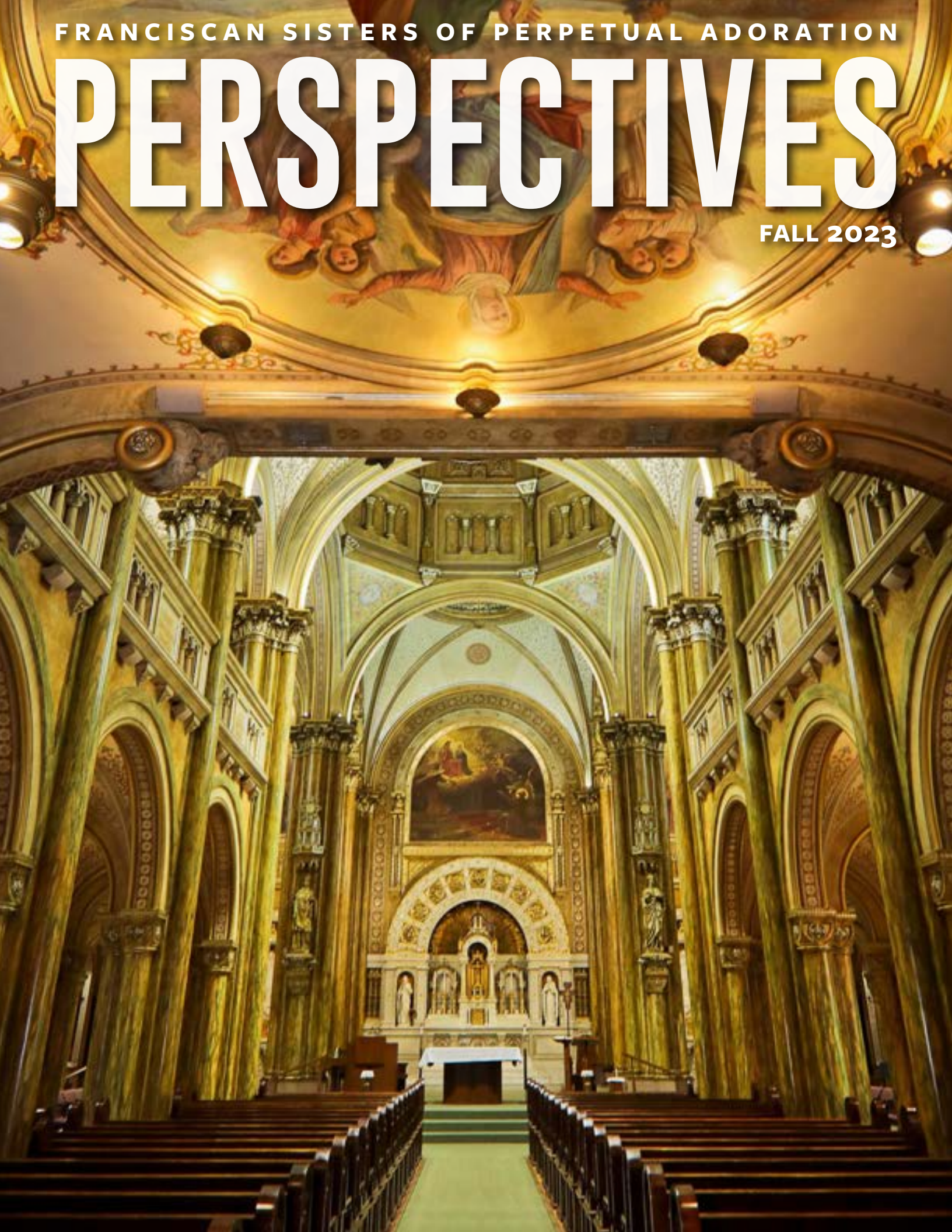


FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

PERSPECTIVES

FALL 2023



FRANCISCAN PERSPECTIVE



FSPA Mission and Vision

We are a community of vowed Franciscan women centered in Eucharist, committed to be loving presence through prayer, witness and service.

We proclaim action in the following areas:

We commit to the seven-year **Laudato Si' Action Platform**, intensifying action for greater social and environmental justice, recognizing that everything is a gift from God and embracing our dependence on creation.

We commit to cultivating a culture of humility, joining others to address the racial injustices of society and Church.

We study our history and our impact at St. Mary's Boarding School in Odanah, Wisconsin (1883 to 1969). We recognize our complicity in historical trauma by engagement in the implementation of unjust policies and doctrines that resulted in the displacement, assimilation and genocide of countless Indigenous communities.

We educate ourselves and others about the deeper significance of immigration injustices — of people fleeing violence, political corruption and environmental devastation in their homes and countries.

We accept Pope Francis' invitation and challenge to join the solidarity economy — the **Economy of Francesco** — a worldwide movement aimed to change the current economic models and craft a more inclusive and just future. Through Seeding a Legacy of Healing, ministry grants and impact investments, we act on the opportunities and our commitment to transform economies for people and the planet.

At the FSPA Mission Assembly in June of 2022, we reaffirmed our commitment to the **provocative movements**: building bridges of *relationships* that stretch us to be people of encounter. We stand with all suffering in our Earth Community, freeing ourselves through joyful *gospel living* to be transformed in love and goodness for community and mission. We celebrate authentic *unity in diversity* by challenging our white privilege and working toward equity and inclusion of all.



Cover Image: Mary of the Angels Chapel, St. Rose Convent, La Crosse, Wisconsin
Photo by Megan McCluskey, Atypik Studio

2022 - 2026 Leadership Team

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Vice President: Sister Georgia Christensen

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FROM ST. FRANCIS TO MODERN HOMES: THE 800-YEAR LEGACY OF THE CRÈCHE



CELEBRATING *Christmas* AT GRECCIO

By Annette Mikat

This year, when festive lights twinkle in homes worldwide, we will find ourselves at a significant milestone. It is the 800th anniversary of a tradition that has, for centuries, symbolized the true essence of Christmas — the crèche.

The word “crèche” originates from the Old French term for a crib or manger. This iconic scene, which reenacts the birth of Jesus Christ, finds its roots in the 13th century with St. Francis of Assisi. But who would have thought that a simple representation in a cave in Greccio, Italy, would leave such a lasting legacy?

In 1223, desiring to make the experience of the Christmas story more tangible and accessible, St. Francis sought permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a live nativity. His intention? To eschew the rising materialism of the time and bring focus back to the simple and divine nature of the Christmas story. By using real animals and a manger in a cave setting, he created a physical representation of the events of that holy night.

From its Italian origins, the crèche rapidly gained traction across Europe. Artisans in different countries began to depict the nativity using materials and styles that reflected their own cultures. The Polish “szopka,” Spanish “Belénes” and French “santons” are just a few regional iterations.

In Latin America, entire towns partake in live reenactments. In the Philippines, the “Panunuluyan” pageant is performed: actors go from house to house, seeking shelter, culminating in a display of the manger scene.

Deep Spiritual Resonance

The crèche, in all its forms, is more than just an ornamental display. It stands as a visual sermon reflecting the core of Christian belief that God became man to walk among us. This simple scene — one of a child born in humble circumstances surrounded by adoring shepherds and wise men — speaks to the universal themes of love, humility and hope.

