

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

# PERSPECTIVES

Fall 2021

**“I’M DEEPLY GRATEFUL  
THAT WE ARE PARTNERS IN THIS VISION.”**

# FRANCISCAN PERSPECTIVE



**President:** Sister Eileen McKenzie  
**Vice President:** Sister Sue Ernster  
**Mission Councilors:** Sister Dawn Kutt,  
Sister Karen Kappell, Sister Lucy Slinger

Editor: Jane Comeau  
Managing editor and writer: Jen Pick  
Designer and proofreader: Brianna Graw  
Proofreaders: Sisters Pat Gordon  
and Rita Heires

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## FSPA accepts Pope Francis' invitation to further Laudato Si'

*"We have the opportunity to prepare a better tomorrow for all. From God's hands we have received a garden, we cannot leave a desert to our children." - Pope Francis*

Pope Francis released his Laudato Si' encyclical in 2015, an urgent call to ecological sustainability. And this year, he invites all of us to take significant action. Building on our Franciscan legacy of caring for creation, FSPA accepts Pope Francis' invitation and commits to the seven-year movement for the greater good known as the Laudato Si' Action Platform.

And we promise to make our voices heard whenever opportunities arise.

## Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration Laudato Si' Action Platform Seven-Year Commitment

We are a community of vowed Franciscan women centered in Eucharist, committed to loving presence through prayer, witness and service. We commit ourselves to the seven-year Laudato Si' Action Platform journey to intensify actions for greater social and environmental justice.

- We recognize that everything is a gift from God, and thus we embrace our dependence on all creation.
- We commit to the preferential option for the cosmic common good.
- We strive for spiritual growth, simplicity, intentionality, stewardship and justice in our living and decision making.
- We nurture our cosmic awareness, the call to develop mutual relationships with all creation and practice regeneration and sustainability of Earth.
- We educate, advocate and act for the healing and care of all.

Building on our Franciscan legacy of caring for creation, we promise to make our voices heard whenever opportunities arise. We invite you, and will make efforts to encourage others, to join us in prayer, witness and service, to promote systemic change.

### Join us online to learn more

#### Laudato Si' Lunch & Learn | Nov. 9, 2021, noon-1 p.m. Central Time

The FSPA Ecospirituality Team will focus on our Laudato Si' commitment, specifically how our ongoing efforts fit under the seven goals and how we'll develop future programs and projects to increase our action. Register for this online event at [fspa.org/EcoAction](https://fspa.org/EcoAction).



- 4** Building a safe haven for Mama Tabu and children of Arusha
- 6** Celebrating ‘beauty and resilience of the human spirit’ with Persephone Project
- 8** Café Justo: coffee with a splash of social justice
- 10** My Perspective: Reflections from a grateful Mzungu

- 13** FSPA Accountability Report
- 14** 2021 Jubilee Celebrations
- 16** In Memoriam
- 20** Spirit of Ministry: Affiliate’s ‘deepest core values’ sown in neighborhood garden

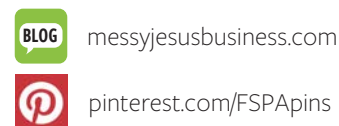
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# BUILDING A SAFE HAVEN FOR MAMA TABU AND CHILDREN OF ARUSHA



**By Charish Badzinski**

Kelli Solsma, president of Project Rehema Ministries, says knowing Mama Tabu has been humbling —because in Tanzania, even having faith can be a challenge. “Faith is easy to have when everything is going good. True faith comes in when you don’t know where your next meal is coming from.”

In a country where too many children live without the basics of life, including shelter, Project Rehema provides safe housing. In 2019 the organization partnered with Mama Tabu and now, in collaboration with Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Jean Ann Rausch as ministry grant sponsor, Project Rehema is breaking ground on a modest home in a safe neighborhood for Mama Tabu and the children who depend on her.

Building huge, beautiful complexes for children like those who Mama Tabu cares for has backfired for other charitable organizations for a variety of reasons. Project Rehema takes another approach: building simple, safe homes and striving to keep families together. To that end, building modest homes is essential. “We keep them modest because we want them to blend in with their environment. They’re pretty rustic, but they’re concrete,

with two bedrooms with bunk beds, living quarters and a bathroom and kitchen, both outside,” Kelli explains. Each home also has access to a waterline.

Mama Tabu’s group is one of 18 family units under the Project Rehema umbrella, caring for a total of 118 children. This home represents the seventh built by Project Rehema since 2015. “I’m so incredibly grateful for FSPA’s partnership,” Kelli says.

Each home costs about \$10,000 USD, depending on the land, where it is located and the cost of transporting building supplies. Project Rehema has undertaken some stunning logistics to get the job done, none of them easy. Without heavy equipment, cement has to be hand mixed. But even finding water to mix concrete can be a challenge, necessitating the employment of donkeys to transport water from afar.

“It’s a nice, big slice of humble pie every time I go there because the people are amazing. They are the most joyful, faith-filled people I have ever met. They would give you their last slice of bread.”

Kelli says, “What they’ve taught me, you can’t buy. They’ve taught me how precious and important life is, and how precious faith is. They’ve taught me what’s truly important in life.”

Visit [projectrehema.org](http://projectrehema.org) to learn more.

“

**GOD BROUGHT THEM TO ME.  
GOD WILL SOMEHOW PROVIDE.”**

MAMA TABU IS KNOWN TO SAY.



