“Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

(1 Peter 4:9-10)
The reunited Franciscan Sisters of Mary is a religious congregation of women within the Roman Catholic Church. Founded in 1872, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary sponsor the following ministries: SSM Health Care, Almost Home, Woman’s Place (St. Louis); co-sponsor Holy Family Services (Weslaco, TX), and collaborate with four other religious congregations of women in The Sarah Community.

President:
Jacqueline Motzel, FSM

Councilors:
Judith A. Bell, FSM
Sherri Coleman, FSM
Joanne Klenke, FSM

Franciscan Sisters of Mary
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St. Louis, MO 63117-1826
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Joan E. Pace
Editor

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Franciscan Sisters of Mary

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Franciscan Sisters of Mary
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St. Louis, MO 63117-1826

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Message From Jacqueline Motzel, FSM, President
Franciscan Sisters of Mary

Dear Friends:

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. (1 Cor 4:1-2)

In chapter 12 of Luke’s Gospel, we read about the faithful steward who Jesus portrays as an example of a responsible Christian. The last verse of that section reads, “much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more”.

Stewards are careful and responsible managers over what is entrusted to their care. As Franciscan Sisters of Mary, we are attentive to our stewardship responsibilities and intentional in sharing our time, talent and treasure with God’s people – especially those in need. Within our limited resources, we see responsible stewardship as a way to consciously participate in building the reign of God.

In previous issues of FSM Magazine, we shared stories, poems, and other communications about the ways our sisters steward their time and talent to make this world a better place to live. Frequently these writings described our response to our sisters and brothers who are poor and live on the margins of society.

This issue focuses on the ways we steward our financial resources. As you read these pages, you will learn about our congregational guidelines, alternative investments and the Chiara Corporation which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

It is my hope that you find our sharings informative. In addition, I pray that they provide ideas and incentives to you, our readers and friends, to also reach out to those in need. The ways to do this are many: that it be done is a Gospel call. May each of you be blessed in making your response as good stewards of God’s generous love.

With a prayer,

Jacqueline Motzel, FSM
STEWARDSHIP

Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,

serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:9-10

“‘We have been blessed,’” suggests Joanne Klenke, FSM, treasurer of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

“Because of the hard work of our sisters over the years, and because of the efforts and donations of our friends, we are able to share our gifts with needy people,” says Sr. Joanne, “especially persons on the margins of society.”

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary’s giving focus, most recently formulated during the early to mid-1990’s, is concentrated on

- women and children
- promoting peace and nonviolence
- saving our environment.

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary’s stewardship is primarily defined via:

- congregational donations
- the Chiara Corporation
- alternative investments.
CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS . . .

In determining groups to which donations are granted, FSM leadership utilizes the following guidelines, which are inherent in the values of the Identity and Mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary:

- serve women and children;
- promote/facilitate self-development of those who are poor and marginalized;
- do not have easy access to other sources of funding;
- are involved in the care of natural resources.

A sampling of congregational donations in 2004 includes:

- support of a ministry to women and children
- contribution to a national women religious organization for a religious community that was unable to pay
- assistance toward the construction of a dormitory for a school in Uganda
- support of the expansion of an orphanage in Haiti
- support the rebuilding of an Iraqi maternity hospital
- assist group in efforts toward promoting nonviolent change.

While FSM leadership makes decisions on which efforts to support through congregational donations, it does so on behalf of the congregation. At regular intervals, donation decisions and financial reports are communicated to the congregation. At times requests for donations on behalf of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary are made by sisters.

In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Acts 20:35
The Chiara Corporation is another avenue through which the Franciscan Sisters of Mary share their gifts with persons on the margins of society.

Chiara has supported ministries which have met needs throughout our country and throughout the world. Priority areas would include ministries focused on healing, peacemaking, care of the earth, services with people who are poor, justice and nonviolence. The greatest share of funds provides for or supports women and children.

Funding is granted to promote and support the mission and vision of the congregation, and to provide fiscal assistance for new and ongoing FSM ministries.