It serves as a poignant reminder of a god who chose a simple manger in which to make entrance into the world. To many, this underscores the idea that divinity can be found in simplicity and that every individual holds intrinsic value, no matter their circumstances.

Celebrating the 800th anniversary of the crèche is about recognizing the enduring appeal and significance of a tradition that transcends cultural and geographical boundaries. The crèche’s ability to continue inspiring and uniting people across generations is truly remarkable.

The octocentenary is a testament to the enduring power of the story it represents. Despite rapidly changing times, the story of a child in a manger continues to captivate and inspire. It presents an opportunity to reflect on the shared human experience. In a world that sometimes feels more divided than united, the crèche remains a symbol of universal compassion and faith. Whether displayed in a cathedral in Europe or a home in Africa, its essence remains unchanged. It is a call back to simplicity, love and hope. ■



Celebrate With Us

The Greccio Experience

Nov. 29 - Dec. 17, 2023

Prayer Service: Nov. 29 at 5:30 p.m.

San Damiano Chapel, 900 Viterbo Drive, La Crosse, WI

Community Mural

Dec. 4 - 15, 2023

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mondays and Thursdays: 5 - 7 p.m.

Franciscan Spirituality Center, 920 Market Street, La Crosse, WI

Baby Item Drive

Dec. 4 - 21, 2023 | Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Drop-off locations:

Franciscan Spirituality Center, 920 Market Street, La Crosse, WI

San Damiano Chapel, 900 Viterbo Drive, La Crosse, WI

Viterbo University Fine Arts Center Atrium, 929 Jackson Street, La Crosse, WI

Lighting of Mayo Clinic Health System's CAMS Building

Dec. 10, 2023 | Dusk on Dec. 10 to dawn on Dec. 11

Center for Advanced Medicine and Surgery, 700 West Avenue South, La Crosse, WI

Franciscan Night at Rotary Lights Holiday Display

Dec. 10, 2023

5 - 10 p.m. (Ninth Street Singers will perform at 5:30 p.m.)

Riverside Park, 100 State Street, La Crosse, WI

Advent Bowls: Sounds of Greccio

Dec. 16, 2023

6 - 7 p.m. (doors open at 5 p.m. for nativity scene viewing)

San Damiano Chapel, 900 Viterbo Drive, La Crosse, WI

Blessing of Baby Jesus

Dec. 17, 2023 | 9:50 a.m. (followed by 10 a.m. Sunday Mass)

Mary of the Angels Chapel, 901 Franciscan Way, La Crosse, WI

For more information about these events, visit fspa.org/centenary.





**CRÈCHE: ORIGINATES FROM THE OLD
FRENCH TERM FOR A CRIB OR MANGER**

**“THIS ICONIC SCENE, WHICH REENACTS
THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, FINDS ITS
ROOTS IN THE 13TH CENTURY WITH
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI.”**

FSPA SHARES ‘LOVE OF CREATION,’ FRANCISCAN TRADITION OF ART



By Charish Badzinski

Surrounded by her screen printings, paintings and icons — an immense body of work from a lifetime of creativity — Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Maryam Gossling (pictured above) smiles broadly.

Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Shirley Wagner pages through a binder of pictures of her art, including woodwork, paintings, statues and logos. With more than 725 commissioned works to her credit, it’s perhaps no surprise her art is well traveled. “I have art in five different countries,” she shares, including Ettenbeuren, Germany.

Inspired by nature, her grandmother’s love of lavender and purple as well as the life of St. Francis of Assisi, Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Pauline Wittry (pictured above right) uses all three to inform her approach to art. “I did have the opportunity to go to some of the places where St. Francis lived and prayed. Unconsciously I think some of that influences you,

because it influences your life; it shows up in what you’re painting.”

With every stroke of the paintbrush, every stitch in fabric, every handful of clay, every iconography workshop and every shaving of wood that falls away, the history of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration is told through the art and fine arts created over the years by the sisters themselves. Art has always played an essential role in the lives of the sisters — an outlet to express their love of creation, a celebration of the beauty of the world and a means to live out their Franciscan values. The Franciscan tradition of art is often encapsulated in the legendary story of Mother Antonia Herb, who went out to buy food for the community and purchased a painting instead. As she explained it, the sisters needed food for their souls as well as their bodies.

It only takes a walk down the halls of St. Rose Convent in La Crosse, Wisconsin, to determine without a doubt that the sisters have feasted on art ever since. In fact the FSPA have been incredibly prolific in their creation of

“I WANT PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO SEE THIS ART, BECAUSE ART IS NOTHING IF IT’S NOT SEEN. WE SHOULD BE SHARING IT WITH THE WORLD.”

art since the community was founded, with works in the FSPA Archives dating back to the early 1900s. Preserving and documenting the full scope of art created by the community is a daunting yet critical undertaking. The importance of the effort became particularly clear as war threatens historically significant art and artifacts in Ukraine. When FSPA Archivist Meg Paulino read a news story about the effort to digitize art in Ukraine so that it can be preserved for future generations, she was inspired to launch a like-minded effort at St. Rose.

“We have so many pieces of art, and I want to ensure each has a digital footprint,” Meg explains. She hired Madeline Cochran, who holds a master’s degree in art and humanities and took cello lessons from Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Marcella Steffes, to work with her to digitally preserve these precious pieces of FSPA heritage. To that end, they have set up a photo studio to attempt to capture museum-quality digital images of each piece. To date they’ve digitized more than 500 pieces of art created by the community, with more to come.

To fully understand the artist’s purpose requires further study. “We also thought how wonderful it