“

**WHAT THEY'VE TAUGHT ME,  
YOU CAN'T BUY. THEY'VE  
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THEY'VE TAUGHT ME WHAT'S  
TRULY IMPORTANT IN LIFE.”**

- KELLY SOLSMA, PRESIDENT OF  
PROJECT REHEMA MINISTRIES

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Photos courtesy of  
Project Rehema Ministries

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# CELEBRATING ‘BEAUTY AND RESILIENCE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT’ WITH PERSEPHONE PROJECT



“Many years ago, I sat with a group of women at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in downtown Chicago. That evening, as part of our theater and writing class, we were talking about poetry. A woman across the table from me sat up a little straighter and said, ‘I’ve always wanted to write poetry.’ We began to write, and she composed her first poem:

‘I want to be like the water: clean, blue, desired and in all the parts of the world.’”

This memory is shared by Lisa Wagner-Carollo, founder and artistic director of Still Point Theatre Collective, an organization missioned to “use theater to raise consciousness on issues of peace and justice — and to celebrate the beauty and resilience of the human spirit. We see art as a basic human right, inherent to a healthy society.” The woman across the table was a participant in Still Point’s Persephone Project, a program for women who are currently incarcerated in Chicago, Illinois’ Cook

County Jail and Metropolitan Correctional Center, as well as women who have been recently released from the Illinois Department of Corrections.

“The top priority of the Persephone Project is to give participants the tools to regain agency over their own lives and to move forward with a greater sense of identity and worth,” says Still Point Managing Director Clearie McCarthy. The women of Persephone Project who reside at Grace Transitional Home have literal license over their next chapters through financial compensation that they receive for writing, producing and performing their own original plays — remuneration supported in part by an FSPA grant.

Persephone Project performances not only allow participants to be “champions of their own narrative,” says Clearie,

but also provide the opportunity for them to share with public audiences their first-person perspectives as women who’ve experienced incarceration. “Despite their enormous social significance, correctional facilities and the prison industrial complex at large remain obscured or invisible to many members of society,” says Clearie. “As more people hear these stories, the gap between women affected by the carceral system and those unaware of its impacts narrows.”

Since Still Point’s founding in 1993, “we’ve been blessed to receive a number of grants from the sisters to help with this work,” says Lisa. “I feel like we’ve grown together through the years.” She points to A Revolution of Goodness: FSPA’s proclamation of commitment to relationships, Gospel living and unity in diversity. “I’m deeply grateful that we are partners in this vision.”

The ministry grant that fuels this collaboration is sponsored by Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration



Photos courtesy of  
Still Point Theatre  
Collective

Linda Mershon. “The Persephone Project speaks to me because of the way it serves incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women, building confidence, tapping into their innate creativity, learning skills, networking with dynamic women and earning some income. It is an excellent new approach to helping women in the prison system, and I am very happy that FSPA can be a small part of it.”

To learn more about the organization, including its virtual adaptation of “The True Cost: Stories of Human Trafficking,” visit [stillpointtheatrecollective.org](http://stillpointtheatrecollective.org).



## Lisa and Clearie share personal reflections from two women of the Persephone Project

“The creative process can be intimidating, challenging and unfamiliar, but ultimately, it is incredibly rewarding. We have found that, when our theater workshops are over, joy, creative expression and positive communication carry on. We have seen the power of performance to shift dynamics between the women we work with and the institution staff.

“Teresa Lanehart has been coming to our program in Cook County Jail for months and is consistently warm and open. She says “The class is wonderful. We have a lot of groups, but this one takes me away. It’s life. No matter what the mood, theater class is new, it’s fun. This class makes us feel human. There can be a lot of hostility on the tier, but in theater class everything is left behind. Sometimes you might have two people get into an argument right before class, but once we get into our circle you would never even know that there was a problem. This class allows us to let our guard down

because we’re in the moment and we realize: what do you have to lose to laugh?! It doesn’t make you feel stupid because it’s spontaneous, and we go back to the tier and teach the other women the games and exercises we learned that day.’

“Heather Rivett is an actor in the Grace House Transitional Home program who has now been a member of our Grace House ensemble for four years and has taken on a leadership position in the program. She shares that ‘my worst fear is speaking in front of any amount of people. I never wanted to tell my story but I tried the program because I wanted to learn how to tell my story in a different way, how to redirect my brain and not be so nervous. I’m still a nervous wreck when I speak in front of people but being able to tell my story to those who are so non-judgmental and give such genuine feedback is the best reward.’”

# CAFÉ JUSTO: COFFEE WITH A SPLASH OF SOCIAL JUSTICE



**By Annette Mikat**

There is so much to love about coffee: the smoky, nutty aroma that fills the room; the piquant earthiness with notes of fruit or caramel; the comforting warmth that spreads through your core as you sip. When your cup comes with a shot of social justice, it's even better

Café Justo — or Just Coffee — is a grower-owned coffee co-op operating in partnership with Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian border organization, and its Love Mercy, Do Justice ministry that bridges neighboring communities Agua Prieta, Sonora, and Douglas, Arizona. The co-op began coffee sales in 2003 to help local coffee growers create and sustain a small-scale international coffee company.

By controlling every aspect of production, from growing and harvesting the coffee beans in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico, to roasting, packaging and shipping them in Agua Prieta, Café Justo can charge a fair price for its product. Just pricing allows Café Justo to pay livable wages and benefits to its local workers, thereby addressing poverty, a root cause of migration. The

