

# PEACE

& All Good



**Building  
Relationships**

Fall 2012



*So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:11*



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## Peace & All Good

is published by the Sisters  
of St. Joseph of the Third  
Order of St. Francis.

## Editorial Board

Sr. Carlene Blavat  
Sr. Carol Ann Killoran  
Sr. Dorothy Pagosa  
Sr. Mary Alice Jarosz  
Associate Reneta Webb

## Editor

Laura Rowe

## Design/Layout

UWSP Design Center

## Cover photograph

Members of SSJ-TOSF share during  
recent Jubilee celebration.

*The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis are a Franciscan community of about 400 members, including 100 associates. Founded in 1901 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, the SSJ-TOSF maintain congregational homes in Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin.*

*Sisters continue to minister to thousands as teachers and educational administrators, healthcare providers and leaders, spiritual directors, social workers (community services/outreach), pastoral caregivers and diocesan employees, among other diverse professions. They minister in fourteen states and Brazil, Peru and Puerto Rico.*

*For more information, to update your subscription to Peace & All Good (published quarterly), or to submit information for the magazine, please contact Laura Rowe, SSJ-TOSF public relations director, P.O. Box 305, Stevens Point, WI 54481-0305, (715) 341-8457, or e-mail [lowe@ssj-tosf.org](mailto:lowe@ssj-tosf.org).*

# A Message from the Central Board



Dear Friends,

We cannot do it alone. In attempting to carry out the mission of our congregation, we count on friends like you to join us in a variety of ways.

In this edition of Peace & All Good we share news about our Associate Relationship program from a workshop attended by some of our sisters and associates. "The essential element of association is to widen and strengthen bonds of religious with others who affirm the goals and mission of their congregation and who wish to live these from within their own lifestyle." (SSJ-TOSF Associate Relationship Handbook) These women and men are some of our many valued partners in ministry.

We are pleased to provide stories of two women who have formed a permanent partnership with us by proclaiming their final vows with our congregation. Our Vocation Office continues to discern with women about where God might be calling them.

There have been others who have left us through death, but continue to be remembered for their never-ending commitment to our congregation.

The Development Office will discuss the many ways our friends continue to partner with us through prayer requests and donations. Srs. Michelle Wronkowski, Sandy Lasecke and Alice Trebatoski love to hear from you and provide connection with our ministries.

We pause for a moment to examine how we communicate with each other. As Franciscans, we are committed to civility in actions and communications. We will share some of our ongoing efforts to encourage this civil communication in the U.S.

Together we can do what we cannot do alone. In this way, we make "God more deeply known and loved."

Peace & all good,

*Drabby, Linda, Michele, Jane*

**"Dedication to Jesus Christ involves us intimately with His liberating and reconciling mission: to make God more deeply known and loved, and in so doing to draw all persons to fuller and freer life."**

(SSJ-TOSF mission statement)



## Sr. Arlid Professes Final Vows

Sister Arlid Barrera professed her final vows as a member of the SSJ-TOSF at St. Joseph Chapel at Marymount Congregational Home in March.

A native of Medellin, Columbia, Sr. Arlid immigrated to the U.S. at the age of twenty-two and became an American citizen. A former member of the Franciscan Sisters in Tiffin, Ohio, she became familiar with the SSJ-TOSF while attending the Common Franciscan Novitiate with Srs. Jo Ann Poplar and Lisa Alexander. She felt a common thread of bonding.

“The sisters told me, ‘You belong here,’” said Sr. Arlid, who became a SSJ-TOSF candidate in 2007 and professed her temporary vows in 2008.

She earned a bachelor of psychology degree from the University of Wisconsin in Green Bay, holds a certificate in lay ministry from the diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina, and completed a pastoral studies program at South East Pastoral Institute in Florida. Sr. Arlid worked in the Green Bay school district in special education and as a Spanish translator, ministering in the diocese on weekends.

Currently, Sr. Arlid is a substitute teacher in the Cleveland area and enjoys driving older sisters to their appointments. She also loves her parish work, preparing children at Our Lady of Lourdes for their First Communion, and working with Hispanic children in a bilingual summer vacation Bible school. She hopes to find full-time ministry in human services within the diocese or school system, continuing her work with Spanish-speaking children and their families.

“My desire is to share what I know,” she said. “We are here in this world to be blessed by each other.”



## Sr. Rosanna Professes Final Vows

Sr. Rosanna Hodlik, daughter of Chester (deceased) and Regina Hodlik, professed final vows as a member of the SSJ-TOSF in June in St. Joseph Chapel at Marymount Congregational Home, Garfield Heights, Ohio.