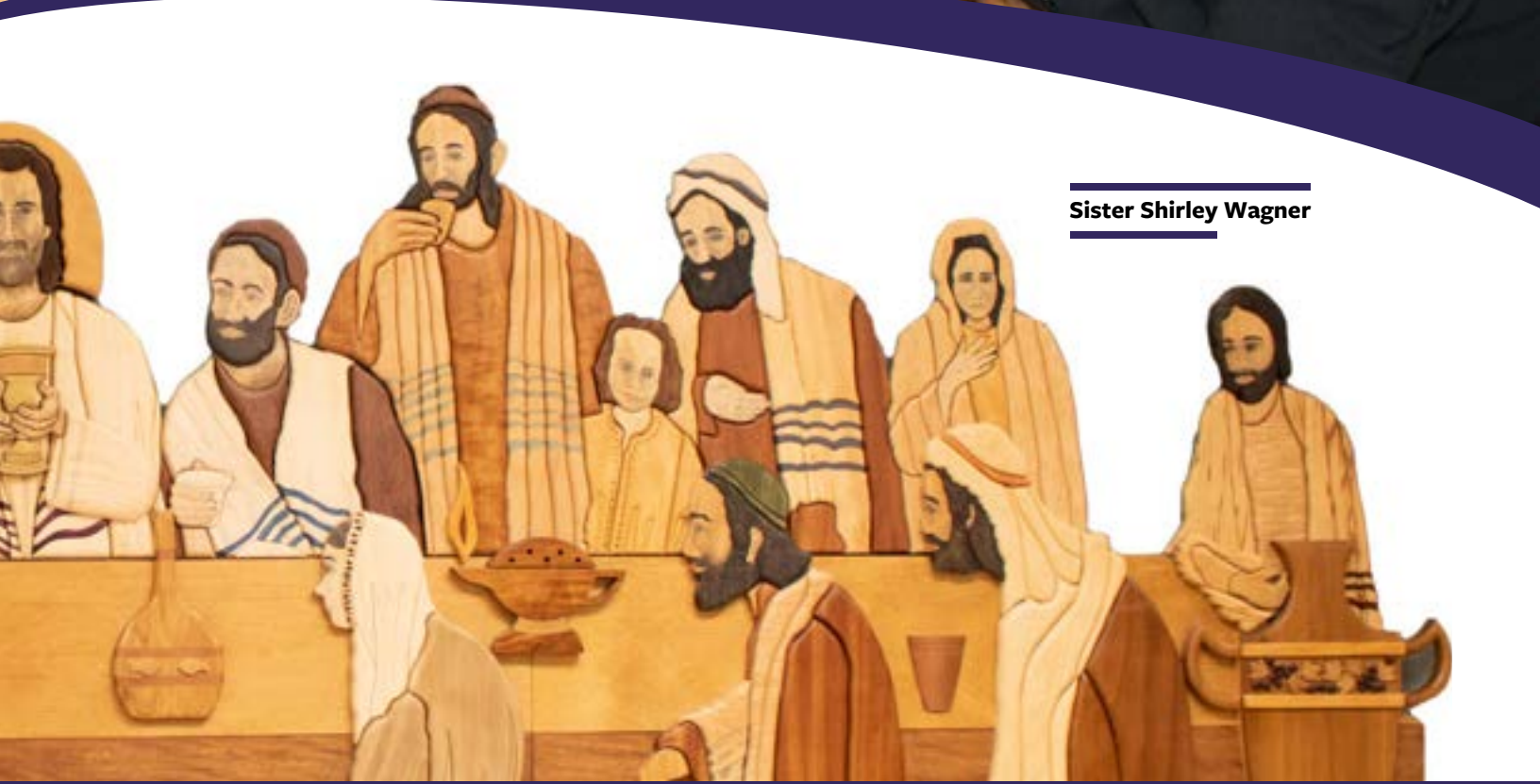
would be to get their stories, talk to them about their art and record it in an oral history format, just capturing their essence,” explains Meg. So, in addition to leading the photography and editing, Madeline has been interviewing sisters to gain a deeper insight into their work.

The proverbial feasting upon Franciscan art continues, and the guest list at the table is growing. The long-term vision of preserving FSPA art extends beyond gathering digital records for the archives. The team is creating a lending library so that sisters and partners in mission can borrow artwork to beautify their spaces with an ever-evolving exhibit of this inspired artistry. More, the long-term vision of the initiative is to share this collection of artworks with the public, in what Meg envisions as an online art collection.

“I want people to be able to see this art, because art is nothing if it’s not seen,” she says. “We should be sharing it with the world.”

Whatever the inspiration or medium, as the tradition of Franciscan art continues, Sister Pauline offers some advice for budding artists. “Keep working at it. Don’t give up.” Now, with some of her pieces hanging on the physical walls and digital spaces of the world, she also stresses the importance of sharing your work. “If you’re starting out, it encourages you to have other people appreciate something you did.” ■





Sister Shirley Wagner

FSPA MISSION ADVANCEMENT: UPHOLDING COMMITMENTS WITH DONORS LIKE YOU

As Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, we commit ourselves to building Christ's Kingdom of justice and peace, preserving God's creation, increasing social and global consciousness, educating ourselves to political awareness and encouraging action to effect change where necessary.

Your support is at work upholding these commitments.

Together we are deepening relationships with organizations investing in diversity, equity and inclusion for communities around the globe, including:

- La 72 and its Psychosocial Care Program for Women — a lifeline for migrant adolescents fleeing sexual and gender-based violence.
- Cameroon Education Foundation — an organization that's putting educational materials into the hands of 100 students displaced by Africa's Anglophone Crisis.
- Special Religious Development Archdiocese of Chicago — a program that is nourishing faith formation for individuals who have intellectual disabilities.
- La Crosse Jail Ministry — a movement to purchase spiritual materials for incarcerated people of many different faith backgrounds.



READING ABOUT THE WORK YOU ARE DOING TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE — AND SEEING YOU ARE A TREMENDOUS FORCE FOR CHANGE IN THE WORLD IN MANY AREAS.”

What inspired your gift?



I LOVE HAVING YOU AS MY PRAYER WARRIORS.”



Ways to give:

- general giving of all financial amounts
- charitable IRA rollover
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Giving is easy:

- Make a secure donation online at fspa.org/donate.
- Text to give by texting *donate* to 608-650-6464.
- Contact FSPA Mission Advancement Director Rochelle Nicks at rnicks@fspa.org or 608-791-5282.

FSPA would love to hear from you!

Contact Rochelle and share your giving story — your inspiration for investing in our ministries. With your permission, we will share your stories at fspa.org and on our social media channels.

We thank you for spreading Franciscan goodness around the world. ■

FSPA ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

DONOR SUPPORT

Total Disbursed

\$841,790



\$540,832

Greatest Need | 64%



\$152,140

Ministries | 18%



\$139,898

Sisters' Retirement | 17%



\$8,920

Spirituality Centers | 1%

Funding Income

General Contributions.....	\$428,179	51%
Bequests/Planned Giving.....	\$402,921	48%
Memorial Gifts.....	\$10,690	1%
TOTAL.....	\$841,790	100%

GRANTS SUPPORTED

Basic Needs.....	36
Education/Tuition.....	14
Health & Wellness.....	14
Family Strengthening.....	9
Religion & Spirituality.....	8
Justice & Peace.....	7
Ecospirituality.....	3
TOTAL.....	91

WAYS TO GIVE

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By mail: 912 Market Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

By phone: 608-791-5282

Via text: text donate to 608-650-6464



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

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

Join our Friends 608-791-5282

2023 JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

This year the global community had the honor of celebrating diamond, gold and silver jubilees with a total of 1,015 years of vowed religious life lived by 18 Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. We give great gratitude to them — as well as our 15 affiliates celebrating 25 years of lay ministry — for their loving presence of prayer, witness and service.

Those we celebrate include ...

Sisters Loretta Penchi (in loving memory) and Lucille Winnike, Class of 1948, 75 years in mission;

Sisters Florence Griesmer, Bernadette Nehl, Mildred Tigges, Laverne Wilichowski and Mary Simeon Werner (in loving memory), Class of 1953, 70 years in mission;

Sisters Helen Deppe, Karen Kappell, Ronalda Hophan and Patricia Shepler (in loving memory), Class of 1963, 60 years in mission;

Sisters Julie Tydrich, Karen Lueck and Kathy Stuttgen,

“... A TOTAL OF 1,015 YEARS OF VOWED RELIGIOUS LIFE LIVED BY 18 FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION.”

Class of 1973, 50 years in mission;

and Sisters Roselyn Heil, Linda Mershon and Sue Ernster, Class of 1998, 25 years in mission.

