



FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF CHICAGO

125 YEARS OF LOVING, JOYFUL MINISTRY

DECEMBER 8, 1894— DECEMBER 8, 2019

PART ELEVEN — THE ELEVENTH PERIOD, 2015 to 2019

The eleventh period of the history of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago covers the years of 2015 to 2019.

In 2015 while still struggling to emerge from a deep economic recession, Europe was hit by a wave of nearly a million refugees. Most were seeking to escape the horrors of the Syrian Civil War or instability and violence elsewhere. Meanwhile same-sex marriage was legalized in all 50 US states.

In the U.S. presidential election of 2016 Donald Trump was elected president. In Europe, Britain voted to leave the European Union.

The year 2017 saw a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia which led to three deaths and to the discussion about racism in modern American society. American intelligence sources determined that Russia interfered in the U.S. presidential election. That same year three major hurricanes struck the Americas: Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

2018 found America distraught after the death of Stephen Hawking in Cambridge, United Kingdom. He left a legacy in theories of the universe and astrophysics. There was a US government shutdown, and a very American addition to the British royal family when actress Meghan Markle married Prince Harry.

On July 26th, 2019, the Supreme Court ruled to give President Trump \$2.5 billion to fund his wall to halt immigration across the southern borders.

In the Catholic Church in 2015, Oscar Romero, the assassinated Archbishop of San Salvador, was beatified by Pope Francis. December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016 was declared the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. During that year the first meeting between a pope and a Russian Orthodox patriarch took place. In 2017 Pope Francis suggested recruiting "proven" mar-

ried men to become priests for dioceses in the Western Church where there are few priests since Eastern Catholic Churches do allow married clergy. In the following year Pope Francis declared the death penalty unacceptable in all cases because it is "an attack" on human dignity. In 2019 the Church rejoiced at the canonization of John Henry Newman.

For the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago this period contained numerous challenging moments. During 2015, the Year of Consecrated Life, Franciscan Ministries moved to Lemont to occupy an addition to the Administration Building. That same year Sr. Francis Clare Radke received the Peacemaker Award from the Franciscan Federation and Jill Kachin received the Golden Thread Award from the Sisters. When the plight of the detained immigrants became known, the Sisters contributed rosaries to them through their membership in Sisters and Brothers of Im-



Sr. Francis Clare Radke accepts the Peacemaker Award in 2015.

migrants. As the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago considered their own future as a Religious congregation, the Leadership Team hired Sr. Amy Hereford, CSJ, and began the Community Assistance Ministry (CAM), reaching out to other Religious congregations in Illinois who also might need assistance in planning their futures.

As a first step in the process of planning for their secure future, the Sisters updated their Wills & Durable Power of Attorney in 2016. Later that year the

Sisters chose to name their proposed Public Juridic Person (PJP) Chicago Franciscan Ministries. Also at that time the Theresa Dudzik Service Award was updated to the present Theresa Dudzik Innovation



Sr. M. Monica Sendlosky received the Franciscan Weaver Award and the Golden Thread Award went to Henry Brothers Co.

Grant. Its first awardees were the Village at Victory Lakes and St. Anthony Home. After numerous months of work the Leadership completed the creation of the *Essential Elements* for ministering in the spirit of Mother Theresa Dudzik and St. Francis of Assisi.



In 2016 Sr. Diane Marie Collins became a certified spiritual director.

In response to the desires of the Sisters to come together periodically to share, the Celebration of Our Lives project was

begun. In 2017 the Sisters began preparations for their 21st General Chapter. Certified archivist, Patricia Carroll,



In 2017 Sr. Kathleen Melia brought joy to senior residents with her CD remake of the "On the Way" album.

was hired to upgrade the archives for future preservation. The Golden Thread Award that year was given to Adeline Galuszka. Throughout 2018 the Sisters commemorated the 100th anniversary of the death of their foundress, Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik. The Peacemaker Award that year was given to Sr. Jeanne Marie Toriskie.

In 2019 the Sisters established a process for the preservation of Mother Theresa's relics. They hired Sr. Catherine Schneider as facilitator for their project "FSC Future."



The Sisters selected Mother Theresa as their Peacemaker Awardee in 2019.

The greatest event of 2019 will be the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago on December 8, 1894.

At present, the overall ministries of the Sisters are: pastoral care at one parish; sponsoring or ministering directly at eleven elder-care facilities, one home care service, one education foundation, and a home for survivors of domestic violence.



The updated sponsored ministry wall in Heritage Hall was unveiled in 2019.