Sr. Rosanna entered the community from St. Clare Parish in Lyndhurst, Ohio, having been taught religion by SSJ-TOSF at St. Monica Parish elementary school. She began discerning with the community in 2002 and entered the novitiate in 2005. She completed two years of novitiate, spending the second year in apostolic experiences at 8th Day Center for Social Justice (Chicago, Illinois) and at St. Therese Parish (Garfield Heights, Ohio).

“I was brought up with Franciscan values, with my mother being taught by our sisters (SSJ-TOSF) and my father being brought up at a Franciscan parish,” Sr. Rosanna said. “While discerning with another community, I felt something missing but couldn’t identify the missing aspect. It was at a ‘Come and See’ weekend in Bartlett, Illinois, that I found that missing component. I felt like I had come home.”

Sr. Rosanna earned a master of business administration degree from Cleveland State University and a bachelor of science in marketing from Dyke College in Cleveland. She also has completed coursework at the Pastoral Leadership Center at the University of Dayton, and at Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio. She worked for many years in marketing research in Ohio. Currently, she has a consulting practice, handling medical insurance billing.

“My plans are to do whatever God has in store for me,” she said. “I’m involved with the community, serving on different committees, and am also a parish council member at St. Clare Parish. I also plan on using my talents for the good of the community and the good of individuals.”



# Sisters in the News

*Please send us your news and photos for future issues of Peace & All Good.*



## **Sr. Rosie Inducted into Sports Hall of Fame**

Sr. Rosemarie Morowczynski has been inducted into the Girls' Catholic Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in Chicago.

She was honored in March for serving as a teacher, coach and fan of girls' athletics. As a teacher and administrator, Sr. Rosemarie coached, supported and attended countless athletic events. She also was recognized for her support of athletics at Lourdes High School and DeLaSalle Institute.

Three SSJ-TOSF who served at the former Lourdes High School currently serve at the Lourdes Hall campus of DeLaSalle Institute, run by the Christian Brothers. DeLaSalle is a co-institutional high school with separate campuses for young men (the Institute campus) and young women (the Lourdes Hall campus).

## **Marymount Showcases New Surgery Center**

Marymount Hospital has opened a new state-of-the-art surgery center to ensure the ultimate care of patients. The hospital in Garfield Heights, Ohio, is a sponsored institution of the SSJ-TOSF and a regional hospital within the Cleveland Clinic health care system.

Sr. Jane Blabolil, SSJ-TOSF president, spoke at the opening ceremony in March, along with Bishop Roger Gries and Joanne Zeroske, Marymount's new president.

The new surgery center includes eight high-tech operating rooms, anesthesia alert system, surgical processing department, comfortable family waiting areas, and a calming patient environment.

"All of these elements work together to improve outcomes for Marymount surgery patients and their families," said Pete Flauto, perioperative services director. "It's a new moment for Marymount, built on our tradition of putting patients above all else."



## Diocese Notes Sister's Work

The Diocese of La Crosse named Sr. Mary Ellen Diermeier a 2011 Catechetical Leader of the Year. Sr. Mary Ellen is pastoral associate and director of religious education at St. Ladislaus Parish in Bevent, Wisconsin.

The annual award is given by the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization to those who embody the excellence in leadership which catechetical work requires.

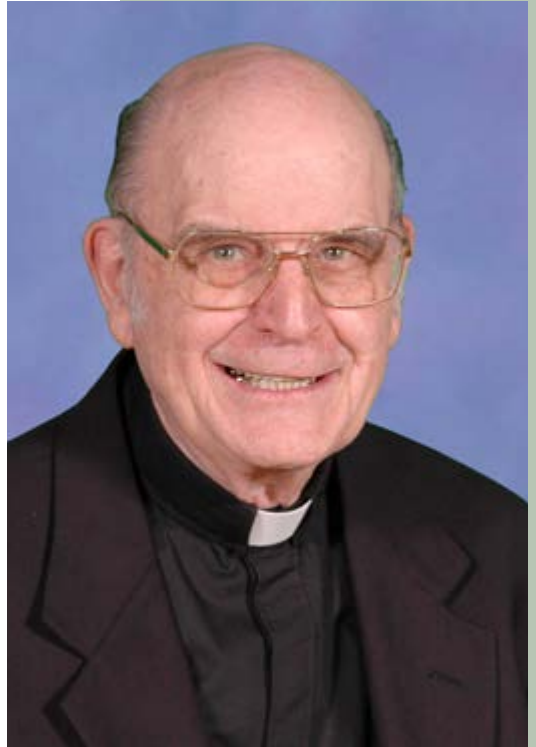


## Fr. Robert Retires

Fr. Robert Grestorex, 87, celebrated a final Mass of Appreciation and Thanksgiving in January with the SSJ-TOSF at the St. Joseph Chapel in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. To commemorate his thirty-two years as chaplain to the sisters, he was given a commemorative plaque, and the sisters sang a special blessing to him: "May the blessing of God be upon you, the blessing of the Father and the Son; and may the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Love, be with you all your days."