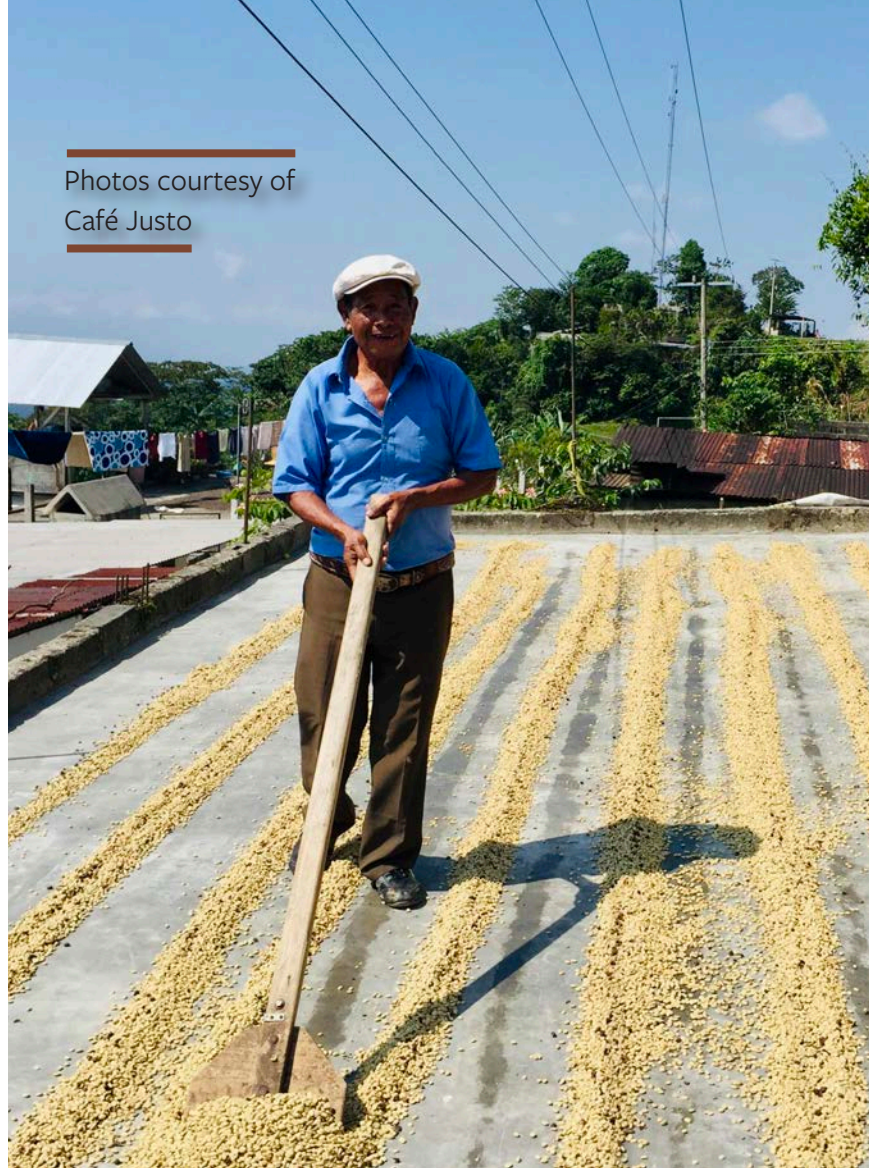
pricing also allows Café Justo to give back to the local community in other ways, such as improving the community cemetery, providing a water treatment plant, offering coffee at wakes and supporting school projects.

“We want gospel values to be represented in how we treat those who are seeking refuge or fleeing extreme poverty or violence, and we want to move beyond just the humanitarian piece,” says Pastor Mark Adams, co-founder of Frontera de Cristo and Café Justo. “Sometimes it’s easier to just pick up people from the side of the road. But if we keep finding people on the side of the road in the same place, sooner or later, we have to figure out how to fix the road. Café Justo gives people a reason to stay off that road.”

Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Joyce Blum knows what can happen to people traveling that journey. In the 1990s, after ministering to people on death row in the Arizona State Prison in Phoenix, she created a border chaplain ministry, placing her in the middle of Pastor Mark’s work in Douglas and Prieta. During her time there, Sister Joyce traveled the length of the U.S.-Mexico border, placing water stations, creating first aid tents, feeding hungry migrants and, sadly, gathering the bodies of those who perished in the desert.

Sister Joyce continues to connect with people there. This summer, she returned to the border in Agua Prieta with Charlotte Willenborg and Tim Sullivan, affiliates with FSPA. Every day at 2 a.m., they would walk across the border to serve people who had been detained overnight and return to Mexico in the afternoon. They then served at the Migrant Hospitality Center where they provided food, bathing facilities and clean clothes and cared for migrants’ physical maladies like blisters, cactus wounds and upset stomachs.





Photos courtesy of  
Café Justo

Her close relationships in the region have allowed her to see how Café Justo is reversing migration there. Salvador Urbina residents who made it across the border to the U.S. are now reuniting with their families and returning to work with Café Justo.

The Café Justo model has proven so effective that Sister Joyce and Pastor Mark are working to grow and replicate it in other Mexican communities with an extra \$30,000 from a Seeding a Legacy of Healing grant from FSPA.

Grant proceeds are funding the purchase of Café Justo products to serve guests at migrant, homeless and domestic violence shelters on the border. They are also directed to Love Mercy, Do Justice marketing campaigns to increase sales and educate North American Christians about the connections between their economic choices and migration.

Bilingual student interns Yirel Pacheco in Mexico and Jessica Blake in the U.S. are developing interpretive materials. They are creating a webpage, blog and, with the help of another intern, Xander Greenway, a video.

For Sister Joyce, however, the grant represents something more extensive. She sees it as both an amplifier and a bridge. “This legacy grant is a seed to voice the immigration challenge, to call for us to welcome needy families seeking refuge,” she says. “Our relationships bridging both sides of the border can build friendships and allow the holy spirit to heal so much brokenness that exists on our planet. We must remember that we are all in this together.”

To order coffee from Café Justo and keep that warmth in your core all day, visit [bit.ly/buycafejusto](https://bit.ly/buycafejusto).

