk  
Sister M. Simplicita Bloch  
Sister M. Catherine Bobula  

Sister M. Raphael Bogalecki  
Sister M. Dolorosa Bojanowski  
Sister M. Claudia Bomba  
Sister M. Eleanore Bomba  
Sister M. Eustace Borowski  
Sister M. Clare Brunkala  
Sister M. Christine Brzozowski  
Sister M. Delphine Brzozowski  
Sister M. Petronia Budzinski  
Sister M. Tarcisia Bucki  
Sister M. Sabina Bujak  
Sister M. Hedwinette Burliga  
Sister Rose Therese Bzbziak  
Sister M. Leonida Bywalec  
Sister M. Martha Bywalec  
Sister M. Pelagia Bywalec  
Sister M. Caroline Cabaj  
Sister M. Ignacja Chodkiewicz  
Sister M. Arcadia Chmiel  
Sister M. Crecencia Chmiel  
Sister M. Aloysetta Ciezadlo  
Sister M. Sophie Ciurkot  
Sister Diane Marie Collins  
Sister M. Aura Cyburt  
Sister M. Hugoline Czaplinski  
Sister M. Alacoque Czartoryski  
Sister M. Bridget Czuj  
Mother M. Vincent Czyzewski  
Sister M. Hilary Dadej  
Mother M. Jerome Dadej  

Sister M. Theresa Dadej  
Sister M. Leocadie Das  
Sister M. Hildegarde Demps  
Sister M. Redempta Demski  
Sister M. Imelda Derbin  
Sister M. Eugenia Detlaf  
Sister M. Lucy Drozdz  
Sister M. Francis Drufke  
Sister M. Roberta Duda  
Sister M. Pascarine Dudek  
Venerable M. Theresa Dudzik  
Sister M. Ignatia Dukowski  
Sister M. Thaddea Duran  
Sister M. Richard Dusynski  
Sister M. Pauline Dydo  
Sister M. Loyola Dymanowski  
Sister M. Chester Dziarnowski  
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Sister Emilie Marie Lesniki
Sister M. Cyprian Lewandowski
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Sister Helen Marie Mackowiak
Sister M. Celine Madaj
Sister M. Cherubim Madaj
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<td>Sister M. Aurelia Zyla</td>
<td>Mother M. Mechtild Zendra</td>
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<td>Sister M. Agatha Zywien</td>
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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 April 26, 2019 to November 1, 2019. 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.
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.

Sisters of St. Casimir
St. Louise de Marillac
St. Pancratius Holy Name Society
LaVerne Bara
Tim & Wendy Bellagamba
Diane Borla
Tim Callahan
Chris Donohue
Joseph A. Dubczak
Adeline F. Galuszka
Crystal M. Kurek
Joseph S. Lushnia
Marlene & Raymond Mosser
Mary I. Mosser
Michelle Patterson
Thomas A. Purl
Susan & Carole Schroeder
Lottie Surmacz
Rita M. Waters
Carl R. Winger

VENERABLE MOTHER
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 theBeatification Fund must continue to grow so that funds are there when needed.

Marion Soriano

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. The Sisters thank the following for their gifts in kind:

Car Quest
Celina’s Fresh Market
Chicago Wolves
Embers Tap House
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
Adeline Galuszka
George’s Restaurant
Davia Humphrey
Jameson’s Charhouse
Jewel Osco
Juicy Luzy Sangria
Sister Jean Therese Jarosz
Krystyna’s Jewelry
Lange’s Woodland Florist
Sister Emilie Marie Lesnaik
Vicki Olsen
Carol Oprondek
Mary Mosser
Public Landing
Rosati’s
Starbucks
Strike N Spare II
3 Corners Grill & Tap
The Tap House Grill
W.A. Jewelers
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.

Crystal M. Kurek
Frank Swiderski

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. Ultimately a portion of this fund will be used to help those who entrust their needs to the Sisters, including their own infirm and aged Sisters.

GENERAL GIFTS

Estate of Theophane Mary Zaucha

TRIBUTES

In Honor of
Sister Emilie Marie Lesniak
Bernadette M. Benson

MEMORIALS

In Memory of
Cecelia Bratek
William & Patricia Bratek

In Memory of
Edward L. Cieslak
Jean B. Cieslak

In Memory of
Thaddeus Gasior
Florence Gasior

In Memory of
George & Eleanor Haske
Douglas Haske

In Memory of
Sister M. Josephine Haske
Douglas Haske

In Memory of
Patricia Henry
John M. Henry

In Memory of
Sister Marianne Kaplan
Barbara A. Rose

In Memory of
Alodia Kolody
Deborah Javorka

In Memory of
Patrick & Kathleen Lavelle
Mary Elizabeth Lavelle Day

In Memory of
Richard Maciuszek
Mary Ann Finnegan

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

In Memory of
Sister Frances Szczur
Van & Rita Stout

In Memory of
Julia Vargyas
Richard Vargyas

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

In Memory of
Carol, Harry & Sophie Witkiewicz
Patricia Witkiewicz
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 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

- **Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik**  
  Enrolled by Anonymous
- **Laura Bennett**  
  Enrolled by  
  Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik
- **Nelson Bernauer**  
  Enrolled by  
  Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie
- **Sister Rosemary Ferus**  
  Enrolled by  
  Our Lady of Victory Convent Sisters
- **James Fronczak**  
  Enrolled by Charlotte S. Dudzik
- **Father Edward Gleeson**  
  Enrolled by Marge Garbacz
- **Bill & Peggy Hogan**  
  Enrolled by  
  Sister M. Francis Clare Radke
- **Linda King**  
  Enrolled by Peggy Hogan
- **Sister M. Josetta Kuczmarski**  
  Enrolled by  
  Our Lady of Victory Convent Sisters
- **Sister Carol Keehan, DC**  
  Enrolled by  
  Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
- **Nick & Cathleen Kitowski**  
  Enrolled by Sister Kathleen Melia
- **Jeffrey Les**  
  Enrolled by Adeline Galuszka
- **Sheila Mehigan, Ed.D.**  
  Enrolled by  
  Sister M. Doloria Kosiek  
  Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie
- **Reverend Metod Ogoreve, OFM**  
  Enrolled by  
  Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
- **Sister Lois Marie Rossi**  
  Enrolled by  
  Our Lady of Victory Convent Sisters
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<td>Casey Choragwicki</td>
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<td>Therese Derbas</td>
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NEWSLETTER OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF CHICAGO

Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
11500 Theresa Drive
Lemont, IL 60439-2727

Address Service Requested

SWINGING FOR THE SISTERS
11TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

JUNE 10, 2020
COG HILL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, LEMONT, IL
CALL 630-243-3556 FOR MORE INFORMATION