As chaplain for the SSJ-TOSF, he celebrated Masses at the St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, leading daily, Sunday, Jubilee and funeral Masses. He also visited and anointed sick patients, including sisters and residents of local nursing homes.

"He was very serious about his ministry and his faith," said Sr. Carlene Blavat, who worked with him at the motherhouse and at St. Michael's Hospital. "But at the same time, a lot of people liked him because he'd joke with them."



## Homeless Shelter Open One Year

Benjamin's House Emergency Shelter celebrated its one-year anniversary in March.

The shelter in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, which provides housing opportunities to those in Barron County, is a ministry of the SSJ-TOSF. Since opening in February, 2011, 140 homeless people have been housed at Benjamin's House.



## Pacelli Honors Sr. Carlene

Sr. Carlene Blavat has been named the 2012 distinguished alumna by the Stevens Point Area Catholic Schools.

She was honored during a luncheon ceremony at Pacelli High School in May. Fr. Tom Lindner, current co-president of the school system, presented her the award, noting her years of faithful service within the parish, schools and diocese.

“We are grateful to Sr. Carlene for her wonderful works of charity and service and the inspiration she has provided to so many through the years,” he said. “We are fortunate to be able to honor her with this well-deserved recognition.”

Sr. Carlene said she was flattered, honored and humbled by the award, and jokingly added that she was glad she became “distinguished” before she was “extinguished.”

She also was a featured speaker at the high

school’s graduation ceremony in June.

Sr. Carlene graduated from the former St. Joseph Academy in 1954 and entered the SSJ-TOSF in 1955. She taught English and business classes at Maria and Pacelli high schools. Her ministries, besides numerous years of teaching, have included leadership for the SSJ-TOSF, assistant communications director at the Diocese of La Crosse (Wisconsin), pastoral care at St. James Parish (Amherst), St. Stanislaus Parish, St. Michael’s Hospital (Stevens Point) and St. Joseph Hospital (Marshfield), and pastoral social work in Louisiana, New York state and Wisconsin.

She holds a bachelor of business education degree from Alverno College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; a certificate in religious studies from the College of St. Teresa in Winona, Minnesota; and a master of theological studies degree from St. Norbert College in Green Bay, Wisconsin.



# Marymount Celebrates Mass

For the first time all the ministries on the Marymount Intergenerational Health and Education Campus in Garfield Heights celebrated a Mission Day together with an outdoor Mass in May. Bishop Roger W. Gries, O.S.B, celebrated the Liturgy which took place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Marymount Hospital, The Village at Marymount, Trinity High School, Marymount Child Care Center, and the SSJ-TOSF were represented.

“We celebrate Mission Day at Marymount Hospital because it’s essential for the people we serve to know we are a Cleveland Clinic Hospital and continue to be a Catholic hospital,” said Sr. Betty Gulick, Director of Pastoral Care. “We have specific covenants in our binding agreement that provide for us to follow the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Institutions. We operate with a Special Member status for the oversight of our Catholicity by the SSJ-TOSF and the approval of the Diocese.”

“Since The Village at Marymount is only five years old, we are still growing in the understanding and practice of how to live Mission according to the Franciscan spirituality the Sisters brought to all the ministries on the campus,” reflected Dan Storey, Administrator.

Trinity High School is celebrating the graduation of the first class of the school’s Pre-Professional Internship Program which, as President Sr. Shawn Lee would say, “has been greatly blessed with success!” Dr. Thomas Maher, Special Assistant to the President, is particularly pleased that “along with internship placements throughout greater Cleveland, every ministry on the campus has been touched with the presence of Trinity student interns which we believe has been mutually beneficial to our students’ understanding of just how special this campus is – because of the presence and foresight of these wonderful women, our Sisters.” Marymount Convent,



opened in 1926, was the original home of the high school, which has been housed in a separate building since the mid 1950s.

Marymount Child Care Center’s special contribution to the Mission Day Mass was the presence of over a dozen of the children leading the Bishop to the altar for Mass. They each held paper candles while they faced the congregation and sang, “This Little Light of Mine” – to the delight of everyone present. The Center’s home is on the ground floor of the original convent building. Thirty-one sisters reside on the top two floors of the building in twenty-eight apartments recently recreated out of what were once eighty small “sister” bedrooms.