# MY PERSPECTIVE: REFLECTIONS FROM A GREATFUL MZUNGU



**By Katie Mitchell,  
Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration**

Uganda will always have a special place in my heart. Long before I went there, when the Ugandan seminarians shared reflections about their beautiful country with me, I felt a stirring. So when they asked me to be the faculty representative for Mundelein Seminary (in Chicago, Illinois) at their ordination in Uganda, I felt particularly blessed. My joy multiplied when they invited me to spend more time with them in their villages and travel to some of the remote mission parishes.

I am grateful for the blessing of going to Uganda, my first time in Africa, and experiencing such a vibrant, faith-filled people. Uganda may be known for its natural beauty and safaris, but on a far more profound level — for those willing to engage in an authentic encounter — you can discover the deeper, cultural richness of the country and the serene, friendly and welcoming Ugandan people who prioritize relationships and the needs of others.

Although I saw the big, bustling city of Kampala on

several occasions, my time was mostly spent in rural villages. I learned to make friends with “matoke,” which in English means “boiled and mashed plantains” and is the “daily bread” for many. In Kijjomanyi, a village without electricity, I was blessed to be with the children in their crowded, dark classrooms. People spend much of their time fetching water from faraway places and washing clothes outdoors, cooking for long hours over open fires, walking long distances on the muddy dirt roads and looking for work to provide for their families. The people have a deep sense of togetherness and find time to dance, to chat, to receive an unexpected visitor and to welcome one or two more at the table.

Wherever I traveled, Ugandans wanted to say hello, have a conversation and make introductions for me. Smiling groups of children and others often called after me “mzungu!” meaning “white person.” At first it was a little disconcerting, but I soon began to understand that Ugandans are genuinely curious and excited to see a mzungu. They want to engage and possibly make a new friend. In the villages it is a novelty to have a white visitor. All relationships in Ugandan society are deeply treasured and nourished, including those with foreign friends. Extended family and friends are often considered brothers and sisters.

Although English is the official language of Uganda and is taught in schools, the Ugandans I met spoke Luganda and most of the adults knew little English in the villages I visited. Children are learning but may be shy to try their English. While there I was able to learn some phrases in Luganda, and when I greeted groups of people in Luganda they clapped and cheered.

From attending Mass and celebrations to dancing with Ugandan children and having conversations with wonderful people in rural villages, my days in Uganda



Photos courtesy of  
Sister Katie Mitchell

were full. I spoke to many classes of elementary and secondary school children, visited health clinics, orphanages and youth centers, gave out religious articles, clothes and books that I brought with me and visited with village families. I rode to places on the “boda bodas” which are the motorbikes for hire. It was the rainy season in Uganda and often, by the time we arrived, we were soaking wet and covered in the distinctive Ugandan orange-colored mud ... but smiling!

Ugandans are very busy working, cooking and raising children ... yet no one is in a hurry. Schedules are very flexible. They show infinite patience and always seem to have time for others. With long lines of people waiting to go to confession, Mass scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. might start late and run long with lengthy speeches given at the end (I was asked to say a few words, too). Yet everyone waits patiently. They show genuine joy to be there and express their faith in a communal way: children sing, people drum and dance and meals are shared together afterwards. The church is the heart of the village, and everything takes place there.

This mzungu found people who are rich in so many ways: rich in gratitude and joy, rich in selflessness and generosity, rich in genuine love for God and others in Uganda. “Weebale Nnnyo Uganda” ... “thank you very much Uganda.” You will always have a place in my heart!



# FSPA MISSION ADVANCEMENT: THANK YOU, COLLABORATORS, FOR TAKING ACTION

## About the FSPA Ministry Fund

Annually, the FSPA Mission Advancement Committee invites all sisters and affiliates to write a ministry grant for projects and programs that are consistent with our FSPA values and the mission of the Church.

When sisters and affiliates bring an FSPA ministry grant to their local group/companion community for discussion, the conversation becomes an important part of strengthening the grant request. A particularly strong grant is one that is inclusive, innovative and shows a personal connection between the sponsor and the organization. In the last fiscal year, donations to FSPA supported 126 ministry grants.



Dignified Housing ministry grant



Camp Winston ministry grant



Lay Mission Helpers ministry grant

# FSPA ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

## DONOR SUPPORT

Total Disbursed

**\$705,951**



**\$453,955**

Greatest Need | 64%



**\$185,774**

Ministries | 26%



**\$48,157**

Sisters' Retirement | 7%



**\$18,065**

Spirituality Centers | 3%

### Funding Income

General Contributions.....	<b>\$500,216</b>	<b>71%</b>
Bequests/Planned Giving.....	<b>\$196,590</b>	<b>28%</b>
Memorial Gifts.....	<b>\$9,145</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$705,951</b>	<b>100%</b>

## GRANTS SUPPORTED

Basic Needs.....	<b>37</b>
Education/Tuition.....	<b>24</b>
Justice & Peace.....	<b>21</b>
Health & Wellness.....	<b>17</b>
Religion & Spirituality.....	<b>12</b>
Family Strengthening.....	<b>11</b>
Ecospirituality.....	<b>4</b>

**TOTAL..... 126**

## WAYS TO GIVE

**Online:** [fspa.org](https://fspa.org)

**By mail:** 912 Market St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601

**By phone:** 608-791-5282

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**66**

Number of donors enrolled in our planned giving program  
**Perpetual Friends**

**92**

Number of donors enrolled in our monthly giving program  
**Faithful Friends**

**Join our Friends** 608-791-5282

# 2021 JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

“Whether near or far, we gratefully gather in the Body of Christ,” said Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Eileen McKenzie, welcoming jubilarians and their guests (attending both in person and virtually) to “Every Moment Thine, Celebration of Diamond Jubilee” at Mary of the Angels Chapel in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in August.

