Crossroads - Look Inside

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On the Cover: This photo is of the Tabernacle in Sacred Heart Chapel at Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont, IL.

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Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik was born on September 15, 1942, in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. She entered religious life on February 6, 1961, and made her first vows on August 28, 1962. Sister originally made her vows with the Daughters of the Most Holy Saviour, but transferred to the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in 1974 and made her vows with them on June 10, 1976.

Over the years, Sister held teaching positions at Holy Trinity Elementary School in Gary, Indiana, (1966 - 1975) and St. Louise de Marillac Elementary School in La Grange Park, Illinois, (1975 - 1981). She later served as Director and Administrator at Guardian Angel Day Care Center in Chicago from 1981 to 1984. At St. Anthony Medical Center in Crown Point, Indiana, Sister became the Administrative Assistant to the President in 1987, and later served as the Vice President of Administrative Services from 1989 to 2001. During her time as Vice President, Sister developed their mission integration program and managed many essential departments such as Dietary, Human Resources, Environmental Services, Pharmacy, and Rehab. Also during this time, Sister helped establish the St. Clare Health Clinic in Crown Point for people who lack health insurance. Sister later served as Vice President of Development at St. Anthony Medical Center until 2003.
Sister received her Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Elementary Education from Calumet College in 1966 and received her Master of Science degree from Indiana University in 1974, majoring in Elementary Education. Sister then went on to receive her Master in Health Administration degree in 1987 from St. Louis University. Sister was also board certified with the Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (F.A.C.H.E.) in 1996.

Over the years, Sister served as a member on various boards including St. Joseph Home, Franciscan Home Care Services (Chair 2015 - 2017), Franciscan Elder Services, Addolorata Villa (Chair, 1999 - 2001), Franciscan Village, Mount Alverna Home, St. Anthony Home, and Guardian Angel Day Care Center (Chair, 1983 - 1984). Sister has also been the team leader of the FSC Associates since 1988 and the FSC Associate Director since 2003. Sister was the General Vicar of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago from 2008 until 2013 and has been General Minister since 2013.

Congratulations to Sister M. Bernadette Bajuscik on 60 years of religious life!

**Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie**

60 YEARS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE!

Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie was born on February 1, 1945. She entered religious life on January 29, 1960, and made her first vows on August 12, 1963.

Sister has served in the ministry of education since 1964. Her first teaching assignment was at St. Stanislaus Kostka School in Youngstown, Ohio (1964 - 1971), where she taught multiple grades, and then at Madonna High School in Chicago (1971 - 1979), where she taught English, German, math, and science and was also the foreign language department chairperson. Sister then taught science, math, and reading
at Five Holy Martyrs School in Chicago from 1979 to 1983. In 1984, Sister Jeanne Marie became principal at St. Florian School in Chicago and served there until 1989. She then served as principal at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr School in Chicago until 1999.

Sister became very tech savvy in the early days of the computer age and taught computer literacy in the adult education program at Olive Harvey Junior College in Chicago from 1986 to 1989. She also served as a Teacher Trainer for the IBM 'Writing to Read' program for the Riordan Foundation in Los Angeles, California, from 1993 to 1998. Sister returned to teaching in 2001 when she became a professor at St. Xavier University in Chicago, teaching in the School of Education at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and later as a Coordinator of the STEM laboratory.

In addition to her education background, Sister served on the Board of Directors and the Professional Affairs Committee from 1987 to 1996 at St. Anthony Medical Center in Crown Point, Indiana. Sister has also been active in leadership in the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. She was a General Councilor from 1998 to 2003, and from 2008 to 2013, and is currently serving as the General Vicar from 2013 to the present time.

Sister has a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in German from Youngstown State University, a Master of Arts in Library Science from Dominican University, a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a Doctor of Philosophy from Loyola University of Chicago. In addition to her extensive education, Sister holds professional memberships in the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Phi Delta Kappa, American Association of University Women, and is an active participant in many others. She is also an honorary lifetime member of the Illinois Junior Academy of Science.

Sister Jeanne Marie is also a published writer with an extensive list of written articles for various periodicals over the years. Her latest writing project was serving as editor of 'The Chronicle by Venerable Mary Theresa' (Josephine Dudzik), foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. This book contains Mother Mary Theresa's journal writings as well as historical background information and an epilogue about her Cause for canonization. Sister has also been the presenter for the Cause of Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik since 2006 and continues to give multimedia presentations on her life and tours of Heritage Hall which traces Mother Theresa's charism of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago which she founded. Sister Jeanne Marie was appointed promoter of the Cause in 2016. She is now the liaison with Rome for any "miracles" attributed to Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik's intercessions.

Congratulations to Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie on 60 years of religious life!
Franciscan Communities Ranked Among Nation’s Best Nursing Homes by U.S. News & World Report

Addolorata Villa, Franciscan Village, St. Joseph Village of Chicago, The Village at Victory Lakes, and University Place received national recognition.

Five communities managed by Franciscan Ministries have been recognized among the best nursing homes in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*.


To be recognized as one of the nation’s best nursing homes, communities must achieve the highest rating possible. *U.S. News & World Report* gives the designation of Best Nursing Home to those facilities that meet their assessment of services and consistent performance in quality measures. Only 21 percent of skilled nursing facilities in the United States were recognized this year.