“Every building and ministry on this campus came into existence as a response to needs as perceived by the Sisters,” said Sr. Mary Alice Jarosz, Director of Mission Integration. “Today we are continuously awestruck by the commitment and dedication of so many ministry partners – individuals who make personal sacrifices because they have ‘caught the Franciscan spirit’ of our founders and have become determined to carry the legacy into the future. Our Mission Day Mass together is the best way to thank God for such great gifts!”

*(This article was previously published in the Catholic Universe Bulletin in Cleveland, Ohio. Photo and story are reprinted with permission of Ron Hollowell, Director of Media and Donor Relations at The Village at Marymount.)*



# Associates, Sisters Reflect on Fut

By Lois Lawler, SSJ-TOSF Associate Co-director

It seems that not only Catholic priests and laity, but non-Catholics, as well as a wide variety of organizations, are looking for ways to support U. S. Catholic women religious these days. It's encouraging and morale-building, the bright side of a challenging period in religious life, in the church, and in our culture. One initiative that has been ahead of the game in providing support is the Associate Relationship movement, a phenomenon that has become increasingly common in religious congregations over the last thirty years.

NACAR (North American Conference of Associates and Religious) was formed to foster the growth of associate communities connected with religious congregations, both female and male. At the June 2012 international biennial conference held in Chicago, aptly titled, "A Journey of Blessings," five SSJ-TOSF representatives (Sr. Jane Blabolil, president, and Srs. Alice Myslinski and Dian Majsterek, area contacts for the Associate Relationship, and Associates Judy Bulat and Lois Lawler, co-directors of the Associate Relationship) joined approximately 250 associates and religious of other congregations to explore the role of associates in the ongoing development of 21st Century Catholic religious congregations. The group explored the unique challenges faced by religious life today, and the variety of responses available to associates as they join members in living out

**While many congregations enjoy their relationship with associates and while the various groups respond to one another differently, we all seem to share the same desire to become more than we are. We are all involved in the process of change, even as our cities, our country and our world face change. We are more alike than different.**

Sr. Dian Majsterek,  
area contact person  
for Ohio and Indiana

**Inspired by the theme of the NACAR Associate Conference, "A Journey of Blessings," and both challenged and encouraged by the keynote address of Sr. Joyce Rupp, how grateful we all are for the Associate relationship and the co-journey we share.**

Sr. Jane Blabolil, president

**Association will best exist and flourish only when a spirit of mutuality occurs.**

Judy Bulat,  
Associate relationship  
co-director and area  
contact person for Illinois

the charism and the mission.

The theme of the conference, A Journey of Blessings, captured well a common experience in this diverse gathering of associates and the religious whom they accompany on the journey. In addition to the keynote address, and multiple opportunities for interaction with others, the conference included input sessions on two internal NACAR issues: mission statement revision, and the option of moving from a national structure to a regional one.

Sr. Joyce Rupp, OSM, presented the keynote address "Journeying in the Land of Don't Know." Emphasizing the lack of historical precedents for the situations being encountered by contemporary religious, Sr. Joyce stated that congregations today are at a threshold, and can

# ure of Religious Life

**A phrase that stays with me is relationship and mutuality. I think that was said in so many different ways.**

Sr. Alice Myslinski,  
area contact person for Illinois

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only speculate on what may lie beyond the choices that they presently face. She talked about the challenge and the opportunity for growth, and hinted at options that may have the potential of revitalization.

She expanded the metaphor of doorway, she talked about doors that seem to be closing on religious life, such as opportunities for new members, canonical support, fiscal prosperity, and youthful energy. She also noted the freedom of ecumenically-based groups to live out their charism and mission without fear of censorship, citing the Benedictine Women of Madison (Wisconsin) as an emerging ecumenical model of religious life in a post-modern world.

Drawing on Scripture, she compared the experience of Exodus to being in the Land of Don't Know. Urging religious women to let go, she referred to Henri Nouwen's image of a closed fist trapped within a jar—it is necessary to open the hand, and let go of its contents, to be free.

The five SSJ-TOSF attendees left the conference energized, and more at-home with not knowing where the future will lead. There was comfort in the knowledge that, as we face an uncertain future, we face it together -- associates and vowed members, companions on the Journey of Blessings, striving for mutuality in the Land of Don't Know.



## Arizona associates renew commitment

Six women renewed their commitments as SSJ-TOSF associates during a special March ceremony in Sun Lakes, Arizona.

