



# FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF CHICAGO

## 125 YEARS OF LOVING, JOYFUL MINISTRY

### DECEMBER 8, 1894— DECEMBER 8, 2019

#### PART TEN — THE TENTH PERIOD, 2005 to 2014

The tenth period of the history of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago covers the years of 2005 to 2014. Much of this period reflects natural disasters linked to global warming.

At the beginning of this decade George W. Bush was sworn in for his second term as president. Hurricane Katrina wreaked catastrophic damage on the Gulf coast. On a happy note, the Chicago White Sox won the World Series. Then in mid 2006 North Korea test fired missiles over the Sea of Japan and exploded a nuclear device in the North Korean mountains. The year ended with Saddam Hussein being convicted of crimes against humanity by an Iraqi court and being hanged in Baghdad.

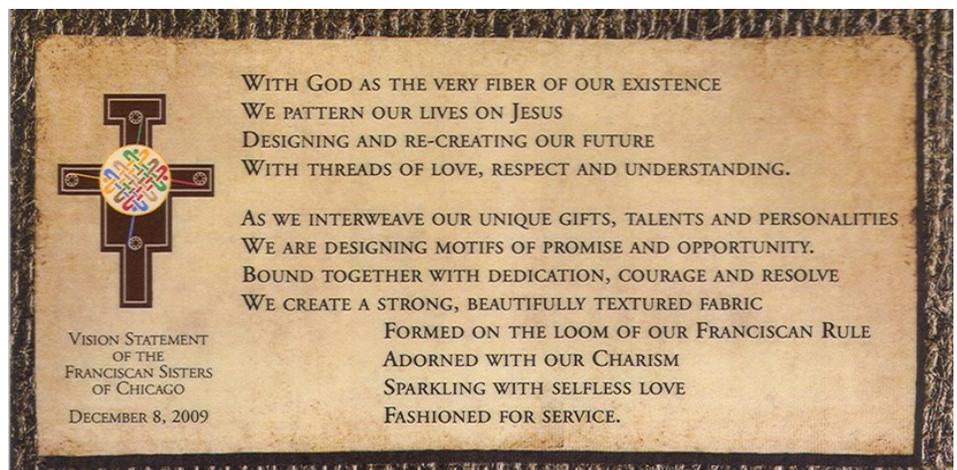
Everywhere in the world awareness of climate change occurred in 2007 through the findings of a UN panel. Then in early 2008 Cuban president Fidel Castro permanently stepped down after 49 years in power. In the U.S. the federal government began to intervene in the financial system to stem the huge economic crisis. In 2009 President Barack Obama announced that the U.S., China, India, Brazil, and South Africa reached an agreement to combat global warming.

In late 2010 an explosion on a BP oil drilling rig off the coast of Louisiana gushed oil for 86 days into the Gulf of Mexico. The spring of 2011 brought heavy rains which flooded the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys. Later Hurricane Irene moved up the eastern seaboard, affecting about 2.3 million people.

The 2012 Summer Olympics in London saw Michael Phelps win his 19th Olympic medal, becoming the winningest Olympic athlete of all time. In the spring of 2013 multiple bombs exploded near the finish line of the Boston Marathon. On a positive note, the Chicago Blackhawks won their fifth Stanley Cup.

Two joyful moments occurred in 2014. More than 13 years since the twin towers were destroyed on Sept. 11, 2001, One World Trade Center opened in lower Manhattan. Secondly, President Barack Obama took executive action to delay the deportation of some 5 million illegal immigrants.

In the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005 and Benedict XVI became the next pope. He canonized Father Damien, the "Apostle of the Lepers," and Kateri Tekakwitha, the Algonquin-Mohawk laywoman known as the "Lily of the Mohawks." The pope also declared Hildegard of Bingen a Doctor of the Church. In 2013 Pope Benedict XVI announced his retirement. Cardinal Bergoglio of Argentina was elected and took the name Pope



The 2009 vision statement displays a loom on the background of the San Damiano cross, symbolically capturing the words of the statement.

Francis in honor of the Saint of Assisi.

For the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago this period contained numerous inspirational moments. After the Chapter of 2009 the Sisters worked together to create a new vision statement to carry their congregation into the future. A year later they forged a new mission statement, "Rooted in prayer and community, we share Franciscan joy and serve generously."

**The Event** was held in 2012 to gather the wisdom, experience and advice of people related to the Sisters to plan for the re-creation of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago for now and the future. The key ideas that came from this collaborative effort with others were:

1. Be a visible Gospel presence that is prophetic
2. Partner with the laity
3. Be a voice for the voiceless
4. Restructure the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago without losing their core identity.

These ideas strengthened the Sis-

ters in their determination to move forward.

At this time the Sisters formalized the process for the establishment of a new public juridic person (PJP) of the Catholic Church, to preserve the charism of Mother Theresa Dudzik in their ministries. A Sponsorship Com-

mittee was formed and resulted in the formation of a Sponsorship Council which included Sisters and laity. The Sisters also continued and enlarged their Ministry Grant program — direct aid to the most vulnerable in society through the ministry of others who share the vision of Venerable Theresa Dudzik. And the Sisters renewed their personal commitment to being present to others in Christ-like kindness and compassion.



The Franciscan Sisters shared their Motherhouse dining room with lay residents and the Sisters of St. Casimir.

Sisters residing at the Motherhouse left many rooms vacant. In a spirit of loving poverty and generosity, the Sisters agreed to vacate their first floor rooms, and share their chapel, garden room, library, and dining room with others. The Sisters of St. Casimir were the first to move in and were followed by numerous laity. Now the first floor apartments would be managed by Franciscan Village, a sponsored ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago.

At the end of this decade, the overall ministries of the Sisters were: teaching at one junior college and one university; providing campus pastoral care at one university; sponsoring or ministering directly at nine eldercare facilities, one adult day care service, two home care services, two hospices, one foundation, a home for survivors of domestic violence, and a child care center.



During **The Event** in 2012 Chief of Lemont Police Shaughnessy (left) shares his insights about the future of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago with Sister Anne Marie Knawa (center) and Sister M. Colette Kwieczka.

The initiative to partner with the laity found unique fulfillment when the Sisters opened the first floor of their Motherhouse to elderly residents. This occurred when, by early 2014, the number of