And the affiliates we honor for 25 years as our spiritual collaborators are ...

Laura Barnett, Corrine Bauer, Deborah Clements, Mickey Collins (in loving memory), Chet Corey, Joyce Heil, Karen Hellman, Carolyn Klein, Mary Ann McDonald, Joan Meeder, Carol Meirick, Marjorie Schultes, Pamela Small, Lueretha Tillman and Lily Watson.

To read reflections of gratitude written by our sister jubilarians, visit fspa.org/jubilee. ■



AS WE CONTINUE IN MANY CREATIVE WAYS TO SHARE WITH OTHERS THE GIFTS WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN, I FEEL A CLOSE CONNECTION WITH MEMBERS AND PARTNERS IN LIVING A LIFE FULL OF MEANING AND PURPOSE.”

SISTER KAREN KAPPELL





Class of 1948



Class of 1953



Class of 1963



Class of 1973



Class of 1998



Sister Carolyn Heil (pictured right), whose golden jubilee was in 2020, celebrated with Sister Roselyn Heil in June.

TOGETHER, IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY IN CHICAGO GLOWS WITH THE GOODNESS OF ART



It is impossible to miss Café Fenix on 2959 North Pulaski Road in Chicago, Illinois. The building is bursting with the many colors of the rainbow reflected in images of all living creatures, of the sun and the moon and the stars, of peace, joy, light and love. All of God’s creations.

But it is what’s inside Café Fénix that really brings the stunning imagery to life. The restaurant is managed by Cooperativa Fénix, a cooperative of women aimed at advancing leadership in the community. The eatery boasts barista training for young adults and offers “the best food and coffee in Chicago.”

Café Fénix is the literal gateway to Centro San Bonifacio, a community-run organization, incorporated in 1991, missioned to advance self-development through training and mobilizing Promotores de Salud — Community Health Promoters — who provide education and connect families to much needed services.

And glowing in the heart of Centro San Bonifacio and Café Fénix is Together We Shine, a peer support program for the Hispanic immigrant community that is filling every nook and cranny of the building and those within it with living color.

Together We Shine provides support services and

“... MISSIONED TO ADVANCE SELF-DEVELOPMENT THROUGH TRAINING AND MOBILIZING PROMOTORES DE SALUD — COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTERS.”

activities to promote healthier relationships within the family system, including social and emotional learning, affirmation of culture and values, conflict resolution and referrals for social services. In other words, the program provides a broad palette of offerings for the community’s families.

Art is one of Together We Shine’s primary colors.

“Art is part of my own personal and spiritual evangelization,” says Marina Patiño, Centro San Bonifacio’s Director of Programs, who came to the center as health promoter in 2008 and then launched the art program, becoming its coordinator. Marina oversees Centro San Bonifacio’s youth development programming that includes many art offerings — like weekly classes for kids (26 currently enrolled) and art camp (which hosted 55 kids and their families in 2022) — as well as barista training for 11 students each year at Café Fénix. “Some



of the young adults who came into our art programs at 10 years of age have completed barista training and are now studying to be certified food service managers,” says Marina.

Every vibrant Día de Muertos painting and café latte, hand crafted to the brim with beautiful foam art, begins with academic and emotional health — socioemotional development. To witness students who’ve emigrated to Chicago from Latin America and come to the center, speaking no English, utilizing the programs to gain academic success and life skills like self-care and conflict resolution, “is really great for us to see,” says Marina.

Parents who bring their children to Centro San Bonifacio have the opportunity to experience Together We Shine programming, many with linguistic disconnects, who find themselves overwhelmed outside of their Latin American culture. A mom with five kids who joined a social

“... THE KIDS NEED TO HOLD ON TO THEIR LATIN AMERICAN HERITAGE, TO SPEAK SPANISH, IN ORDER TO CARRY ON THE LEGACY OF RICH, VIBRANT TRADITIONS.”

Artist Benny Montalvo brought the mural “Migrar, Arder Y Florercer,” translated to “Migrate, Burn and Be Reburn” in English, to light on the exterior of Café Fenix. This is his inspiration for the piece:

Latin Americans carry within us a happy heart filled with hopes and dreams. With this full heart we take flight to seek out new horizons, new opportunities and to transend from rebirth to new beginnings. We are heirs to historical cultures and roots that nourish us. We spread our wings wide and in doing this, as a people we will never die.

With this mural we transform a simple wall into a mirror that inspires those who see it so they never forget their strength, their capacity to love, their community and the strength of their spirit.

emotional group discovered that she had “a lot of work to do. I didn’t realize what my kids were dealing with,” navigating a new school, a new society, a new life.

“I understand the culture change, the challenges of it,” says Centro San Bonifacio Executive Director Alejandra Menendez about migrating to a big city like Chicago and immersion into “a vastly different ideology.” Emigrating from Mexico to Chicago herself in 2011, she knows this

Community enrichment in full color

As part of Centro San Bonifacio's Community Folk Art program, families have had the opportunity to visit the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago, Illinois. Two parents reflect on the rich, vibrant experience.

"I feel very happy for visiting the art museum, because I can see and learn with my children the importance of art in our lives. They learn from all these paintings, the materials, the colors and the message of each artist. All of that is very good because it is culture. Of the paintings we saw, my attention was drawn to the one made with waste materials such as hair and elements from ancient times. I invite families to enroll their children in the Centro San Bonifacio art program because they learn a lot and obtain good experiences."

"We liked it a lot because we saw wonderful art from our culture. It reminded me of those traditions of our towns, for example, that of the sleeping woman called Mixtli, a princess, and the young warrior called Popoca, that was beautiful and very gratifying. I invite families to come and visit the museum because they are going to learn a lot. And, thanks to the Centro San Bonifacio for this experience. Everything was very well done."

Santos Motoapohua de la Torre de Santiago The New Awakening, 2003, chaquira beads in Campeche wax, NMMA Permanent Collection, 2004.7, Purchase made possible by Davis Bancorp

Photo courtesy of the National Museum of Mexican Art



firsthand. "It's like you're reborn." Alejandra, who came to the center as a participant, was hired to coordinate a mutual support group for adults and then promoted to co-director for administration. Very recently, Alejandra became executive director. "Many immigrant parents who have left everything behind are focused mainly on 'the big dream.'" Centro San Bonifacio has the resources to aid them in securing a balance of physical, mental, spiritual and social health for their whole family.

But getting caught up in the rhythm of learning English and navigating a new culture can "sometimes be too much" for students and their parents, says Alejandra. "The kids need to hold on to their Latin American heritage, to speak Spanish," in order to communicate with their relatives, carry on the legacy of rich, vibrant traditions. "This is very important to me."

That is one of the reasons why the Centro San Bonifacio team strives to create cultural enrichment opportunities for families. Their Community Folk Art program includes art classes, mural painting and trips to the National Museum of Mexican Art and other Chicago museums. These experiences serve as opportunities for families to create art, to encounter other artists and to explore traditions and history together, thereby promoting the psycho-social health of the entire family. With support to facilitate this program, 250 children and their families participated in 10 special events plus museum trips in 2022.