Margaret (Peggy) Medley, Pat DeVito, Jennifer Florez, Jan Miller, Doris Klag and Jean Herring were each honored with a candle after signing their commitment, and received a special blessing from the community.

The associates were joined by Sr. Francesca Grzeslo, SSJ-TOSF, and members of the Sisters of St. Francis (based in Manitowac, WI) who work and reside at St. Peter's Indian Mission in Sun Lakes, Arizona. Sr. Dorothy Pagosa, SSJ-TOSF Central Board member, delivered a reflection during the ceremony and witnessed the commitments at St. Peter Mission Church.

The group of associates belongs to St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in the Phoenix diocese, where many of them met Sr. Fran when she taught first grade at the parish school. Although Sr. Fran's ministry has moved her to an Indian mission school, the group still remains active and meets monthly.

Currently, about 100 women and men are involved in an associate relationship with the SSJ-TOSF. Associates are involved in a variety of activities which further their relationship with the congregation and help them develop spiritually in the manner of St. Francis.

# Welcome our newest associate

*Cynthia Zalek of Parma, Ohio (near Cleveland), is the newest associate member of the SSJ-TOSF. Here, she spends some time talking with us.*

**How did you come to know the SSJ-TOSF and become an associate?**

Through my spiritual director, who is Sr. Francis Therese Woznicki. She is a wonderful individual and has touched my life in many ways. I have researched associate programs and found out through her that the SSJ-TOSF had one. Each congregation has their own charism and I was led to the mission of St. Francis of Assisi. I have been with the associate program for one year. Although I have attended many events, I am still learning names and faces of individuals that I continue to meet.

**Can you share a little about your background and life experiences? (Your career at the Red Cross, volunteering at parish, etc. You have graduate degrees in both theology and healthcare: can you tell us how your work and ministry combine those two fields?)**

I am a medical technologist by trade and specialize in blood banking. Later on in my career, I became interested in the area of quality assurance. I am currently employed at the American Red Cross and assume the position of Quality Assurance Associate III. One of my job functions is to observe activities at blood mobiles and to ensure that we are compliant with our policies and procedures. Sometimes you have to point out to someone that they are not doing something correctly. It is kind of like being the messenger for Jesus Christ; you identify what is not correct, and give the staff member a chance to fix it. Like us, the staff member has a choice, either to change their behavior so that they perform the procedure the right way or they can choose not to which may impact their employment with the company. We have a choice; either follow the teachings of Christ or not! If we do follow the teachings of Jesus, God will help us in our lives. It is not easy, but He will help us. The job at the Red Cross is very demanding and you need to be on your toes at all times.

During my free time, I volunteer as a Lector and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (that's what they call us now) at St. Charles Borromeo, which is my home parish. At St. Charles I most recently taught a class on Catholics Returning Home during the season of Lent. It was part of my project for the Cleveland Diocesan Pastoral Ministry Program. It was a success. Part of the success was attributed to the team who I worked with and the other part was attributed to my pastor, Fr. Carlin. The pastor makes the parish. And we are very fortunate to have



Fr. Carlin as our pastor. He is a good man and very encouraging and supportive. I hope to be certified as a Pastoral Minister for the Diocese of Cleveland this coming January 2013.

I have a master of healthcare administration degree from Cleveland State University (1988) and a master of theology degree (2011) from St. Mary Seminary Graduate School of Theology in Wickliffe, Ohio.

In between work and church, I took care of both parents, who lived with me. God called Dad home in 2006 and Mom in 2010. Now they are both at peace.

**What do you hope to gain from your Associate Relationship experience with the sisters and other associates?**

With everyone that I meet, I would like to make a difference in their lives and be a blessing to them. The SSJ-TOSF are very active in many areas and I would like to explore these areas more as I grow in the community with everyone. My motto is "Invite Christ into everything in your life." Life is not easy, but it goes much better when God's hand is in it.

**Anything else you'd like to add?**

I like music and I am relearning how to play the piano and drums.



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**Sisters of St. Joseph**  
of the Third Order of St. Francis.



## Tending garden & soul

*By Sr. Debra Ann Weina, SSJ-TOSF Vocation Minister*

Last summer here in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, our quaint little area was struck by a mighty storm that hailed straight line winds of nearly 80 mph. Trees, electric, telephone lines and street lights were toppled over. It was not a tornado that struck the area, but rather “straight-line winds,” according to meteorologists. A “state of city emergency” was declared minutes after the storm hit. Streets were impassable due to live electrical lines that were downed and scattered about the darkened streets. With darkness enveloping the city, the only thing that could be done was to patiently wait until morning light.