Here are a few of the ways Chiara funds have helped needy people:

- provide material goods for poor families
- support children grieving the death of a relative or friend
- support a childbirth assistance (doula) program
- decrease risks associated with teen pregnancy
- contribute to Almost Home’s new facility
- purchase a car for Holy Family Services
- educate and support local grandparents with limited means
- assist low income people in rural Missouri
- give spiritual assistance to abused women in South Carolina
- help poor/uninsured mothers and their children
- enhance and expand the Hispanic Catholic faith community in an economically deprived area
- address the need for grief recovery within an African American community
- fund a recreation and socialization program for teen mothers and their children
- provide home care services for elderly persons in financial need
- encourage and promote peace efforts in our country and beyond, including Northern Ireland
- build an addition for the Children’s Pastoral Program in Brazil.

In order for an effort to receive Chiara support, an FSM must be directly involved with the ministry. Ministries receiving Chiara funds must submit accountability reports.

The five Chiara Corporation directors are:

Mary Wuller, PhD
Marita Anne Marrah, FSM
Rose Mary Dowling, FSM
Joanne Klenke, FSM
Jacqueline Motzel, FSM
“. . . there are so many injustices . . . there is so much to do . . . we can do it . . . together . . .”

Meeting with prayerful hearts, the directors of the Chiara Corporation come together with diverse experiences in business and in life. Together, on behalf of the congregation, they receive requests, review accountability reports, read narratives, contemplate options, share concerns, grant requests and refuse others, with open minds and open hearts.

During a recent Chiara meeting, directors review the accountability reports of several ministries. Here are some of their comments as they discuss the first ministry...

“Based on their reports I think they are offering a lot of opportunities to enrich lives.”
“I think it is amazing what can be accomplished with a relatively small amount of support.”
“It sounds as though their experiences have been life-changing!”
“I think they are offering these women a chance to step back to re-find the richness of their lives.”

The directors are equally affirming about a second ministry...

“I’ve met some of these people and have experienced their culture...I know that their trust level has been raised.”
“This is a great source of hope and inspiration. I think their effort reveals there are so many injustices, that there is so much to do, but that we can do it, together.”

And another ministry...

“They have decreased the number of incidence reports. I’m not sure that was an expected outcome. For it to be so measurable, well these are real “wow” actions they’ve taken.”
“Originally they were striving to offer participants opportunities to expand their cultural awareness. Now they’ve been presented with opportunities through which they have experienced so much more!”
“This program has truly offered them wonderful opportunities to expand their life experiences. I believe they have been encouraged to turn away from unhealthy relationships.”

And one last ministry...

“They feel such responsibility to deep cultural and religious beliefs.”
“I see the future of the church in them.”
“Some would say this is the church of today!”

They review a recent application...

“We know they do good work. It will help us to join in this role and be a part of connecting people!”
“I think they do a super job. They bring the right kinds of people together in differing ways.”
“The relationships are there. They will be our arms and legs . . . our partners.”
“It takes people behind the scenes. We’ve go to do something and do it soon. War is too costly. People need to be brought to the table to negotiate. That is peacemaking!”
“It’s a good use of Chiara resources.”
“I propose we fund.”
“All in favor . . .”
(in unison) “AYE!”
Alternative Investments . . .

Alternative investments are investments the congregation makes that allow the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, through specific funds, to serve those persons on the margins of society. Through these funds, which are available through the investments of socially conscious investors, applicable needy persons or ministries can receive low or no interest loans for affordable housing or economic opportunities. Such economic opportunities take place throughout our country and the world.

“The FSM continually search for additional alternative investment opportunities that demonstrate a mission that supports “our sisters and brothers who are poor and on the margins of society,” says Sr. Joanne. “We search for such opportunities across a wide geographical area, both nationally and internationally, as we identify and partner with people who, in very diverse and committed ways, work in tandem with the FSM, as they serve people of God.”

“... all good giving and every perfect gift is from above . . .”

James 1:17

“Stewardship for us,” continues Sr. Joanne, “means using well the gifts we have been given.”