“We are honored to once again be listed among the nation’s best nursing homes,” said Judy Amiano, President and CEO of Franciscan Ministries. “We have gone above and beyond -- more than ever this year -- to continue providing the quality care that residents and families have come to expect from Franciscan Communities. Our associates rose to the challenge to find innovative ways to keep residents connected and to ensure that resident health and safety is our top priority.”

Now in its 11th year, the U.S. News Best Nursing Homes ratings and profiles offer comprehensive information about care, safety, health inspections, staffing, and more for nearly all of the nation’s 15,000-plus nursing homes. The Best Nursing Homes ratings reflect U.S. News’ exclusive analysis of publicly available data using a methodology defined by U.S. News that evaluates factors that it has determined most greatly impact patient and resident care, safety, and outcomes. This year, to accompany the new ratings, nursing home profile pages were updated to
include a patient safety summary that reflects COVID-19 data alongside other measurements of safety and advice on choosing a community amidst the pandemic.

“U.S. News strives to provide access to information that allows consumers to make educated decisions on all types of care,” said Ben Harder, managing editor and chief of health analysis at U.S. News. “Updating the profiles to include a patient safety summary that highlights COVID-19 data paired with other measures of care arms families, caregivers, and patients with the information needed to make a decision that keeps safety at the highest priority.”

"We have gone above and beyond -- more than ever this year -- to continue providing the quality care that residents and families have come to expect from Franciscan Communities.” — Judy Amiano, President and CEO of Franciscan Ministries

The Best Nursing Home finder features ratings on both long-term and short-term care. The Long-Term Care Rating aims to provide prospective residents who need help with daily activities, and their families, with analysis and information regarding the quality of care provided by nursing homes. The rating includes data on staffing, success in preventing ER visits, and pneumonia vaccination rates, among other metrics. The short-term rating incorporates measures of quality, including consistency of registered nurse staffing, use of antipsychotic drugs, and success in preventing falls.

In other ministry news, St. Joseph Village of Chicago has been named one of the top-rated nursing homes in the Chicago area by Kev’s Best, a local blog that ranks the Chicago area’s top businesses. “We are honored to be recognized as one of the top nursing homes in Chicago,” said Brian Celerio, Executive Director at St. Joseph Village. “I am extremely proud of our residents and associates during these unprecedented times. As we transformed how we interact with our residents to ensure safety and health, our continued focus has remained steadfast – providing quality care while helping residents find their purpose at each stage of their lives.” Boasting a rich heritage, St. Joseph Village was established by Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik in 1894 to become the first Catholic senior living community in Chicago. Today, the community serves people of all faiths, providing opportunities for residents to live a fulfilling lifestyle focused on a healthy mind, body and spiritual wellbeing. For more information about Franciscan Communities, call 800-524-6126 or visit www.franciscanministries.org.
The Devotion of John Roszkowski

The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago have long promoted the cause of sainthood for their foundress, Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik. In 1994, she was declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II. For her Cause to progress, she needs a miracle attributed solely to her intercession so the Vatican can promote her to the next step, being declared Blessed. In June of 2020, Sister Jeanne Marie, promoter of the Cause of Mother Mary Theresa, received a letter from Father Donald Roszkowski from Peoria, Illinois. In the letter, Father Donald communicated the story of his father John, who lives in Normal, Illinois. The letter began: "Dear Sister Jeanne Marie, my father John Roszkowski has indicated to me that although he has prayed many devotions, he particularly prayed to Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik for the intentions of his kidney problem."

Late last year in October, John was struggling with severe health problems. This all began when he received the wrong antibiotic to treat an infection which led to serious health complications and resulted in his kidneys shutting down. Thus, he began to experience End Stage Renal Disease. "Any diagnoses with the words "end stage" typically qualify a patient for hospice because without treatment, death is the near immediate expected outcome," said Doctor Robert Bruha, who treated John during his health crisis.

John’s health began to deteriorate. "I was given six months to live," he said. As the finality of this diagnosis sank into John’s mind, he remembered he had a clipping of a picture of Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik that was in the Catholic Post, a newspaper from the Diocese of Peoria. He prayed fervently to Mother Mary Theresa.
Then the unbelievable happened. John got better.
"Although it is common for patients in good health who experience acute renal failure to have significant renal recovery, when considering Mr. Roszkowski’s chronic hypertension and diabetes, and other health problems, chief among them being his age, this level of recovery is unexpected. Mr. Roszkowski’s devout faith may have played a significant role in his recovery. When a patient shows signs of recovery, the instinct of healthcare workers is to assume that it is because of their treatments. In reality, recovery can happen because of their labor, with their labor, or in spite of their labor. Prayer and grace help in all circumstances, it is never misdiagnosed, it is never a medication error, it is never negligence,” Dr. Bruha said in a letter to the Roszkowski family.

John has made quite a recovery and is feeling better every day. He continues to receive care from Dr. Bruha and has made steadfast improvements. “I’m amazed...a little over a year since it happened and I’m getting better!"