Throughout 2021 we have celebrated 18 sister jubilarians and four affiliate jubilarians. In addition to our gathering in Mary of the Angels Chapel, we came together at Villa St. Joseph in May to celebrate 75, 70 and 60 years of vowed religious life. To read reflections and view portraits taken of the jubilarians, visit [fspa.org/jubilee](https://fspa.org/jubilee).



“  
Sister Jubilarians, we join you in praising God for the gift of loving service you have offered and continue to offer as members of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.”





“  
 We thank you for sharing  
 yourselves, your talents and  
 your continuous prayer  
 with all of God’s people.  
 Together, may we continue  
 to enjoy God’s blessings.”



# IN MEMORIAM: REJOICE, YOU WHO ARE ALIVE IN CHRIST

## **Sister Joanne McGoldrick**

**Feb. 17, 1928 - April 18, 2021**



Sister Joanne Patricia Lancaster was born on Feb. 17, 1928, in Spokane, Washington, to Emmett and Effie (Turpin) Lancaster. Her father served as Spokane City Treasurer until his retirement. Her mother was a homemaker, but as Sister Joanne would say,

also an activist, who was involved in many civic and social justice activities as she raised Sister Joanne and her two brothers. Sister Joanne received her early education at St. Joseph Grade School in Spokane and graduated from eighth grade at St. Aloysius Grade School.

During World War II, her parents moved to Seattle, Washington. After graduating from Holy Names Academy High School, Sister Joanne wanted to become a sister, but her parents objected. Instead she worked at Kaufer Catholic Bookstore in Spokane, then enrolled at Holy Names College (Fort Wright College) with a major in journalism and a minor in dramatics. During her third year in college, she was offered a position at the Spokesman-Review newspaper as a reporter. After three years in that position she resigned, was married and began raising her five children: Marianne, George, Pat, Susan and Tom. In 1974 she returned to Fort Wright College and earned a bachelor's degree in sociology. She accepted a volunteer position at the Eastern Washington Agency on Aging, wrote a grant for funding and was hired. When funding ended, she was invited to join the staff at The Salvation Army in Spokane as family welfare director. During her time with The Salvation Army, she earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Whitworth College in Spokane. After raising her family, Joanne resigned from her position at The Salvation Army and entered the Benedictine Community at Mt. Angel, Oregon. When her mother became ill, Sister Joanne left the Benedictines to care for her until she died, subsequently resuming her position at The Salvation Army.

In 1982, Sister Joanne became an affiliate of the FSPA. After a year, she resigned again from The Salvation Army and formally entered the congregation, making first vows in 1986 as an FSPA.

In Spokane Sister Joanne continued her ministry as a family counselor, both at The Salvation Army and at Love Church Services Network. From 1994 to 1998, Sister Joanne served FSPA Clare Retreat Center as co-director. She then became pastoral assistant at St. Peter's Parish until her retirement in 2005. At that time, Sister Joanne was living at Rockwood Lane retirement facility where she volunteered as a Bible study facilitator and home visitor. When her health began to deteriorate, she moved to South Hill Village.

Friends, family and community members remember Sister Joanne as having a quiet, loving heart for the poor, especially the elderly poor. Her counseling skills aided many as she walked with them through difficult transitions. With a sense of humility and pride, she enjoyed many years of service to families through The Salvation Army. Her low-key personality, sense of humor and ability to go with the flow drew people to her.

## **Sister Betty Shakal**

**Sept. 12, 1934 - May 3, 2021**



Sister Elizabeth Anne was born on Sept. 12, 1934 in Boyd, Wisconsin, to Leo and Frances (Schesel) Shakal. The eldest of 13 children, she remembers growing up on the farm with her younger brothers and sisters, learning all the skills she needed to be "mother's

helper": cooking, sewing, baking. She once commented that she thought she learned how to rip seams the same afternoon she learned how to sew. Her early education was in a one-room school where the teacher's husband brought wood to keep everyone warm in the winter. As the Shakal family grew, they eventually moved to a larger farmhouse, close to Holy Family School in Stanley, Wisconsin, where Sister Betty completed her elementary



education. There she met the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and the seed of her religious vocation was planted.

She joined FSPA in 1950 and was given the name Sister Joene but later went back to her baptismal name. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 12, 1954.

Sister Betty ministered in the field of education, receiving a bachelor's in chemistry with a minor in mathematics from Viterbo College and a masters in chemistry from the University of Notre Dame. She began her teaching career with middle grades in Carroll and Hills, Iowa, and at St. Mary's Ridge, Wisconsin, before teaching high school. Sister Betty taught high school chemistry and mathematics for 26 years in Wisconsin (Prairie du Chien and Stevens Point), Oregon (Salem), Iowa (Bellevue, Carroll and West Point) and Texas (El Paso). During that time, she earned a masters of theology from St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota and undertook pastoral studies at Loyola University in Chicago. Sister Betty was asked to serve as treasurer for the FSPA Central Region in Hiawatha, Iowa, from 1995 to 1998. In 2000 she moved to La Crosse where she was the assistant development director for FSPA until 2007. She retired and spent the next eight years volunteering, mainly as a math and science tutor. In 2015 Sister Betty made her home at Villa St. Joseph.

Sister Betty is remembered for her love of God, life and teaching. Her delight was combining two of her passions: teaching and working with international students, as she spent many hours in retirement helping solve a math problem or chemistry equation. She often said that her work in development began when she was teaching at Father Yermo High School in El Paso. She enjoyed helping raise funds to update their science lab and the school gymnasium. Eventually she was able to recruit an alumna to continue her work when she left. One could always count on Sister Betty for a welcoming smile and hearty laugh.