In my neighborhood at early light, people slowly awakened to inspect the wrath left behind from the storm. Everyone pretty much weathered the storm alright. People shared the stories of what they saw and heard before the lights went out. It was clear that God’s creation took the fatal fall in this storm. The largest of trees seemed to have been unable to weather the 80 mph winds that came through the area. In our neighborhood, we were lucky that only one of the larger trees toppled down and blocked the street, making it impassable to traffic. A few limbs had fallen, but as far as human life, there was no injury or death reported.

As our attention drew from the neighborhood and we looked into our own yard, things became a little more personal. Looking through a window that overlooks the backyard, we discovered our faithful old blue spruce tree of fifty feet or taller had lost her battle and toppled over at her base to lean gently on the neighbor’s house. Miraculously, there was no damage done to the neighbor’s house. The garden however, was a different story. When the tree fell, she took with her a good portion of the perennial garden along with the private fence that stood behind it. The spruce was the focal point of the garden and the plants around her were carefully placed about her base. This garden had been established for a number of years. Now with the roots of the tree violently ripped from the ground, the vulnerability of this garden was at stake. I tended to repair work as best as I could before the heat of the sun reached the mid-morning sky. Promptly the work began.

This storm and the aftermath of clearing and tending became a very prayerful and teaching moment in time for me. The

entire garden had to be redesigned and replanted after that storm. First, the perennials were removed and placed in temporary containers and replanted once the stump was removed. Because so many trees were down around the area, tree-removal companies were backlogged. Nearly six weeks after the storm, the stump still remained in the center of the garden. The broken fence was a continual reminder of that gaping hole in the backyard. As the summer season began to pass into early fall, I could feel a building panic within me as I could see the perennials in the temporary containers beginning to show signs of stress. Gardeners know that time is not on the side of tender roots that need to be re-established before first frost sets in the ground. As a beginning gardener I knew that these plants needed room to spread out and reach down deep into the ground before that cold came. Dirty and tired, I found myself leaning on the exposed roots of my ol' faithful pine and spoke out loud my concerns and worries. I sat in the middle of the garden, holding my hand to roots of the tree, and prayed for guidance. I didn't want to lose these plants. I spent a lot of money on them, not to mention time and energy. They were beautiful plants. I begged for help to help them. After the litany of pleading and whining finished, I sat in silence listening to the garden wren calling to its mate. I heard the bee buzzing about the bloomed flowers at my left and remained as still as I could. Energy, life and mystery surrounded me. At some point in the gazing of this awesome life around me, I heard a voice inside say, "If you want to be a gardener, LET GO. Simply trust like the seed trusts. Let the garden become



*"What you gaze on, gazes back. What you contemplate in faithfulness, changes you into itself. Turning and turning you'll come around to being, open like earth, in which much can grow."*

(from *A Mystic Garden: Working with Soil, Attending to Soul* by Gunilla Norris)

your teacher." A peace fell over me and that sacred little spot, and little bit by little bit, the garden became whole again.

I'm still new to the world of gardening and all it takes to be a good and faithful gardener. I'm still learning the secrets and science to feeding the soil with good humus and compost. And yes, I'm still squeamish to some of those garden creepers that you find from time-to-time. But the images and metaphors that I have been gifted with from this experience of tending plant and soil outweigh and bless my life so. The experiences from this have taught me to hold lightly all that I have been gifted and given because truly all does belong to God in the end.

Flower colors may fade, seed pods fall to the ground and lay what seems dormant beneath the cold snow, but in the stillness of winter's icy chill, the promise of new life stirs within earthbound clay. Love deeply and live with passion.



# A Call for Civility

By Sr. Dorothy Pagosa, SSJ-TOSF Director for Social Justice

The story is told of how St. Francis was asked to settle a dispute between the mayor and bishop of Assisi. In his peaceful manner, they were able to come together. St. Francis added a verse to his Canticle of Creation “Praised be You, My Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love and bear infirmity and tribulation.” He humbled them.

Our world seems to be increasingly polarized. Instead of positive messages, we are hearing nasty campaign ads. We hear calls for hate based on differences in religion, race, and sexual preference. And these are the adults.

There has been increased concern about youth bullies. Who will challenge the adult bullies?

The Central Board of the SSJ-TOSF signed on to a Call for a Season of Civility in Wisconsin (this is where our motherhouse is located) which was started by the Wisconsin Council of Churches. I would say that indeed this could and should be beyond Wisconsin.