“Truly, we have been blessed.”
CHRLF
A nonprofit community loan fund that attracts socially conscious investments to enable lower-income people to develop assets for greater participation in the economic system...provides economic education and below-market-rate capital to community-based housing and economic development projects...benefits low income families, individuals and businesses, and small business sector in low-income communities...works with South African banks and other agencies to provide credit and business services to help hundreds of thousands of low-income South Africans

FAHE
An association of community-based nonprofit housing organizations whose mission is to create decent, affordable housing available to low-income very-low-income families

FORGE
Through its community-based lending activities, seeks to promote and enhance the quality of life and economic sustainability of rural and agricultural communities of the Ozarks...is to assure that everyone who is a small borrower has access to credit

SHI
Serves low-income people of color primarily women--in South Africa's townships, rural and urban areas...a non-profit social investment fund guaranteeing South African bank loans to community development financial institutions engaged in South Africa's reconstruction

WCCN
A nationwide nonprofit, membership-supported organization working in partnership with Nicaraguans to promote social and economic alternatives to conventional development...Nicaragua is the second poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere with over half of the population living in poverty and nearly one-fifth in extreme poverty...Currently works with a number of other agencies to provide credit and financial assistance to hundreds of thousands of low-income and poor people

NMCRLF
Strives to be an alternative lender and technical assistance provider that empowers low-income people and advocates on their behalf by providing loans and technical assistance to organizations and individuals who impact the social and community development of low-income communities...tries to improve and help the community through grassroot, member-based economic development

SSB
Increases economic opportunities in under-invested communities, providing holistic financial, social and technical assistance...strives to restore the economic health of low to moderate income neighborhoods by providing credit opportunities, quality affordable housing and home ownership through a variety of lending programs to areas and individuals traditionally ignored

UUAHC
Strives to improve the lives of low to moderate income families and individuals by providing livable and inclusive communities with quality housing, quality childcare, green spaces, access to economic opportunity...lends from socially responsible investors and community development and collaborative neighborhood, faith-based and environmental partners
I wonder if the persons who answered Mother Odilia and her companion sisters’ pleas for help nearly 135 years ago ever considered the long-reaching effects of their gifts. Did they consider that the money they gave her would make such an impact on the lives of persons looking to her and her sisters for help for people who needed it? Or did they simply give what they could when she asked for money for medicine for the family down the street, or bread for the neighbors who had watched over the children of a family whose parents were sick and may not make it through the night, or hands when the situation demanded more hands than the sisters had to offer?

Were Mother Odilia’s pleas for help so heartfelt, so clear in message, so strong in expectation that individuals passing her on the street felt compelled to respond to her simply stated requests for something to help their sisters and brothers who needed something they didn’t have?

Yes. So we believe.

Are the needs of our sisters and brothers who are poor and on the margins of society any more important than those of the persons served during Mother Odilia’s time?

Just as important.

So are the gifts you share with the Franciscan Sisters of Mary today as significant as those shared with Mother Odilia in her day?

Absolutely. And we hope you know that.

In a previous article, Sr. Joanne Klenke referred to “laity” as “our arms and legs”. That’s not so different as in Mother Odilia’s day, when more hands were needed than the sisters had to offer. Sisters can do a lot, but they need that extra help from the rest of us to offer, to serve, and to help.

Your gifts, whether given in honor or memory of someone dear to you; whether designated toward our retired sisters or toward our active ministries, allow the sisters to concentrate on ministering to persons who need their help.

Whether given to Mother Odilia in her basket on the streets of St. Louis nearly 135 years ago, or in response to the sisters’ spring appeal this past May, each gift given to the FSM remains a part of the ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary. The gifts of the first “donors” supported the foundation of Mother Odilia’s ministry. Your gifts sustain the ministry of the sisters and allow for continuance of the congregation’s mission into the future.

Thank you for your gifts and your prayers.

We are grateful.

Joan E. Pace, Director, PR/Development
He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, ‘Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.’”