John also wanted to express his gratitude to Mother Mary Theresa: “I would like to thank Mother Mary Theresa for her most powerful intercession. I pray every day the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Rosary of the Tears of the Most Holy, Pure, and Immaculate Mother for Mother Mary Theresa’s Beatification and her Canonization. May God bless her for all the great things she did while she was here on earth.” The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago are now in the process of reviewing John’s devotional story and whether it can qualify to further Mother Mary Theresa’s saintly cause. The Sisters also ask everyone to continue to seek intercession from Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik, so that one day she can be elevated to the final step- sainthood. For more information and updates on her saintly cause, visit chicagofranciscans.org or mothermarytheresadudzik.com.
In 1958, a priest by the name of the Reverend Henry M. Malak visited the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago’s Motherhouse in Lemont, Illinois, to give a retreat to the members of the Our Lady of Czestochowa Society. He was then asked by the Sisters to lead a series of future retreats and become a retreat master for them. Father Malak agreed to serve as a retreat master and then asked the Sisters for background and historical information on their congregation to learn more about them. He was given a copy of ‘The Chronicle by Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik,’ the journal writings of their foundress. He was so moved by her writings and life story that he became a great supporter of her cause for sainthood. Thus began a long collaboration between the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and Father Malak as he helped them pursue the saintly cause of Mother Mary Theresa.

In 1958, a priest by the name of the Reverend Henry M. Malak visited the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago’s Motherhouse in Lemont, Illinois, to give a retreat to the members of the Our Lady of Czestochowa Society. He was then asked by the Sisters to lead a series of future retreats and become a retreat master for them. Father Malak agreed to serve as a retreat master and then asked the Sisters for background and historical information on their congregation to learn more about them. He was given a copy of ‘The Chronicle by Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik,’ the journal writings of their foundress. He was so moved by her writings and life story that he became a great supporter of her cause for sainthood. Thus began a long collaboration between the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and Father Malak as he helped them pursue the saintly cause of Mother Mary Theresa.

Father Henry Malak was born on All Saints’ Day, November 1, 1912, in the village of Sadki, Poland. In 1932, he entered the Archdiocesan Seminary in Gniezno, Poland, and was ordained a priest at the Poznań Cathedral in Poznań, Poland, in 1938. “My six years of theological studies in an exceptional seminary had a tremendous impact on me. The very fact that four of my former professors have already won the title, "Servant of God," speaks eloquently for itself. Under such professors we not only studied theology, we lived it,” Father Malak recalled. The title of ‘Servant of God’ is the first step a person receives on their way to sainthood. Thus Father Malak was very blessed to be taught by so many brilliant, religious minds in the seminary.

Father Malak also attended lectures at his seminary given by the famous Saint Maximilian Kolbe, who was canonized in 1982 by Pope John Paul II. “In addition, Blessed (now Saint) Maximilian Kolbe lectured frequently in our school, a fact of no small influence upon the minds and souls of the young students,” Father Malak recalled. Maximilian Kolbe was a Polish priest and Conventual Franciscan Friar who helped found the Militia Immaculata, a Catholic evangelization movement that encourages intercession to the Virgin Mary for the conversion of sinners. It is still an active organization to this day. Father Kolbe was arrested by the Germans in 1939 and sent to Auschwitz, the concentration camp. When a prisoner escaped the camp, the German guards picked ten prisoners to starve to death in an underground bunker to deter more escape attempts. Father Kolbe decided to
sacrifice his life and volunteered to take the place of one of the prisoners who had a wife and family. The guards let the two men switch places and the prisoner lived. It was said that Father Kolbe led the dying group in prayer each day as each one succumbed to starvation. Father Kolbe was the last to survive and then was murdered by the Germans. After World War II, Father Kolbe’s story became world-famous and he was declared a ‘Servant of God,’ which led to his eventual canonization in 1982, by Pope John Paul II. Father Malak highlighted his time and his connection with the famous saint through creativity such as paintings and drawings he made of the two of them together as well as through his writings.

After his ordination, Father Malak served in Września, Poland, and then became a vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Inowroclaw. Just a year later, on September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland, thus starting World War II. Within months, the Germans began the takeover of the country and began arresting people and placing them in concentration camps. Father Malak and other Catholic priests throughout Poland were arrested by the German Gestapo. He was deported to the territory of Gdansk and imprisoned. As the war raged on for the next six years, Father was imprisoned in several camps and then spent the last four years of the war in the infamous Dachau concentration camp in Germany. This was an incredibly difficult time as thousands of people perished in the camp. The camp was liberated by the US Army in April of 1945. Once liberated, Father served as a pastor in Germany and ministered to Polish refugees in camps at Mannheim and Heilbronn in Germany. Father Malak
was a very gifted speaker and his Masses were very popular and heavily attended in the refugee camps. He later authored a book about his time during World War II called, *Shavelings in Death Camps: A Polish Priest’s Memoir of Imprisonment by the Nazis, 1939 - 1945*.

Father Malak immigrated to the United States in 1950 to the town of Pulaski, Wisconsin, and joined the Assumption Province of the Franciscan Friars at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary monastery. He was invested with the habit of the Secular Franciscan Order in 1951 and began work as an editor and writer at Franciscan Publishers where he wrote many articles and was a regular contributor to their Polish language magazine. During this time, he also wrote, produced, and delivered numerous Polish religious broadcasts on radio and television.

Father Malak was offered a job to be an editor for religious programs for Radio Free Europe in the Polish department, which was run by the famous Polish war hero, journalist, and politician, Jan Nowak-Jeziorański. Father declined the position as he felt it would interfere with his pastoral work in the United States. Jan Nowak-Jeziorański would go on to become one of the most famous Polish broadcasters beloved by many Polish people around the world. He later served as an advisor to both Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996.