- We will seek to model and support respectful and honest conversations on public issues within our congregations, assemblies, and other forums.
- We will make a genuine effort to understand the reasons for the views of those with whom we disagree and try to explain the grounds for our own positions clearly and without arrogance. Our goal will be to identify shared values and concerns, rather than to “win” arguments.
- We will be mindful of our own fallibility and keep our views open to correction and reconsideration without betraying our deepest convictions.
- The Franciscan Action Network has also launched the F.R.A.N.C.I.S. Commitment to Civility in Discourse.

I commit to:

- Facilitate a forum for difficult discourse and acknowledge that all dialogue can lead to new insight and mutual understanding.
- Respect the dignity of all people, especially the dignity of those who hold an opposing view.
- Audit one’s self and utilize terms or a vocabulary of faith to unite or reconcile rather than divide conflicting positions.
- Neutralize inflamed conversations by presuming that those with whom we differ are acting in good faith.
- Collaborate with others and recognize that all human engagement is an opportunity to promote peace.
- Identify common ground such as similar values or concerns and utilize this as a foundation to build upon.
- Support efforts to clean up the provocative language by calling policymakers to their sense of personal integrity.
- Please join us in trying to promote civility in discourse and actions wherever you might live. For further information go to: [www.franciscanaction.org/franciscancommitment](http://www.franciscanaction.org/franciscancommitment).

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*Sr. Dorothy Pagosa, SSJ-TOSF Director of Social Justice, has created a monthly blog on current social issues. Her first blog discusses human trafficking and the summer Olympics. To read her blog, go to our website or Facebook page, or directly to [instrumentsofpeaceblog.wordpress.com](http://instrumentsofpeaceblog.wordpress.com).*



## Note from the Development Team



*God gave us, and keeps on giving to each one of us,  
a whole body, a whole soul, a whole life.  
God created us and redeemed us  
and will save us by mercy alone.  
God has done, and keeps on doing,  
everything good for us.*

*St. Francis of Assisi*

Dear Friends,

It is our hope and prayer that this edition of Peace and All Good finds your home filled with harmony, happiness and God's love for you. As we continue to serve a diverse population among God's people, we are both grateful and encouraged by your generous responses to our yearly appeals, especially during these volatile economic days. What we have achieved and continue to achieve is a direct effect of your partnership with us in our various ministries.

St. Francis and St. Clare have been a guiding inspiration in the lives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis. It is our goal, together with you, our dear benefactors, to continue to serve those in need through our ministries of service and prayer. The fundamental values of Franciscanism, simplicity, joy, works of mercy and the pursuit of peace through justice, will continue to guide us in our ministries and those yet to be discovered.

We thank you for your faithful support and invite you to consider your charitable giving plans for the rest of this year, knowing that gifts made by December 31 can generate tax deductions on your 2013 April 15 bill. Besides cash gifts, you may find it beneficial to you and your loved ones to consider securities (mutual fund shares, stocks, bonds), gifts from retirement plans, a family foundation, living trusts, and/or life insurance. We will be pleased to give more information to you as you act to complete your giving plans.

As resources are constantly challenged, we strive for ways to be better stewards of our daily blessings. We, the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis, continue to rely on your vigilant presence and financial support to walk with us anywhere we are. We are very grateful for your generous participation to our appeals sent to you. Know that we take you to the Table of the Lord daily and especially the First Friday Mass of each month.

Thank you for your faithfulness and love.

*Sister Michelle Sister Alice Sister Sandy*

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# Hearts

## Poured Out Eternally

*For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.” Romans 14:7-9*

**Sr. Lambert Suski, 102**, entered eternal life April 21, 2012. She was a member of the SSJ-TOSF community for eighty-five years. She was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and received her bachelor and master degrees in education from De Paul University in Chicago. She was a teacher and school principal for many years throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago. Before her retirement in 1994, she worked at Lourdes High School (substitute teacher and student supervisor) and Convent (convent services).

Even as a child, Sr. Lambert knew she wanted to be a teacher. She would gather her siblings together in her “classroom” and teach whatever lesson she deemed important that day.



**Sr. Lucine Mikes, 83**, entered eternal life April 10, 2012. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, she and two of her sisters were members of the SSJ-TOSF. She earned bachelor and master degrees in chemistry and math, and taught elementary, high school and college students in Illinois, Ohio and Michigan. In 1973, she introduced a drafting program (the Computer Aided Design Center) at Trinity High School after completing coursework in drafting and computer-aided design at Kent State and Wayne State Universities. She retired in 2003, but continued to serve as a substitute teacher at Trinity and to work at Siena Prints at the Marymount Congregational Home.

Sr. Lucine explained her interest in starting the computer center during a Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper feature story saying, “I wanted to do something challenging, something organizational. I like order. That word lends itself to my personality.”