**Read complete FSPA obituaries under news/events at [fspa.org](http://fspa.org).**

## **Sister Gertrude Daugherty**

**Nov. 7, 1927 - Aug. 8, 2021**



Born in Bellevue, Iowa, on Nov. 7, 1927, Sister Gertrude Florence was the daughter of Cornelius Vincent and Teresa Mary (Keuter) Daugherty. She attended grade school and high school at St. Joseph's in Bellevue. She and her 10 brothers and sisters

often found time to get into a little mischief after their chores on the farm were completed. Her favorite subject was American history. Sister Gertrude was the youngest player on the basketball team when they won the Archdiocese of Dubuque tournament. During her junior year, she began to think of entering religious life. Gertrude left home on Sept. 3, 1945, for St. Rose Convent in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Gertrude was received into the novitiate on Aug. 12, 1946, and was given the name Sister Barbara Jean. She later went back to her baptismal name. Sister Gertrude made first profession of vows on Aug. 12, 1948, and final vows on Aug. 9, 1954.

Sister Gertrude served FSPA as a homemaker in convent homes in Iowa, Washington and Wisconsin from 1948 to 1965. After completing licensed practical training at St. Anthony School of Nursing in Carroll, Iowa, she served as a LPN for 28 years in La Crosse (Villa St. Joseph, St. Francis Hospital and St. Rose Convent), Idaho (Sacred Heart Hospital in Idaho Falls) and Bellevue (Mill Valley Care Center). During her time in Bellevue, she also took care of her aging parents. For a year she was a home health nurse in Claxton, Georgia. Even after retiring to St. Rose Convent in 2000, Sister Gertrude assisted in the wellness center, accompanying sisters to doctor appointments and helping as needed. In 2017 Sister Gertrude moved to the Villa. Community members, family and friends will remember Sister Gertrude as quiet, cheerful and always having a smile and kind word for others. Her gentleness and sense of humor endeared her to her patients, family, sisters and many friends. Her interest in history remained current. Almost every day at St. Rose, Sister Gertrude could be found in the Adoration Chapel praying for her family, friends, religious community and, of course, the needs of the world.

## **Sister Donna Weber**

**April 25, 1930 - Aug. 28, 2021**



Sister Donna Jean Weber was born on April 25, 1930, to Reynold and Laura (Asher) Weber in Eau Galle, Wisconsin. She was the ninth of 10 children, all born on the family farm. Sister Donna shared vivid memories of growing up in their beautiful farm home

surrounded by rolling hills. One evening as the family gathered on the porch next to a very full rain barrel, her father teasingly picked her up and saying he was going to put her headfirst into it. His grip weakened and she later spoke of this as her “second baptism.” Later her family settled in Menomonie, Wisconsin, where Sister Donna was in the first freshman class at the new St. Joseph High School.

Having a sister (Sister Mildred Weber) and several other relatives in the FSPA community sparked the idea of a vocation in Donna. By the end of her freshman year, she responded to this call. She entered St. Rose Convent in 1945 and was given the name Sister Elreda at her novitiate reception in 1948. She later returned to her baptismal name. She made profession of vows in 1950.

Sister Donna served as an elementary teacher for 14 years in schools in Washington (St. Augustine in Spokane) and Wisconsin (Sacred Heart in Ashland and St. Wenceslaus and Blessed Sacrament in La Crosse). For the next 20 years, she ministered as an art teacher in high schools in Wisconsin (Superior and Green Bay) and at Viterbo College (La Crosse), and as an art and religion teacher in Wausau, Wisconsin, and in Miles City, Montana. After attending the Creation Spirituality Program in Oakland, California, Sister Donna served on the retreat staff at Holy Cross Center in Merrill, Wisconsin. From 1990 until 2008, she was pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Parish, Wauzeka, Wisconsin. She retired to St. Rose Convent in 2008, where she continued sharing her artistic creativity.

Community members, family and colleagues will remember Sister Donna as a caring, creative person who loved life and loved her God. She often said that religious life was an extension of a gift that was nurtured in her home. She saw beauty in creation and in people.

She shared her love of beauty in various ways on her missions and at the motherhouse — often being the mastermind behind decorations for special occasions. While at Viterbo, she was asked to help with the expansion of St. Francis Chapel at St. Rose Convent. She designed the altar, chalice, tabernacle and credence table, using the theme “You fill us with the best of wheat” as inspiration. Creativity marked her life; even into her late 80s, she could be seen on a ladder in the dining room putting the final touches on Christmas decorations. While she spent 18 years in parish ministry, she would not be able to say she loved it more or less than her years teaching. She loved life and the gifts God gave her during each phase of life.

She was very social and loved visiting with people. She could often be seen at table long after most people had left the dining room. She could be counted on for a great conversation, often about politics, which she followed assiduously. When she could no longer travel, she visited with family by phone, even when she was near death, relishing especially visits with her only surviving sibling, her sister Betsy. Sister Donna joined in the jubilee Mass and dinner, celebrating her 71 years of religious profession, just two weeks before she died.

## **Affiliate Bonnie White**

**Feb. 6, 1949 - April 9, 2021**



Bonnie Louise White, age 72, of Middleville, Michigan, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 9, 2021, after a long illness. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Virginia (Blaser) White; sister-in-law Cindy (DeRidder) White; nephew Zechariah White;

and great niece Virginia Marie Leno. She will be lovingly remembered by her brothers, Don (Judy) White, Ron (Pam) White; nieces Leah (Matt) Leno, Bonnie Joy White and Rachel McWilliams; nephews Steven and Brett White; great nieces and nephews; and wonderful cousins and many caring friends.