In 1957, Father Malak was transferred to Christ the King Seminary in West Chicago, Illinois, and continued to write and publish articles. Father also organized religious retreats and guidance to the Polish immigrant community throughout the United States and Canada (nearly 300 retreats in his lifetime). It was through this retreat work that he met the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. Early on in his encounters with the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, Father became a big supporter of the cause for sainthood for Mother Mary Theresa. He encouraged the Sisters to interview all who knew her personally, such as family members, friends, and Sisters who lived during her time to give oral testimony about their time with her, which resulted in 116 depositions. He also assisted the Sisters in developing various articles and brochures about Mother M. Theresa’s life to share with the public. Eventually,
Father wrote a brief biography on her life entitled, *The Apostle of Mercy of Chicago* which was published in 1961. Not long after, Sister M. Venantia Rec, assisted by Sister M. Jeannette Golojuch, formed the League of Mother Mary Theresa so that information about this saintly cause would be made known to a wider audience. Many people were now inquiring about Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik.

Father Malak developed a quarterly newsletter for the League called, *The Apostle of Mercy from Chicago Bulletin*, for which he served as the editor. It was produced in both English and Polish and distributed to its members. Besides writing, Father also had a gift for music as he composed a religious hymn dedicated to Mother Mary Theresa. It is still sung during the monthly Beatification Mass.

In 1963, Father Malak was appointed postulator for the cause of beatification for Mother Mary Theresa, by Albert Cardinal Meyer, Archbishop of Chicago. A postulator is one who helps lead and promote the cause of sainthood. One of the first things he did as postulator was to help establish the Mother M. Theresa Museum inside the Walker mansion, the novitiate house on the grounds of the Motherhouse in Lemont. Here artifacts and other historical items from the beginning days of the congregation and personal items of Mother Mary Theresa were put on display. Father Malak took up residency in the Walker mansion and while promoting Mother Mary Theresa’s cause, he also ministered to the Sisters. Father also had a gift for photography as he would often take photos around the grounds of the Motherhouse. Sisters remember that when they were novices, Father Malak would photograph them and personally send the photos to their families.
In 1968, after extensive work, Father Malak and Sister M. Hugoline Czaplinski published *The Chronicle by Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik*. Each Franciscan Sister of Chicago received a copy of this 172-page spiral book of Mother Mary Theresa’s journal writings. Father added document footnotes and some illustrations to accompany the book and Sister Hugoline typed and translated it into English. The book was only available to the Sisters and has never been available to the general public until now. An updated version is currently available for purchase with a new cover and design by Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie and then copyrighted by the Sisters. Details on how to purchase a copy are on page 16.

Father Malak continued his work as postulator for the Cause until 1972 and assisted Father Michael Machejek, newly appointed postulator in Rome, with all research, material, and documents associated with the cause. Father Malak was also part of the special tribunal delegated by John Cardinal Cody, the Archbishop of Chicago, that was present during the 1972 exhumation of the remains of the Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik for examination.

In 1975, Father Malak published another book about Mother Mary Theresa called, *Theresa of Chicago*. This biography was more in-depth, detailed, and used a little creative license, dialogue, character examination, and commentary to illustrate her life story and the world struggles and upheaval around her as she started the congregation. The book contains many artistic drawings by Father Malak as well as historic photos. The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago are in the process of republishing this book as well and will offer it for sale at a later date.

Father Malak consistently reported on all the great work he was doing in North America to Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński, the famous Primate of Poland. Known for his stance against communism, the Cardinal is a Polish national hero who is credited
for the survival of Polish Christianity during the reign of the communist regime throughout the late 20th Century. Father Malak even organized a Marian convention of Polish Canadians in Ontario in 1957. Thousands of people came to pray for Poland and the Cardinal (who was imprisoned by communists at the time). In 1975, the Cardinal named Father Malak an honorary counselor and said, “The deeds of your life, marked by sacrifice and the cross of prison camp torments and by uncommonly intense and diverse pastoral work, embody and reveal those most wonderful powers which the Heavenly Father calls forth in the human soul when that soul surrenders completely to the love of God’s Work.” Cardinal Wyszynski, who now has the title of "Venerable," was scheduled to be officially beatified this year, but this great honor has been delayed due to the current pandemic.

Father Malak remained in Lemont for the rest of his life. In his later years, he ministered to the Sisters and continued to promote the cause of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik. He passed away on June 19, 1987, and is buried in Our Lady of Victory Cemetery in Lemont. His extraordinary life’s journey took him from Poland and the perils of World War II to the peaks of religious inspiration in the United States and Canada. Whether it was through his countless writings or his sermons from the pulpit, Father Malak touched the lives of so many people with his gift of creativity. He was a great asset to the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago for so many years and remained eternally devoted to the saintly cause of Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik. The life journey of this priest connected him to many Polish dignitaries, famous religious, and ultimately to the company of saints.
Read Mother Theresa Dudzik's personal memories of seeing the poor and needy in her neighborhood and feeling called to help them. Read about how she founded the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago to aid her in her works of mercy. Read further her own recollections of the deep interior struggles, hardships, and triumphs she experienced as she established the first Chicago nursing home to care for the homeless, elderly, and orphans of her time. Learn how these initial ministries in healthcare, education, and social work began during the eras of massive economic turmoil, labor strikes and of the horrors of World War I. Be inspired by Mother Theresa's unwavering faith and trust in God.

The Chronicle by Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik is available for purchase in three formats through Amazon.com (keyword: Toriskie). The full color paperback costs $30, the black and white paperback costs $7, and the Kindle edition costs $4.19.

Both paperback editions are also available in the gift shop at: Our Lady of Victory Convent, 11400 Theresa Drive, Lemont, IL, 60439.