Support from investors like FSPA, says Marina, has helped boost Centro San Bonifacio's artistic license and expand program offerings to include more after-school art classes for students and new offerings that specifically support parents, like sip and paint nights and couples' workshops.

All of this goes to show that when you come through the doors of Café Fénix, you will encounter more than just the best organic, fair trade coffee in town. You will be embraced by a bright, shiny community dedicated to social justice, personal empowerment and cultural inclusivity — a warm and inviting space where all are welcome.

Learn more about Centro San Bonifacio at sanbonifacio.org. ■

MY PERSPECTIVE: SHARING THE MINISTRY AND BEAUTY OF ADORATION



The glory of God, prayer and artisanship shine in FSPA's chapels

By Carrie Kirsch, Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration

Mary of the Angels Chapel at St. Rose Convent in La Crosse, Wisconsin, is a remarkable wonder. As the FSPA Chapel Tour Coordinator for eight years, I have come to really appreciate its beauty. I find it speaks to so many people through architecture and the quiet presence in the Adoration Chapel.

As written in our history and honored every year, Mother Antonia Herb, in 1865, with the making of a lard light to illuminate the Blessed Sacrament in their little house at night, made a solemn promise: “Dear Lord, accept this poor light. It is the best we can give you now, but if you will help us and bless the community, we will one day establish Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and build for you as beautiful a chapel as our means will allow.” The sisters kept this promise. In 1878 Perpetual

“... WE WILL ONE DAY ESTABLISH PERPETUAL ADORATION AND BUILD FOR YOU AS BEAUTIFUL A CHAPEL AS OUR MEANS WILL ALLOW.”

Adoration began in La Crosse. In 1901, our sisters realized that the chapel, located at the time in the St. Rose Complex courtyard, was too small.

It must have been a leap of faith for Mother Ludovica Keller to accept design plans for such a large church from Eugene Leibert, a 35-year-old German-American architect from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1901. Eugene selected a team of artisans he knew and trusted. Most of the craftsmen he sought to help create his vision were educated at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, Germany. Chapel construction was largely completed between 1902 and 1906.

How fortunate it was that master woodcarver and sculptor Egid Hackner, who founded the E. Hackner Company of La Crosse in 1881, was chosen to do much of the interior work. With the encouragement of his older brother, a priest in the Diocese of La Crosse, Egid came to the United States from Munich, Germany. Located in the corridor leading to the chapel a sedilia — bench seating crafted in that era for priests and acolytes — is a great example of his company's work.





The red oak hardwood is hand carved, as electricity was not accessible until after the chapel was built. The sedilia's detailed beading and faces of angels and the Christ Child are so well done. I have not yet found anyone who can explain how its row of beads was crafted.



Before I lead our guests into Mary of the Angels Chapel, we study the oil painting of the Franciscan saints created by Sister Clea Bakewell. Sister Clea entered the FSPA community in 1911 with very little artistic training, yet sketched and painted the large, intricate piece. As we stand before her painting, our visitors and I take time to share the Franciscan roots of Saints Francis, Clare and Rose of Viterbo. Many of our guests are interested in learning that Viterbo University, the FSPA-sponsored institution in La Crosse, was named after the Italian city that Saint Rose lived in.

“OUR CHAPEL IS FULL OF FAITH STORIES. THERE ARE 10 LIFE-SIZE STATUES CARVED AND PLACED ON TRANSEPT PILLARS.”



Among the highlights inside the chapel are the stained glass windows. All the windows throughout the chapel were made in Bavaria, Germany, at the Franz Xaver Zettler Studio. Many on the architect team knew of the studio and its excellent work. In the early days, windows were a great teaching tool for studying their faith. At the window in Mary of the Angels that depicts the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins with their oil lamps, I invite any of our visitors who know the biblical story to tell it. Often they will spot little details in the window and are delighted to understand what a good teaching tool the imagery in the windows can be.



Our chapel is full of faith stories. For example, there are 10 life-size statues carved and placed on transept pillars: four Old Testament prophets, four Doctors of the Church and Saints Peter and Paul — saints the Catholic Church recognizes for significant contributions of research, study or writings of theology or doctrine. Following Eugene's suggestion for the statues, a carver from an eastern state eagerly volunteered to create them. This artisan requested that the statues be “one of a kind” by disposing of any molds used in the design,



insisting he not be paid or be given credit for his work. What a gift!

Egid had his men undertake the practice of building altars made of beautiful, Italian marble instead of wood. The tedious work of cutting the Venetian glass and mother of pearl shells that are edged into the marble adds to their beauty. The crucifix above the tabernacle sits on a revolving platform. On the other side is the monstrance, which contains the Blessed Sacrament and also sits on the same revolving platform. FSPA has, throughout our history, held community-wide holy hours, during which the monstrance faces the congregation.

“EGID HAD HIS MEN UNDERTAKE THE PRACTICE OF BUILDING ALTARS MADE OF BEAUTIFUL, ITALIAN MARBLE INSTEAD OF WOOD.”

After the tour, our guests enter the Adoration Chapel for a brief, quiet prayer time. We hear many wonderful and touching reactions from visitors after touring the Mary of the Angels and Perpetual Adoration Chapels, upholding our ministries of adoration and Franciscan hospitality. ■

SPIRIT OF MINISTRY: MY LITTLE MISSION

Photos by Megan
McCluskey, Atypik Studio



FSPA affiliate's 'little mission' inspires prayer and peace for Ukraine

By Kate Bausch, FSPA affiliate

On Feb. 24, 2022, along with the rest of the world, I watched another awful war begin. This time the war was in Ukraine. The news pained my empathic heart, and I didn't know what to do or how to help the Ukrainian people. As an FSPA affiliate, I understood the importance of prayer. I also felt called to take action, but what could an artist in La Crosse, Wisconsin, do?

The mission begins

In my daily prayers, I asked God to lead me to a way to help — to send me on a little mission. Several weeks later, while doodling a batch of thank-you notes, a question popped into my mind: Could I ask my Facebook friends to pray for peace? In order to get their attention, I could create and share a daily doodle. I gathered my pens and colored pencils and began doodling. The next morning I posted my first peace doodle on Facebook, asking for prayers for peace, and my friends responded enthusiastically. My little mission was born!

My spiritual connection

As the weeks went on, I spent more and more quiet time on each doodle. They were evolving into full-color drawings. At that point, it was not uncommon for me to spend a few hours on each. Drawing and creating is calming for my chronic anxiety. Some days my peace doodles feature a mandala, trees or animals like cats, squirrels and even Wisconsin's state animal, the badger.

From the beginning, each peace doodle had to have three elements: The traditional peace sign, the word "peace" and at least one bird. At first, I did this to unify the peace doodles into a collection. In hindsight I realized my required trinity symbolized the Holy Trinity. The traditional peace sign signifies God the Father. The word "peace" represents the Word Made Flesh, Jesus. And the bird illustrates the Holy Spirit. Ensuring that the three elements were represented not only made my peace doodles more interesting and challenging for me to create but also gently reinforced my faith, which often feels shaky in these uncertain times.