## **Affiliate Scott Baeseman**

**Aug. 5, 1968 - June 6, 2021**

Scott Allan Baeseman, 52, of Highland Park, Illinois, died peacefully in Wisconsin at the home of Steve Schlei and



his sister, Jody Baeseman, surrounded by his family, on June 6, 2021. His last day on this earth was spent riding in the sunshine in his sister’s convertible and enjoying the glow of a campfire with his siblings.

Scott was born Aug. 5, 1968, in Edgar, Wisconsin, son of the late Arden and Joan Baeseman. He married his husband, Valentin Serban, on March 20, 2021, in a beautiful ceremony on Lake Michigan in Highland Park. He is survived by Valentin and two daughters, Stella and Margaret “Mimi,” who were the absolute loves of his life.

Scott was a 1986 graduate of Edgar High School. He earned a bachelors in music education and opera from Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and a masters in opera performance from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, where he graduated with honorary distinction and was invited to join Pi Kappa Lambda Society of Musical Scholars. As a Golden Apple Teaching Scholar with the Chicago Area Golden Apple Foundation, Scott was awarded a six-month sabbatical to Northwestern University to pursue his personal interests in social justice in education, harp performance, storytelling in education and musical composition.

For the past 22 years, Scott served as Lake Forest Country Day School Fine Arts Department Chair, music educator and choral conductor. His awards, both local and national, were many: Lake Forest Country Day Yvonne Banks Caring Teacher Award (twice), Lake Forest Country Day Charles E. Leake Master Teacher Award, Lake Forest Country Day James L. Marks III Faculty Merit Award, Lake Forest Country Day Second Century Teaching Chair Award, Illinois State Music Teacher of the Year, Golden Apple Teacher of Distinction, three-time Grammy Award Teacher of the Year nominee and finalist and Edgar High School Wall of Fame for Distinguished Alums for his contributions to music education. Although he was a decorated educator, he didn’t teach for accolades. In teaching Scott had found his calling and was rewarded for his passion.

Scott was also a composer of sacred solo, choral and instrumental works. His works premiered in Asia, Canada, Europe and the United States. His song cycle

composition for solo voice and piano, based on the works of William Shakespeare, was awarded an Honorary Distinction Award and is housed in the national library for the National Association for the Teachers of Singing. Scott was taught the value of volunteerism by his family early on and became a religious affiliate with the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in La Crosse, Wisconsin. He volunteered as a lay episcopal chaplain with the Highland Park Police Department for several years before his death. As an educator, he spent several years as a lecture/recitalist with the Chicago Chamber Musicians, teaching and performing in their inner-city schools’ programs.

Scott was known as a colorful storyteller and used his own stories to help others in both his career as an educator and within his ministry. Every day he ended each of his classes with a charge to his students — “Go Make A Positive Difference In the World!” — and was proud to maintain contact over the years with so many of his former students who did exactly that.

### **Affiliate Lucille Pedretti**

**March 30, 1931 - July 26, 2021**



Lucille Marie Pedretti, age 90, passed away at Benedictine Villa in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Lucille was born in Genoa, Wisconsin, on March 30, 1931, to Albert & Helen (Venner) Pedretti. She grew up on the family farm and attended St. Charles Elementary and later

joined the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in La Crosse. She professed vows and was known as Sister Delphine.

Lucille taught elementary school in several places including Ashland and Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and Spokane, Washington. She later left FSPA and taught middle school in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. When she retired from teaching, she sold floral creations at craft shows for her business, Creative Florals by Lucille. In her spare time, Lucille enjoyed arranging flowers, painting and praying. In the early 1990s, she moved to Brice Prairie, Wisconsin, to care for her mother. Lucille lived in her parents’ home on Lake Onalaska in Wisconsin until recently when she moved to Benedictine Villa.

# SPIRIT OF MINISTRY: AFFILIATE'S 'DEEPEST CORE VALUES' SOWN IN NEIGHBORHOOD GARDEN



**By Mary Ellen Dunford, affiliate**

It began in 1976 with a card table set up in the parking lot of Olivet Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, topped with two piles of clothing. Very quickly the table overflowed. Today we're providing much more than clothing, from a dedicated building to a nonprofit organization — Olivet Neighborhood Mission.

preparation with fresh produce. Partnerships with Iowa State University and its Extension and Outreach Master Gardener Program, along with other organizations, are prospering. Neighborhoods are beautified. Standards are set for land ethics and care of the land we are gifted with. Instilled in all are pride and connection between people and God through nature.

This is an organization that touches my deepest core values of service and ministry to others. As an affiliate, I was inspired to sponsor this grant by the provocative movements proclaimed by A Revolution of Goodness. It exemplifies relationship building, joyful Gospel living, community, diversity and ministry. It is a life-changing gift for all of creation.

Olivet Neighborhood Mission helps provide food, clothing, toiletries and small houseware items for those in need, free of charge. It provides youth programs in partnership with Head Start and the Boys & Girls Club of Cedar Rapids; local school resources, including funding for a RN; and more.

I applied for an FSPA ministry grant, for the first time, to aid the organization and my neighbors it serves. I am happy to report that a grant was approved, and the organization is now growing Olivet Community Gardens, a program that supports the food and kitchen pantries providing fresh vegetables, fruit and premade meals at no charge.

The gardens first planted in the 1990s were totally destroyed by the floods in 2008, rebuilt and then devastated by a derecho that left widespread destruction in 2020. Garden plots, a shed and produce not yet harvested were destroyed. FSPA funding is in part rejuvenating and adding plots, replanting trees, vegetables and flowering perennials, purchasing seeds and seedlings and replacing the shed.

Food security is not the only aim of the program. Laudato Si' goals including ecological education are met by the teaching of gardening skills and meal

An affiliate for 24 years, Mary Ellen Dunford is a member of Connector Cables Virtual Companion Community living in Hiawatha, Iowa, with her husband, Bob. She is an avid gardener whose passions include integral ecology and immigration/migration efforts. She serves on the FSPA Affiliation Operating Board and various other committees that support the mission, vision and values of FSPA Affiliation.