Call to arrange for curbside cash payment and paperback pickup at (630) 243-3600.
With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year has been quite a challenge for everyone. The Madonna Foundation adapted many of its fundraising and educational events into online and virtual programs. This past autumn, the Madonna Scholars participated in several online learning events such as a writing workshop in September, ACT review classes provided by the Princeton Review in October, and a Money Smart Program in November presented by WinTrust Bank. These beneficial programs help prepare the students for the college application process.

Madonna Mile

The scheduled spring Madonna Mile fundraising walk was moved to August as a ‘virtual walk.’ Almost 100 walkers and supporters, including several Madonna High School Alumnae, participated in the event at home and in their neighborhoods. The Madonna Foundation is pleased to see the continued support of Madonna High School alumnae, as many also shared photos of their walks on their social media pages and drew more attention to the event. The virtual option may be continued again next year since it was so successful. Thank you to the Madonna alumnae committee for getting the walk organized and distributing the virtual information to everyone. It made this event a great success.

Upcoming 2021 Events

The Madonna Foundation looks forward to 2021 and the many events planned to enrich and support the Madonna Scholars on their respective chosen paths after high school. In January there will be a virtual STEM workshop presented by Argonne National Laboratory and in February there will be a retreat/service day with the Feed My Starving Children program. College visits are planned throughout the spring as well as other tentative events but may adapt to virtual programs if needed due to the ongoing pandemic. On February 6 at 10 a.m., the Madonna Foundation will have the 'Madonna Roast,' a free virtual event and scholarship fundraiser. Participants
get a free coffee sent to their house just for signing up. Rosa DeLuna-Frede, Managing Partner with Andersen Tax, and Dr. Denise Schoenbachler, Endowed Professor at Northern Illinois University, will be the guest speakers. The topic is empowerment through education. Additionally, there will be a cash raffle for this event (only 100 tickets will be sold). The ticket cost is $50 and the cash prize is $1000. If you would like to be a sponsor, contact Betsy Garbrecht at 331-318-5170 and you may also register at www.madonnaroast.eventbrite.com. There are two sponsorship levels at $250 and $500. Sponsors will be recognized on the Madonna Foundation website and on social media. At the $500 sponsor level, they will also have their name and logo printed on the coffee packets that will be sent to all participants.

A Madonna Appeal

Now more than ever your support is needed! Many Madonna families have been among those hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, facing reduced wages, layoffs, illnesses and loss. A Catholic school is a safe haven and is often the one place a student can find refuge and support. The following story highlights the need for support and how the Madonna community has come together during these turbulent times.

One Madonna scholar turned to the Madonna Foundation for help and support as her family faced multiple setbacks this year during the pandemic. Maria, a senior, contracted the virus. As a result, Maria had a difficult time keeping up with her school work and was unable to help care for her two younger siblings. Maria’s mother, who suffers from severe underlying health issues, was hospitalized for COVID-19 twice and was denied her disability benefits during this time. Maria’s father was also laid off from work and became ill with the virus. The family found itself in dire financial straits. They were unable to pay the balance owed for Maria’s school tuition. Maria’s senior year was in jeopardy. With mounting debt and the loss of income, the family was facing the painful realization of being forced to transfer their daughter to a public school known for gang-related violence, crime, and low graduation rates. They turned to the Madonna Foundation in desperation to help them find a way to enable Maria to remain in her Catholic school and complete her senior year. Through the generosity of Madonna High School alumnae, they were able to help Maria and her family through this crisis and to find the support they needed. Thank you to all who helped Maria and her family. Unfortunately, their story is not unique and many more Madonna families are in need of help.

If you would like to help, you may make a donation online at www.madonnascholars.org or contact Betsy Garbrecht at (331) 318-5170. The Madonna Foundation would like to thank all who continue to help and show their support and carry on the tradition of Madonna High School. It is because of YOU that the Sisters’ legacy of educating and empowering teen girls continues.
“The Madonna Foundation encouraged me to give back to the community, attend career workshops, go on college visits, and take part in an internship. It has provided a great deal of support during the past four years and for that I will always be grateful.”

- Daniela Olmos, Trinity 2020

“The Madonna Foundation provided me the opportunity to attend the school of my choice. My time as a Madonna Scholar has been one of the best experiences of my life and has influenced my personal growth. The memories and insights I have gained as part of the foundation will enable me to do great things in the future.”

- Madeline Vargas, Trinity 2020

“In my years with Trinity and Madonna, I have become ten times more confident and increasingly ready to take on whatever comes my way. I am no longer afraid to stand out or be different. I embrace change, acknowledge failure, and accept challenge.”

- Ashanti Teruel, Trinity 2020

“Though there were many challenges in my senior year, the school and the foundation insured safety for all the girls and provided a place to call home. I would love to give thanks to the Madonna Foundation, Josephinum Academy, and especially to Ms. Betsy, for making me feel welcome with their unconditional support.”

- Melenie Sianez, Josephinum ‘20

“Because of the Madonna Foundation, I was exposed to so many wonderful opportunities that have helped me not only be successful in my high school career, but will also help me in my college career as well. The ACT prep classes allowed me to get into the college of my choice! I am so thankful to have been a part of this amazing scholarship.”

- Monica Antunez, Josephinum ‘20

“There are so many things that I am grateful for because of the Madonna Foundation, but the most I’m grateful for is the way the Madonna Foundation encouraged me to chase my dreams. They taught me that no matter how hard life is, no matter what obstacles I may face, I can achieve any dream that I put my mind to. I can become whoever I hope to be.”