Mark 12:41-44

In memory of Eugene Marie Smith, FSM
Ms. Delia Greer

In memory of Kathryn Weiss, FSM
Ms. Virginia Mulhern

In memory of Arlene C. Weitzel, FSM
Ms. Mary E. Burt

In memory of Norman J. Wirtz
Mrs. Patricia A. Wirtz

In memory of Florence Mary Imhoff, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Baker

In memory of Mary Josepha Imhoff, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Baker

In memory of Mary Carmeline Larotonda, FSM
Ms. Sharon L. Quarcini

In memory of Betty Loomis, Diane McKillip’s mother
Ms. Carla S. Baum

In memory of Maureen Lutz, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Struckhoff

In memory of Victoria Martisiuskas, FSM
George J. Martisius Trust

In memory of John Matthews
Western Dominican Province

In memory of my first cousin, Cindy McNulty, who passed away April 7, 2005
Ms. Dixie Platt and Mr. Michael Burke

In memory of Mary Alfreda Meyer, FSM
Lt. Col. Frederick V. Meyer, Ret’d

In memory of my aunt, Mary Janet Meyers, FSM
Mrs. Mary Joy Feeney

In memory of Mary Carmella Moseinghoff, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Murphy

In memory of Virginia Marie Parent, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver J. Wirthlin

In memory of Milton L. Politte, on the anniversary of his death
Ms. Elizabeth D. Politte

In memory of Mary Reardon, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ortles

In memory of Jim and Emily Riordan
Ms. Alice M. O’Leary

In memory of Mildred C. Schneider
Mr. and Mrs. Alex J. Reinemeyer

In memory of my husband, Kenneth Scholl
Mrs. JoAnn Scholl

In memory of Mary Elaine Schornak, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Pokrieka

In memory of Judith Schulte
Ms. Marilyn Maret

In memory of Mary Romana Schumon, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schaefer

In memory of Mary Benigna Sentner, FSM
Ms. Kathleen R. Rodgers

In memory of Mary Alcantara Blaska, FSM
Ms. Burdette Blaska

In memory of Mary Hugh Boente, FSM
Mrs. Elizabeth J. Boente

In memory of Mary Josepha Imhoff, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Baker

In memory of my mother, Estella Boedicker, who died last August
Ms. Evelyn J. Boedicker

In memory of my sister-in-law, Mary Hugh Boente, FSM
Mrs. Elizabeth J. Boente

In memory of my mother, Marie Alcantara Blaska, FSM
Ms. Burdette Blaska

In memory of the deceased members of the Blaska family
Ms. Burdette M. Blaska

In memory of Aloysius Marie Borst, FSM
Ms. Lenita Moore

In memory of deceased members of the John Brunner Family
Deacon and Mrs. Norbert J. Brunner

In memory of Bernard Marie Boland, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Kim D. Kannaday
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth D. Niemeyer

In memory of Miriam Joseph Cleen, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph C. Ladi
Mrs. Helen B. Little

In memory of Mary Carmella Hoffmann, FSM
Ms. Jacqueline Reiter

In memory of Mary Pancratia Ellermann, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. W.T. McCracken

In memory of my wife, Marilyn Finney
Mr. Edwin M. Finney

In memory of Joseph Gonzalez
Mrs. Griselda Paz

In memory of my mother, Marie Haarmann, on Mother’s Day
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Haarmann

In memory of漠 cane aR I 70 Mark Grelle

In memory of Duchesne Herold, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Grelle

In memory of Johnetta Hoffmann, FSM
Ms. Jacqueline Reiter

In memory of Rose E. Hooker
Ms. Jacqueline Reiter

In memory of Betty J. Hughes
Mr. Laurence F. Myers

In memory of Mary Johnetta Hoffmann, FSM
Ms. Jacqueline Reiter

In memory of the deceased members of the Blaska family
Ms. Burdette M. Blaska

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Mrs. Helen B. Little

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Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Haarmann

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Mr. and Mrs. Mark Grelle

In memory of Johnetta Hoffmann, FSM
Ms. Jacqueline Reiter

In memory of Rose E. Hooker
Ms. Jacqueline Reiter

In memory of Betty J. Hughes
Mr. Laurence F. Myers

Gifts Received Through Our Spring Commemorative Appeal (April 1, 2005 - May 25, 2005)

... be patient, bearing with one another in love . . .
In honor of Mary Doris Ashcraft, FSM, on her Golden Jubilee
Ms. Lenita Moore

In honor of Marie Christine Berner, FSM, on her Golden Jubilee
Ms. Lenita Moore

In honor of Rita Clara Blau, FSM
Ms. Ginny Becker

In honor of Claire Marie Borst, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Skwor

In honor of my wife, Lorraine C. Brennan, for her courage and leadership
Dr. Robert A. Brennan, Sr.