Photo courtesy of Olivet Neighborhood Mission



# FSPA CELEBRATES SISTER MEG'S FIRST VOWS PROFESSION



Sister Meg Earsley, pictured above with Sisters Laurie Sullivan, Malinda Gerke and Corrina Thomas, recently professed first vows with the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, continuing her journey as a Catholic sister.

During the ceremony, Sister Meg received the FSPA medal. This medal, adopted by the community in 1880, is a Maltese cross with eight points representing the eight beatitudes. Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Marcia Baumert celebrated Sister Meg: "I remember your early reactions to FSPA and St. Rose Convent as 'there's so much joy here.' As you profess your vows, may you feel that joy and know joy is one of the beautiful gifts you bring to us."

We asked Sister Meg three questions about her journey to vow day.

**Associate. Novice. And now, first vows. What have been the biggest blessings along the way?**

My biggest blessings have been discovering the depth of community in sharing joys, sorrows and daily life. Another blessing has been the gift of time and space to spend contemplative time with God. And of course, my time in adoration has been priceless!

**What advice do you have for someone discerning religious life?**

My advice to someone discerning religious life is to lean into the experience. When I was first discerning, I found that I would focus on the reasons why I thought joining religious life would not work. The invitation I found in the Holy Spirit was to continue to consider what would work instead. This perspective opened my discernment to the beauty that is this life.

**What are your plans after first vows?**

I have some exciting things coming up after vows! First, I travel to Washington D.C. for three months to complete mission formation with Franciscan Mission Services. That will prepare me for travel to Bolivia soon after. In Bolivia I will spend some time in language school, followed by a year of service spent with the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis.

— To learn more about discerning life as a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, visit [fspa.org/discerning](https://fspa.org/discerning). —

# FSPA AFFILIATION 40TH ANNIVERSARY

“ When sisters and affiliates get to work together and we get to know each other personally and we’re out in the community and witnessing who we are and what we are about — that’s a very powerful thing.”  
- Mike Schnitzius, affiliate



To honor 40 years of the FSPA Affiliation program, affiliates and sisters are celebrating the interconnectedness of all things and the way of living life through the spiritual lens of Franciscan values.

We created a video series to share how the universal values of reflection, presence, simplicity, humility, peacemaking, stewardship and service inspire affiliates and give them life in their Franciscan journeys.

Visit [fspa.org/affiliation](https://fspa.org/affiliation) to watch the videos.



## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: FSPA HOSTS SISTER THEA BOWMAN DOCUMENTARIANS

An upcoming documentary produced by NewGroup Media tells the story of Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration whose cause for canonization is open. In June, documentarians filmed in La Crosse, Wisconsin, capturing the story of Thea’s journey to St. Rose Convent at age 15 through her ministry at Viterbo University and her final years leading up to her death in 1990. Now in production, the one-hour documentary is expected to be released in the fall of 2022. Learn more about Sister Thea Bowman at [fspa.org/theabowman](https://fspa.org/theabowman).



# PRAIRIEWOODS CELEBRATES 25TH JUBILEE

Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center's jubilee theme — "Praise be!" — expresses the incredible joy and deep gratitude felt as they reflect on and celebrate 25 years as a sacred space of peace and transformation.

You are invited to join the center as they continue this jubilee year of praise through in person and virtual events.



**Saturday**  
**Jan. 22 2022**

## Embrace Your Creative Spirit

Throughout Prairiewoods' 25 years, we have celebrated the spirituality of creativity. This day will offer three opportunities to explore and nurture your creativity and your spirit.

**Sunday**  
**Mar. 13 2022**

## Rededication to Peace

Prairiewoods' original Peace Pole did not survive the 2020 derecho that devastated Linn County. The center connected with community artists to commission a new piece that will engage the spirits and senses in the imagination of peace throughout the world.

**Spring**  
**'22**

## Spirituality in the 21st Century

Big plans are underway for our annual event!

*Learn more and register for all events at [prairiewoods.org](http://prairiewoods.org).*

## MANNA FOR A WINTER EARTH, THE STORY OF ROSE OF VITERBO

“**Situating Rose in the historical and cultural context of thirteenth century Viterbo sheds light on understanding the Viterbo citizens' devotion for her, and the impact of her Franciscan penitential life.**”

- Romana Miller, OSF

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration Marlene Weisenbeck and Joan Weisenbeck share a love of St. Rose of Viterbo. Their interest is rooted in the naming of their motherhouse in La Crosse, Wisconsin: St. Rose Convent, after Rose of Viterbo, in 1872. Together they wrote and published “Manna for a Wintery Earth, The Story of Rose of Viterbo,” available at [franciscanpublications.com](http://franciscanpublications.com).

**Manna for a Wintery Earth**  
The Story of Rose of Viterbo



by  
Joan Weisenbeck, FSPA  
and  
Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA



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Communications Office  
912 Market St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601-4782  
fspa.org

# GI ING TUESDAY

Together  
we give.



November 30, 2021

**Mark your calendars for Nov. 30 when your donation will be matched.**

**Visit [fspa.org/donate](https://fspa.org/donate) or call 608-791-5282.**

## Connect with our partners in ministry

**Franciscan Spirituality Center** La Crosse, Wisconsin, [fscenter.org](https://fscenter.org)

**Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center** Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin, [marywoodsc.org](https://marywoodsc.org)

**Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center** Hiawatha, Iowa, [prairiewoods.org](https://prairiewoods.org)

**Global Awareness Through Experience**, [gate-travel.org](https://gate-travel.org)