- Chelsea Galarza, Josephinum ‘20

“Through Madonna, I was given so many opportunities and advantages. These last four years opened my eyes to see that as long as I have the right attitude and dedication, I can accomplish just about anything.”

- Jada Patterson, Trinity 2020
Paving the Way to a Violence-Free Existence

Catherine was in Crown Point, Indiana, visiting family in early October, 2019. She was a long way from Oregon, the state she has called home for the last eight years. It would have been easy enough for her to just leave the area without a thought about St Jude House. After all, maybe it would bring back too many painful memories of her time at the shelter, a time when she and her then ten-year-old daughter, Sarah, escaped from a terribly abusive home, which almost cost Catherine her life. However, this was not the case though.

Catherine and Sarah actually planned a surprise visit to St Jude House during their time in Northwest Indiana. They had such big news to share with the advocates and case workers. It was an important time for them to share a major milestone: Sarah, now 18, was headed off to college and she was so inspired by her time at St. Jude House, she made plans to become a social worker. Sarah wanted to pay forward the loving care she and her mother had received at St Jude House when she was just a child.

Catherine explained to us that she and her daughter “giggled like school kids” as they approached St Jude House. They couldn’t wait to share their amazing news! But as they turned into the parking lot, the two of them were stunned into silenced. Catherine’s heart sank. Sarah began to cry. Had St Jude House closed? Had it lost its funding? There were still cars in the lot, so they admitted being a bit confused.

They rang the bell, explained who they were through the intercom and were invited in. Relief rushed over them as they stood in the well-manicured lobby. They quickly explained that when they saw a parking lot in such disrepair, they assumed St. Jude House had lost its funding.

Priorities

Resurfacing the parking lot was lower on our 2020 priority list, but this experience with Catherine and Sarah touched us deeply and increased the urgency of this project. We had only considered the project from a hazardous liability standpoint. We had not looked at it from the perspective of those we serve. Catherine and Sarah changed that. We now thought about past clients coming to visit and feeling we are not properly funded. We now thought about new clients entering our lot for the very first time and feeling lack of confidence in our programs and services. We thought about clients coming and going from the shelter seeking
employment, housing, or medical care and feeling they aren’t worthy of the dignity and safety of a properly paved parking lot. At St. Jude House we empower our clients and their children with the tools and resources on their journey to self-sufficiency while breaking the cycle of violence in their lives. Now we see that journey must start with the hope and promise of a smooth entry to our front door.

**Special Thanks to an Anonymous Donor**

St. Jude House is so grateful to the anonymous donor for underwriting our new parking lot construction project. The donor stepped in to ensure the dilapidated parking lot would get an incredible face lift. God was moving and making miracles happen, as community partners, Ozinga and C & S Concrete Construction, provided a concrete lot instead of asphalt for a quarter of the price! Concrete is said to last up to 40 years, whereas asphalt would have had a ten year life span at best. A ribbon cutting and dedication is planned for Spring of 2021.

*Many thanks to community partners Ozinga and C & S Concrete Construction who provided a concrete lot for a quarter of the price.*

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**St. Jude House Wish List**

**Household Items**
- Pots & Pans
- Silverware
- Tupperware with Lids
- Plastic Bowls (sized for cereal or soup)
- Paper Towels, Toilet Paper
- Disinfectant Wipes

**Children’s Needs**
- Multi-cultural Baby Dolls & Barbie
- Uno Card Sets
- Action Figures
- Baby Oil
- Slippers
- Nursery Water

**Pantry Needs**
- Juice, Bottled Water
- Canned Soups (not tomato soup)
- Canned or Frozen Vegetables
- Canned Ravioli/Spaghettios
- Snack Foods

**Adult Needs**
- Carmex or Medicated Chapstick
- Women’s Slippers
- Winter Coats (Large and XL)

Use Amazon Smile to give a gift that keeps on giving! Simply go to smile.amazon.com on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit, you will be prompted to choose a charitable organization from a list of eligible organizations. Select St. Jude House—Crown Point, IN. Once you select us as your charity, you’re all set to shop! Amazon will automatically donate a portion of your shopping proceeds to St. Jude House, at no cost to you!
Eulogies

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. Petronia Budzinski

Born: February 1, 1921
Entered Religious Life: August 22, 1934
Born Into Eternal Life: July 22, 2020

“Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing... The Lord hath done great things for them.” (Psalm 126:2)
Leocadia Veronica Budzinski was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 1, 1921, and baptized a few days later on February 6 at Five Holy Martyrs Church. Leocadia was the seventh of ten children born to Peter and Kathryn Budzinski, immigrants from Poland. She had six sisters and three brothers. Peter worked in a mill by a furnace for forty years to support his growing family. Kathryn was a stay-at-home mother during the day, but at night she worked as a housekeeper in an office building. These loving parents taught their children to always be good to one another and to always stick together.

Leocadia loved to play school as a child and she also enjoyed playing jump rope and hop-scotch. She first met the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago (FSC) when she was a student at St. Pancratius School. She watched how they prayed and was fascinated with their reverence. Leocadia joined these Sisters on August 22, 1934, when she was only 13 years old. Both her parents were proud that God had chosen one of their children to enter religious life. From 1934 to 1937, Leocadia completed her high school studies. She then became a postulant on February 2, 1937, and entered the novitiate on August 15, 1937, receiving the name Sister Mary Piotronia. Two years later, Sister made her First Profession of Vows on August 15, 1939, and her Final Profession on August 12, 1944. In 1960, Sister simplified her name to Sister Mary Petronia.