Some of my Facebook friends are not religious, praying folks. But many of them privately reached out to tell

me they enjoyed the peace doodles and were pausing in their own way to remember the Ukrainian people. So in order to be more inclusive, I changed the wording in my Facebook posts and began asking people to “pray or pause for peace.”

Inspiration

Frequently I reference something from my own life or a current event. For example, one Mother’s Day, I doodled a bluebird with a very fancy hat covered in yellow daisies. If a certain friend or relative is on my mind, I might doodle a bird with characteristics of that person. There are peace doodles that honor my family members and special friends, those still with us and those who have passed away.

The peace doodles are mainly cheerful and whimsical. I like to use a lot of yellow and blue, the colors of the Ukrainian flag. However, it is important for me to always create from my heart. There are days when the peace doodles are deeply symbolic. On the heartbreaking day when 19 children and two teachers were killed by a gunman at a school in Uvalde, Texas, I drew 19 brightly-colored birds in flight, wings touching as they circled up toward heaven. But generally, most of the peace doodles appear colorful and lighthearted, which seems to be motivating for most of my Facebook friends.

Impact

Several weeks into my little mission, a friend mentioned in one of my Facebook posts that my peace doodles would make nice notecards. Other friends chimed in and encouraged me to investigate the idea. Before long I enlisted my siblings and husband to fold 500 assorted print notecards. Within hours of my Facebook post announcing that the peace doodle notecards were

printed and ready to sell, they sold out. I asked people to send any amount of money for a set of nine cards. My initial optimistic goal was to raise \$1,000 for Ukrainian refugees who had fled across the border to a Polish village where I knew the donations would be put to good use. Over several months and after multiple printings of many different peace doodles, my generous Facebook friends and family members donated \$5,000! My little mission was making a tangible impact.

One day a friend asked me, “How long are you going to keep drawing and posting peace doodles on Facebook?” Without thinking I replied, “Until the war in Ukraine ends.” I will keep my word. So far my little mission has lasted more than 500 days.

My commitment to working toward peace by sharing my daily peace doodles fits with the mission of FSPA Affiliation. This little mission calls me to share my artistic talent and to encourage others to pray for peace. I pray my little mission can help in some small way to begin to transform our world. ■



About Kate

Kate is an artist who enjoys painting trees but also enjoys creating in almost any medium. She also loves teaching art to adults and currently leads the Franciscan Spirituality Center’s new Open Art Space, welcoming all to make art together on Tuesday nights. Kate became an affiliate with the FSPA in 2010 with Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Carlene Unser as her mentor and is a member of a new FSPA companion community, Among the Trees.

To see Kate’s daily peace doodles, visit facebook.com/kate.bausch.



IN MEMORIAM: REJOICE, YOU WHO ARE ALIVE IN CHRIST

Sister Clarone Brill

Dec. 4, 1929 – May 4, 2023



Sister Clarone Brill, 93, died May 4, 2023, at St. Rose Convent. She was in the seventy-fourth year of her religious profession. Elsie Rose was born to Theodore and Magdalena (Hoffmann) Brill on Dec. 4, 1929, in Colby, Wisconsin.

In 1947 she was received into the novitiate of the FSPA and given the name Sister Clarone. She professed her first vows on Aug. 12, 1949. For the first 32 years of her religious profession, Sister Clarone ministered in the field of education. She received a BS in elementary education from Viterbo College in La Crosse and an MS in elementary education from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She began her ministry in education as a primary school teacher in Edgar, Fountain City, Menomonie, Plum City and Pewaukee (serving as principal), Wisconsin, and in West Point, Milford and Lansing, Iowa.

During most of her years in Catholic elementary schools, she also ministered as a CCD teacher. Upon retiring from the field of education, Sister Clarone moved into the clinical pastoral ministry and served as chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee until she was called to pastoral care at Villa St. Joseph, La Crosse, from 1995 to 2006. In 2007 she took a sabbatical before moving to St. Rose Convent, where she resided until her death.

Her community, family and friends remember Sister Clarone as a dedicated, creative teacher and compassionate pastoral care minister. She cherished her time in the St. Rose Adoration Chapel before the Blessed Sacrament. She prepared many prayer partners prior to their commitment to an adoration hour. Sister Clarone loved to travel and accepted any opportunity that presented itself, in the central and western United States, as well as abroad, both in Europe and Latin America. She became one of the congregation's resources during the time of reconnecting with its roots in Bavaria, often called upon to translate German documents.

Sister Donna Storms

May 26, 1931 – May 10, 2023



Sister Donna Storms, 91, died May 10, 2023, at St. Rose Convent. She was in the seventy-second year of her religious profession. Donna Helen was born on May 26, 1931, in Spokane, Washington, to Fred and Anne (Roberg) Storms. Her elementary years were spent at St. Anthony School, taught by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. It was there that she and her sister, Rita, decided to join the convent.

Sister Donna was received into the novitiate on Aug. 12, 1949, and was given the name Sister Antonina. Later she returned to her baptismal name. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 12, 1951. Sister Donna earned a BA in English with a minor in French from Viterbo College, an MA in English from Seattle University and later an MA in pastoral ministry from Seattle University. She ministered as a middle-grade teacher at schools in Wisconsin (Durand, 1951 to 54; Marathon, 1954 to 56; and La Crosse 1957 to 59). Sister Donna served as principal at St. Anthony School in Spokane from 1966 to 1969. In 1969 Sister Donna was called to Provo, Utah, where she continued teaching until the school closed. She then moved into parish work until 1973.

For the next year, she taught adult religious education in Salem, Oregon. From 1974 to 1989, Sister Donna served the Spokane Diocese as a consultant and Diocesan Director of Religious Education. During that time, Sister Donna served in leadership in the Western Province and as a general board member for the FSPA community. In 1989 Sister Donna was invited by the pastor to La Puente, California, where she ministered at St. Louis of France Parish as the DRE until she retired in 2001. Subsequently, she continued at the parish in a volunteer role. She retired to St. Rose Convent in 2016 and moved to Villa St. Joseph in 2019.

Community members, family and friends will remember Sister Donna as a caring, creative person. Family was

always important to her. While serving as Director of Religious Education, Sister Donna traveled to various parishes, making recommendations that were greatly appreciated and implemented by the pastors.

Sister Mary Simeon Werner **July 9, 1930 – May 20, 2023**



Sister Mary Simeon Werner, 92, died May 20, 2023, at St. Rose Convent. She was in the sixty-ninth year of her religious profession. Victoria Marveline was born to Benedict and Catherine (Schmidt) Werner on July 9, 1930, in Logan County, North Dakota. While attending Marycliff High School in Spokane, Washington, she met the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration who helped plant the seed of her religious vocation. Upon graduating from Marycliff, she entered St. Rose Convent. Entering the novitiate in 1951, she was given the name Sister Mary Simeon. In 1953 she made her first profession of vows as an FSPA. Sister Mary Simeon ministered in elementary schools for 40 years: in Spokane, Wisconsin (La Crosse, Prescott, Wausau and Colby) and Oregon (Salem).