**Sr. Janet Smolinski, 69**, entered eternal life May 31, 2012. Born in Milwaukee, she ministered as a principal and teacher for thirty-four years throughout Wisconsin, including Stevens Point, Milwaukee, Racine, River Falls and Stanley. She then served for sixteen years as coordinator of personal services for the sisters at St. Joseph Motherhouse.

On her 50th Jubilee, she wrote: “...my hope is to bring a gentle, compassionate and understanding presence to all those to whom I minister.”



**Sr. Augusta Majewski, 97**, entered eternal life March 28, 2012. A native of Michigan, she ministered as a principal and teacher for sixty-three years in Illinois and Wisconsin. She had an enormous gift of enabling young students to read through the use of her phonics techniques. She also served as an organist for many years and always encouraged the musical abilities of others. She later volunteered as teacher of religious education, home visitor and prayer leader until her retirement in 2003.

One of Sr. Augusta’s favorite prayers was: “Teach us how to walk humbly yet courageously; instill into us the talents You have given us, that when we must give the final accounting of our stewardship we may receive those words of commendation: ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’”

**Sr. Clarissa Tomasek, 93**, entered eternal life April 7, 2012. A Cleveland, Ohio native, she grew up at St. John Cantius Parish.

As a homemaker and baker, she spent many years at Marymount Convent and Marymount Hospital in Garfield Heights, Ohio; St. Hyacinth in Cleveland; St. Francis, St. Thomas and Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan; and St. Stanislaus in Bristol, Connecticut. Much of her ministry (twenty-nine years) was at St. Francis Mission in Greenwood, Mississippi. Sr. Clarissa visited the parishioners and came to be known as the "Church Lady" on the streets of Greenwood, where she brought loving compassion to the elderly and infirm. She returned to Ohio in 1994 and helped at Ss. Peter and Paul parish convent until moving to Marymount in 2009. She was a resident of Clare Hall until her death.



Her dear friend and companion, Sr. Helen Skok, reflected that Sr. Clarissa died as she had lived, quietly and peacefully with complete trust in God.



**Sr. Leocadia Brzozowski, 95**, entered eternal life March 13, 2012. Born in Hofa Park, Wisconsin, she devoted her entire convent life to serving the community as a homemaker and gardener. In Wisconsin, she served at St. Michael's in Junction City, and at St. Stanislaus and St. Joseph Motherhouse in Stevens Point.

Always a person of prayer, her prayers of intercession intensified in her retirement years. She expressed this regarding herself, "My vision and dream for the future is to be in constant union with the Lord and

His blessed Mother. I hope so to live that I may be made worthy to see God face-to-face in eternal glory forever."

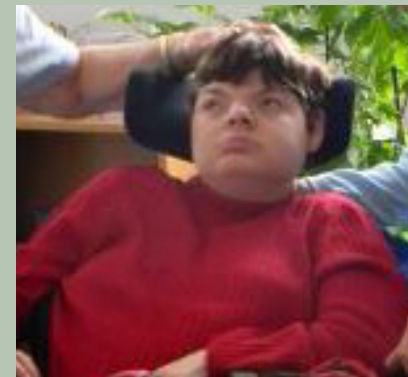
**Associate Catherine Wargo, 98**, entered eternal life March 21, 2012. She developed a relationship with Sr. Charles when working with developmentally challenged women at Leann's Home in Garfield Heights, Ohio. When Sr. Charles became ill, Catherine took three different buses to get to Clare Hall, where they would play cards together. Catherine enjoyed sharing her time and talent with sisters in the craft room at Marymount Congregational Home.



**Associate Rose Platt, 90**, entered eternal life June 18, 2012. She was fondly known as one of "Sr. Charlotte's ladies," having come to know the sisters when Sr. Charlotte Wachadlo opened a home for eight special needs ladies in Freeport, Illinois. Rosie was an active participant in her local community, and enjoyed attending Jubilee celebrations, birthday parties and funerals.

**Mary Jo Erdman, 38**, died January 18, 2012. She was lovingly raised by Srs. Irmina and Edmund since she was a five-day-old baby. Reflecting on Mary Jo's life, Sr. Louise Kwaterski said, "Mary Jo couldn't walk or talk; she couldn't do any of those things we consider the normal tasks of everyday life. And yet, anyone who took the time to look into her eyes would tell you that there was a sparkle. And I'm sure Srs. Irmina and Edmund would tell you that sparkle was God's life that radiated from her."

"Mary Jo thrived on being hugged, kissed and noticed," Sr. Edmund said. "And she reminded us that God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God and God in them."



**Sisters of St. Joseph**  
of the Third Order of St. Francis  

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