Sister M. Petronia began her 51 years of service in the field of education in 1938 at St. Hedwig School in Gary, Indiana, where she taught third grade. She usually taught the third and fourth graders except in 1952 when she was assigned to teach sixth and seventh grades and a year later the fourth and fifth grades. Sister taught at St. Hedwig for sixteen years. In 1949, Sister obtained her Bachelor of Science in Education from DePaul University in Chicago and a Certificate in Franciscan Theology in 1955 from St. Xavier College in Joliet, Illinois. She was also the local treasurer at St. Hedwig Convent from 1949 to 1954.

In 1954, Sister Petronia was sent to St. Florian School in Chicago where she taught the fourth grade for two years. Her next assignment was to East St. Louis, Illinois, where she taught second and third grades at St. Adalbert School. Sister remained in East St. Louis from 1956 until 1961. During her time at St. Adalbert she was the assistant superior and the local secretary. In 1961, Sister moved to Hammond, Indiana, where she taught second and third grades for a year at St. Mary School. During this year she had the added responsibility of being the sacristan and the local treasurer.
Sister Petronia was transferred in 1962 to Assumption School in New Chicago, Indiana, to teach first and second grade. This was her first experience teaching first grade and she loved working with the younger students. In fact, first grade was her favorite grade to teach. While Sister was at Assumption School, she was also principal and the local minister.

In 1968, Sister went to St. Pancratius in Chicago and taught first grade for two years before she moved in 1970 to St. Louise de Marillac School in LaGrange Park, Illinois, where she taught the first grade for 17 years. During this time, Sister was the assistant to the local minister for a year and local treasurer for four years. Sister was the local minister for seven years and sacristan for a year.

Sister Petronia loved to dance, laugh, and enjoy parties. She also loved being a Sister and a teacher. She taught her students a most important lesson: the joy of living a happy and fulfilling life.

In 1987, Sister came to Our Lady of Victory Convent and was the local minister for six years. At the end of her term as local minister, Sister went to volunteer four days a week in the Marketing Office of Franciscan Village from 1993 to 2011. During this time, from 1996 to 1999, Sister was also the local minister of St. Colette Community at Our Lady of Victory Convent and for two years, Sister helped the support staff in the FSC Administration building.

Finally, on January 26, 2012, after a very full life, Sister Petronia decided to retire. Sister spent the last years of her life reading, praying, and enjoying the company of family and friends. Until the very end, she attended all community meetings and events, retaining her interest in life.

In the 85th year of religious life and at the age of 99, Sister M. Petronia peacefully entered into eternal life at 8:35 P.M. on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, to be with Jesus whom she loved and served with all her heart.
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 **June 1, 2020 - November 23, 2020**. 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.
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.

**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

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**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.

**Estate of Mrs. Adeline F. Galuszka**

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**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.

**Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik Beatification Fund**

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**Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik Beatification Fund**

**Mr. & Mrs. William Crannell**
**Lois D. Dohra**
**Charlotte Dudzik**
**Lauren Fixel**
**Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Finnegan**
**Norman Gajdzinski**
**Gayla & Richard Janicek**
**Crystal Kurek**
**Joseph S. Lushnia**
**Tom & Jolene Mastramico**
**Frank & Francine Modelski**
**Raymond & Marlene Mosser**
**Mary Mosser**
**Lawrence Murray**
**Therese G. Nawara**
**Robert M. Olson**
**Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Purl**
**Theresa Dudek Schneider**
**Lindsey Waiter**
**Carl & Joyce Winger**

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**Diane Adkins**
**Steve Bardoczi**
**Tim & Wendy Bellagamba**
**Diane Borla**
**Jerry Borrelli**
**Patricia Carroll**
**Barbara Catenazzo**

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**Lois D. Dohra**
**Charlotte Dudzik**
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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:

**Sisters of St. Casimir**
Kathleen & Edward Florence

**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.

*Brian Bobick*
Joseph Maciora

**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.

**MEMORIALS**

**In Memory of**
*Mary Louise Dow*
Yvonne Johnson

**In Memory of**
*Sister M. Petronia Budzinski*
Pat & Joe Budzyn
Chris Frye Corning
Loretta Frye
Corrine M. Ganiec
Helen Ganiec
Marianne G. Guenther
Dorothy Harris
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Klaczka
Pat & Terry Lipinski
Mary I. Mosser
Susan M. Oskvarek
Kathy & Bob Parciak
Elizabeth Pienta
Reverend Gerald Riva
Bob & Sherry Russo
John & Carolyn Siewierski