Sister Mary Simeon earned a BS in education from Viterbo College in La Crosse and a Master of Science in education from Gonzaga University in Spokane. She attended Aquinas Institute and served as director of novices at St. Rose Convent from 1971 to 1975. From 1975 to 1997, she served as teacher and principal of Queen of Peace School and St. Paul School, both located in Oregon. For the next three years, she stayed in Oregon and ministered as a chaplain in a correctional institution and as a parish visitor. In 2000 she retired to Spokane where she continued volunteering with Catholic Charities, and moved to Villa St. Joseph in La Crosse in 2012.

Community members, family and friends remember Sister Mary Simeon as having a quick wit and a comeback for almost everything. She had an eye for beauty, artistically arranging common weeds into beautiful bouquets. As an avid reader, her interests ranged from science to sports. Although small in stature, her enthusiasm for giving was truly larger than life.

Sister Rita Mae Fischer

Dec. 11, 1928 – June 4, 2023



Sister Rita Mae Fischer, 94, died June 4, 2023, at St. Rose Convent. She was in the seventy-fourth year of her religious profession. Rita Mary Fischer was born to Cyril and Mary (Heim) Fischer on Dec. 11, 1928, in West Allis, Wisconsin. Toward the end of her high school years, her parish priest arranged for a group of students, Sister Rita Mae among them, to travel to St. Rose Convent. As soon as she stepped into the Adoration Chapel, she knew God had a special call for her as a sister. She was received into the novitiate in 1947 and given the name Sister Rita Mae. She professed her first vows as an FSPA in 1949.

Sister Rita Mae taught primary grades for 33 years in Wisconsin (Wausau, Menomonie, Stanley, Pewaukee, Durand, Superior), Washington (Spokane) and Mississippi (Canton). During the course of her teaching, Sister Rita Mae earned a BA in elementary education from Viterbo College in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and an MS in education with a minor in theology from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. She later earned a minor in library science. She ministered as religious education director in Edgar, Wisconsin, an elementary school librarian at Holy Spirit School in Carroll, Iowa, a high school librarian at Marquette in West Point, Iowa, and a media specialist in Holmen, Wisconsin. She then volunteered for one year as a librarian at Immaculate Conception School in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, before moving to St. Paul, Minnesota, to serve as a CCD teacher at St. Jerome Parish. In 2008 Sister Rita Mae moved to St. Rose where, during her very active ministry of prayer and hospitality, she volunteered in the media center for 11 years.

Community members, family and friends remember Sister Rita Mae as a quiet, gentle person, always wearing a smile. A kind and devoted librarian, she inspired and assisted many on their journey through literature. Among her other talents, she learned the art of juggling and would find creative ways to incorporate this skill into her teaching. No matter where she missioned, she maintained close contact with her family.

READ COMPLETE FSPA OBITUARIES AT [FSPA.ORG](https://www.fspa.org) UNDER NEWS/EVENTS

Sister Jolyce Greteman, FSPA
March 27, 1938 – June 20, 2023



Sister Jolyce Greteman, 85, died June 20, 2023, at Villa St. Joseph. She was in the sixty-fourth year of her religious profession. Mary Jane Greteman was born on March 27, 1938, to Joseph and Pauline (Bayer) Greteman in Willey, Iowa.

Mary Jane was given the name Sister Jolyce when she entered the novitiate in 1957. She professed her first vows as an FSPA in 1959. Sister Jolyce began her education at Viterbo College with a BS in elementary education and a concentration in math and science. Later she earned a Master of Education in elementary education from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She taught middle and junior high school for 30 years in Wisconsin (Wisconsin Rapids, La Crosse, Spencer and Loyal) and Iowa (Sherrill, Cedar Rapids, Breda and Carroll), often responsible for mathematics education. She not only taught full time while on mission but was superior and principal in both Loyal and Sherrill. In 1990 Sister Jolyce attended the CREDO Program at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

For the next two years, she volunteered at Villa St. Joseph. Shortly after, Sister Jolyce accepted the ministry of FSPA Archivist, a position she held from 1994 to 2002. Upon retirement, she fulfilled the role of heritage curator for the next seven years. In 2009 Sister Jolyce retired to St. Rose Convent, where she continued to volunteer in the archives and heritage departments for several years.

Community members, family and friends remember Sister Jolyce as a kind and gentle person as well as a great storyteller and raconteur. Sister Jolyce was always very appreciative and affirming, as she often expressed her gratitude and “thanks for all you do for us” to everyone she met. She only focused on the needs and desires of others, never herself. Her commitment to living out the simplicity as a follower of Francis and Clare was her hallmark.

**READ COMPLETE FSPA OBITUARIES
AT FSPA.ORG UNDER NEWS/EVENTS**

Sister Marydel Bissen, FSPA
March 8, 1929 – July 4, 2023



Sister Marydel Bissen, 94, died July 4, 2023, at St. Rose Convent. She was in the seventy-second year of her religious profession. Sister Marydel was born on March 8, 1929, to Mathias and Margaret (Smith) Bissen in Johnsburg, Minnesota.

At her baptism, she was given the name Bernice. She was received as an FSPA novitiate on Aug. 12, 1949, and was given the name Sister Marydel. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 12, 1951, and her final profession on Aug. 9, 1957.

Sister Marydel ministered as a homemaker in convent homes in Wisconsin and Iowa throughout the majority of her religious life. From 1983 to 1988, Sister Marydel served as a cafeteria assistant at St. Rose Convent. Following two years at the Franciscan Center for Wholistic Living in St. Paul, she moved to Villa St. Joseph where she was part of the religious services department from 1990 to 2003. She retired at Villa St. Joseph and continued volunteering in the department until her health prevented her from continuing. In 2011 she embraced the ministry of prayer and witness. Sister Marydel moved to St. Rose in 2022.

Community members, family and friends will remember Sister Marydel for her wonderful smile and beautiful voice. Her devotion to Our Blessed Lady carried her through her years of service. She loved to have fun. She often brought tears of joy and hope to people when she broke into song. She could frequently be found at the bedside of a dying sister, praying the rosary or singing softly, inviting Jesus to welcome the dying sister into His loving arms.

Sister Lorraine Forster, FSPA
June 21, 1924 – July 25, 2023



Sister Lorraine Forster, 99, died July 25, 2023, at Villa St. Joseph. She was in the seventy-ninth year of her religious profession. On June 21, 1924, Lorraine Margaret was born to Leroy (Roy) and Agnes (Harmon) Forster, in Durand, Wisconsin.

For five years, Sister Lorraine attended a country school

before completing grade school at St. Anne's Catholic School in Stanley, Wisconsin, taught by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. She felt early the whisper to become a sister. She entered St. Rose Convent on Aug. 17, 1939. Sister Lorraine was received into the novitiate on Aug. 12, 1942, and given the name Sister Incarnata. She returned to her baptismal name later. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 12, 1944, and her final profession on Aug. 9, 1950.