**In Memory of**
*Marianne G. Guenther*

**In Memory of**
*Rita Ohlson*
John S.B. Springer
Frank Swiderski

**In Memory of**
*Gerard T. Dudzik*
Gerald T. Dudzik
Michael J. Niemiec

**In Memory of**
*Mary Louise Dow*
Yvonne Johnson

**In Memory of**
*Richard F. Dudzik*
Gerald T. Dudzik

**In Memory of**
*John & Carolyn Siewierski*

**In Memory of**
*Kathy & Bob Parciak*

**In Memory of**
*Elizabeth Pienta*

**In Memory of**
*Brian Bobick*

**In Memory of**
*Joseph Maciora*

**In Memory of**
*Marianne G. Guenther*

**In Memory of**
*Dorothy Harris*

**In Memory of**
*Helen Ganiec*

**In Memory of**
*Corrine M. Ganiec*

**In Memory of**
*Pat & Terry Lipinski*

**In Memory of**
*Mary I. Mosser*

**In Memory of**
*Susan M. Oskvarek*

**In Memory of**
*Kathy & Bob Parciak*

**In Memory of**
*Elizabeth Pienta*

**In Memory of**
*Reverend Gerald Riva*

**In Memory of**
*Bob & Sherry Russo*

**In Memory of**
*John & Carolyn Siewierski*
In Memory of
Louis Glowacki
Josephine Glowacki

In Memory of
Sister M. Epiphany Gorski
Dennis Wilde

In Memory of
George & Eleanor Haske
Douglas Haske

In Memory of
Sister M. Josephine Marie Haske
Douglas Haske

In Memory of
the Krispinsky Family
Paul Krispinsky

In Memory of
Mildred Lang
Marie Maciejewski

In Memory of
Sister M. Alphonsa Makowski
Joan Gallagher

In Memory of
Sister M. Dominic Makowski
Joan Gallagher

In Memory of
Sister M. Honorata Makowski
Joan Gallagher

In Memory of
Reverend Humbert Moster, OFM
Mary A. Grever

In Memory of
Kathleen “Cookie” Obora
Eugene Obora

In Memory of
Sister M. Andrea Puchalski
Diane Lynn McLaughlin

In Memory of
Sister M. Maximina Pachut
Paul Krispinsky

In Memory of
the Pahut Family
Paul Krispinsky

In Memory of
Helen Przewoznik
Estate of Helen Przewoznik

In Memory of
Sister M. Placidia Rzonca
Karen & Keith Urban
(Metal Deck Direct)

In Memory of
Mary Rita Rzonca
Karen & Keith Urban
(Metal Deck Direct)

In Memory of
Mrs. Doris B. Springer
John S.B. Springer

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

In Memory of
Harry, Sophie
& Carol 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**

**Natalie Alleva**  
Enrolled by  
Barbara Catenazzo

**Reverend Regis Norbert Barwig**  
(60th Anniversary)  
Enrolled by  
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

**Austin Benthem**  
Enrolled by  
Lindsey Waiter

**Margaret Jennings**  
Enrolled by  
Jill M. Kachin

**Kathy Kelly**  
Enrolled by  
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

**Carrie Kiehn**  
Enrolled by  
Shirlee L. Kiehn

**Rich & Pat Knowski**  
(60th Anniversary)  
Enrolled by  
Richard & Patricia Knowski

**Kathleen Meade**  
Enrolled by  
Peggy Hogan

**Therese G. Nawara**  
Enrolled by  
Therese G. Nawara

**Reverend Lou Pasala**  
Enrolled by  
Sister Jean Therese Jarosz

**Richard Protiva**  
Enrolled by  
Tom & Jolene Mastramico
Sister M. Petronia Budzinski
Enrolled by
Jill M. Kachin

Margaret “Peggy” Callahan
Enrolled by
Tom Kane

Martha Coghill
Enrolled by
Patricia Tarczewski

Terry Colwell
Enrolled by
Eugene Kulma

Margaret Flaherty
Enrolled by
Lauren Faxel

Ernest Formichelli
Enrolled by
Tom & Jolene Mastramico

Joseph S. Forzley
Enrolled by
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Czeslaw Graczyk
Enrolled by
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Barb Hawver
Enrolled by
Gayla & Richard Janicek

Wayne Hammond
Enrolled by
Joe & Pat Budzyn

Cleva Ingham
Enrolled by
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Tony Izzi
Enrolled by
Chuck & Judy McMahon

Anne Kolavo
Enrolled by
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Robert Massat
Enrolled by
Gayla & Richard Janicek

Christine Mastramico
Enrolled by
Tom & Jolene Mastramico

Janet Marie Mc Garry
Enrolled by
Tim & Wendy Bellagamba

Kathy Mest
Enrolled by
Marea Gonska

Edward Micek
Enrolled by
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Ewa Milde
Enrolled by
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Mary C. Murphy
Enrolled by
Tim & Wendy Bellagamba

Walter A. & Gertrude K. Nawara
Enrolled by
Therese G. Nawara

Kathleen O’Toole
Enrolled by
Eugene Kulma

Gene Pope
Enrolled by
Christine Schuler

Ramona Posgaj
Enrolled by
Sister Emilie Marie Lesniak
James F. Roser  
Enrolled by  
Kathy & Jim Kelly

Raymond Schultz  
Enrolled by  
Pat & Joe Budzyn

Diana Konopek Schumacher  
Enrolled by  
Sister Kathleen Melia

Georgia Sommers  
Enrolled by  
Pat & Joe Budzyn

Edward Szezech  
Enrolled by  
Pat & Joe Budzyn

Rose J. Twork  
Enrolled by  
Marea J. Gonska

Dorothy Walega  
Enrolled by  
Eugene Walega

Adeline Walicki  
Enrolled by  
Charlotte Dudzik  
Deborah & John & Children  
Michael & Starr  
Michelle & Steve

Marian Ward  
Enrolled by  
Marea Gonska

Geri Wegrzyn  
Enrolled by  
Richard & Patricia Knowski

Keith Wood  
Enrolled by  
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago  
Claudine Milkowski

Father,  
into your  
hands I  
commend  
my spirit.
The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago would like to wish you all a

Merry Christmas

And a Happy and Healthy New Year!