Choosing education as her ministry, Sister Lorraine taught for five and a half years at the elementary level in Wisconsin and Iowa before moving to the secondary level. Chemistry and Latin were her subjects of expertise. She received a BS in chemistry and a minor in Latin from Viterbo College in La Crosse, and a master's degree in chemistry from the University of Notre Dame. She served in high schools as an instructor, administrator and counselor in Carroll, Iowa (St. Angela Academy and Kuemper), North Dakota, Montana (Holy Rosary), Utah (St. Francis), Washington (Marycliff) and Wisconsin (St. Mary's Academy) from 1952 to 2009. The last 31 years of Sister Lorraine's teaching ministry were at Bishop Gorman High School in Las Vegas. She retired in Las Vegas in 2009 and then volunteered at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Las Vegas as a librarian, tutor and RCIA instructor. In 2017 Sister Lorraine moved to La Crosse.

Community members, family and friends remember Sister Lorraine as an excellent, dedicated teacher. She always found a way to entice her students to love the subjects she taught. She had a keen sense of humor and often used it to her advantage. She had a special spot in her heart for the FSPA affiliates in the Las Vegas area. She often gathered them together for prayer and conversation.

Affiliate Dolora Brinks
July 13, 1929 – June 2, 2023



Dolora Brinks, 93, of Carroll, Iowa, died June 2, 2023. Dolora, a daughter of Albert "Pat" and Julia (Nieland) Poeppe, was born on July 13, 1929, in Mount Carmel, Iowa. She grew up near Mount Carmel and attended school at Holy Family in Lidderdale, Iowa.

On Sept. 13, 1949, Dolora married Delbert Brinks. The couple made their home in Carroll where Dolora was a devoted homemaker. Dolora lived by the phrase "Somebody had to make it, why can't I?" Some of her many works included creating memory books for her family, making toy farm buildings for her boys' farm sets, sewing a variety of garments, decorating cakes, reupholstering furniture and refinishing the woodwork in her home.

She also gave of her time outside of the home as she volunteered as a Girl Scout leader, covered books at St. Lawrence Library, cleaned St. Lawrence Church, organized the Red Cross Blood Mobile, served as a eucharistic minister, distributed communion to the homebound, served as a money counter at St. Lawrence Church and became an affiliate with the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

Affiliate Margaret Melton
Nov. 9, 1950 – May 31, 2023



Margaret (Marge) Melton, died at her home at the age of 72. She was welcomed into the world on Nov. 9, 1950, by her parents, Damian and Gwen (Friske). Marge graduated from Holy Angels Academy in Louisville, Kentucky, and attended classes in the College of Professional Studies at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Working for the AT&T telecommunications company, Marge followed in her father's footsteps. During her 46-year career, she worked a variety of jobs. Her parents gave her a love of music and singing. Singing was Marge's passion. She sang with many choirs, including the choir at her home parish in Milwaukee (Gesu Parish), the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Choir and Voces Mundi. She lived her faith through her singing ministry and her many acts of kindness. For the past 29 years, she was a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration affiliation community. She committed her life to serving others, most recently through the Voces de la Frontera New Sanctuary Movement and St. Ben's Community Meal Program, both in Milwaukee.



SISTER SUE ERNSTER NAMED LCWR PRESIDENT-ELECT

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious has named a new president-elect — Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Sue Ernster. Sister Sue, who is currently serving FSPA as president and celebrating 25 years as a Catholic sister, has been a member of both LCWR’s Finance and Audit Committee and Designated Fund Committee.

Of her new position in the organization that is missioned to “assist its members personally and communally to carry out more collaboratively their service of leadership in order to accomplish further the mission of Christ in today’s world,” Sister Sue says, “I see the purpose of the role as one of working with the LCWR ministers in supporting the needs of religious life, ensuring that they have what they need so as to meet needs while creating the space for discussion and dreaming. I hope that women religious feel supported and that we are increasing the communication and collaboration among each other as we discern our future together.”

LCWR, an organization made up of around 1,350 members representing approximately 67% of the nearly 35,000 women religious in the United States, aims to assist its members “to collaboratively carry out their service of leadership to further the mission of the Gospel in today’s world.”

Leadership Conference of Women Religious president Sister Maureen Geary, past president Sister Rebecca Ann Gemma and president-elect Sister Sue Ernster are blessed Aug. 11, after taking office at the organization’s annual assembly in Dallas. (GSR photo/Dan Stockman)



SISTER THEA BOWMAN’S LEGACY AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Thea Bowman’s legacy of education and Black Catholicism has a new home — the Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Student Center at Howard University in Washington, D.C. As its dedication ceremony took place on Aug. 28, 2023, the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington, the historical significance of the center goes beyond that of its namesake.

During the blessing, Father Robert Boxie III, chaplain of the university, spoke of the inspiration experienced within the walls of the center: It will be “a place to build community and grow in authentic friendship, and a place where we can be unabashedly you, Black, gifted and Catholic.”



SISTER MICHELE ALLOWS HER “YES” TO RELIGIOUS LIFE WITH FSPA

On July 8, 2023, the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration celebrated the commitment of “yes” to God with Sister Michele Pettit’s vow renewal. Sisters gathered in Mary of the Angels Chapel in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in loving support of Sister Michele as she takes this next step in religious life.

“I would like to thank everyone who has been and continues to be part of my journey as an FSPA,” said Sister Michele. “I am most grateful to all of you. In accordance with St. Francis’ favorite blessing, ‘May God bless and keep you. May God’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.’”



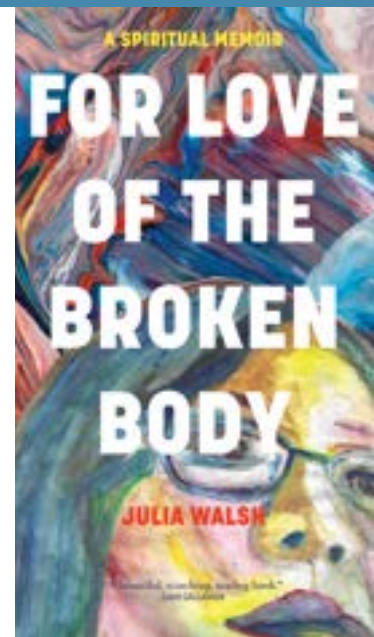
FOR LOVE OF THE BROKEN BODY: A SPIRITUAL MEMOIR

Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Julia Walsh has penned “For the Love of the Broken Body: A Spiritual Memoir,” a coming-of-age story that invites readers to reflect on the universal human experiences of being broken and the pull to be part of something bigger than themselves.

At the age of 25, just a month into her novitiate as a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, Sister Julia fell from a cliff and became disfigured. While working toward healing, she felt pulled to religious community life but also toward unresolved feelings regarding her own sexuality, identity and injustice. “For the Love of the Broken Body” is a story of pain, questioning, recovery and discovery: What does it mean to exist as a broken body? Why would a young woman dedicate herself to the Catholic Church — to a life as a Franciscan Sister — while others are leaving churches in droves?

Sister Helen Prejean, author of “Dead Man Walking” and “River of Fire,” says of the author and the memoir, “Julia Walsh gives me hope for a future with religious women changing the world. She tells a story all her own, but I felt her doubts, questions and passion each step of the way. Highly recommended.”

Forthcoming in April 2024, “For the Love of the Broken Body,” published by Monkfish, is now available for pre-order at booksellers such as Barnes & Noble, Amazon and Bookshop.



Book cover: image by Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Julia Walsh, design by Colin Rolfe



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