In honor of Betty Brucker, FSM
Dr. Robert M. Donati

In honor of Rosanna Marie Carter, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Garvey

In honor of my mother, Hilde Degenhardt, on Mother’s Day
Ms. Joan E. Pace

In honor of Mary Rosaleen Dorlac, FSM
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Sweeney

In honor of my granddaughter, Jessica M. Dowden, on her high school graduation
Mr. Kenneth L. Dowden

In honor of Gertrude Duperret on Mother’s Day
Ms. Marina Duperret

In honor of Mary Rosaleen Dorlac, FSM
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Sweeney

In honor of my sister, Jeanne Marie Meurer, FSM
Mrs. Colette Hinkle

In honor of my sister, Ramona Meurer, FSM
Mrs. Colette Hinkle

In honor of Elizabeth Mullins on Mother’s Day
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Claggett, Jr.

In honor of my son, William Osterholt
Mrs. Henrietta B. Osterholt

In honor of my Godmother, Wanda Rester
Mrs. Susan Scalise

In honor of Josephine Razicka on Mother’s Day
Mr. and Mrs. Terry G. Tibeau

In honor of Mary Jean Ryan, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Jay C. McCutcheon

In honor and appreciation of the FSM at St. Anthony Hospital
Lt. Col. Dorothea A. Courts

In honor of Mary Rosina Higgs, FSM
Ms. Joyce Ware
Mr. Harry Wilson

In honor of my mother, Ann Hanna, on Mother’s Day
Ms. Peggy Ederer

In honor of Mary Maxelinda Heimericks, FSM, on her 84th anniversary as an FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Larry E. Poettker

In honor of Kellen Hutzler on his first birthday
Mrs. Judith Pautler

In honor of Mary Jo Kahl, FSM, on her Golden Jubilee
Ms. Lenita Moore

In honor of Irma Kennebeck, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Bess

In honor of Beatrice Knecht for all the help she has given me
Ms. Marie A.Voves

In honor of my mother, Casey Kriens, on Mother’s Day
In honor of my father, Art Kriens, on Father’s Day
Rev. James A. Kriens

In honor of my wife, Mary Frances Lang, on Mother’s Day
Dr. John Lang

In honor of Mary Ellen Lewis, FSM, on her Golden Jubilee
Ms. Lenita Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Timm

In honor of my sister, Jeanne Marie Meurer, FSM
Mrs. Colette Hinkle

In honor of my sister, Ramona Meurer, FSM
Mrs. Colette Hinkle

In honor of Elizabeth Mullins on Mother’s Day
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Claggett, Jr.

In honor of my son, William Osterholt
Mrs. Henrietta B. Osterholt

In honor of my Godmother, Wanda Rester
Mrs. Susan Scalise

In honor of Josephine Razicka on Mother’s Day
Mr. and Mrs. Terry G. Tibeau

In honor of Mary Jean Ryan, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Jay C. McCutcheon

In honor of Cathy Schultz
Ms. Margaret M. Wittenbrink

In honor of Mary Ellen Sloan, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard H. Sloan

In honor of Marylu Stueber, FSM
Mr. John and Dr. Anne Butler

In honor of Sarah A. Sykes, FSM, on her Golden Jubilee
Ms. Lenita Moore

In honor of Mary Charlene Teson, FSM
Mr. and Mrs. Don D. Roberts

In honor of Joy M. Venker
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Reiter

In honor of my mother, Marie Wittenbrink
Ms. Margaret M. Wittenbrink

Spring 2005 Appeal Donors
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Msgr. Thomas F. Baxter
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Bischoff
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Mrs. Florene Stewart Poyadue
Mr. and Mrs. Alan M. Stueber
Tech Electronics, Inc.
Ms. Peg Tichacek
Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Tonnies
Mr. and Mrs. Bua Van Le
The Franciscan Sisters of Mary planted a Peace Pole on the campus of Saint Louis University Medical Center this past October. The planting ceremony celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the FSM Declaration of Nonviolence, which encourages peace-making at all levels.

The planting ceremony was held during the FSM’s annual Assembly, and included prayer, reflection, acknowledgement of victims of violence and a call to peace.

The Peace Pole Project was initiated in Japan by The World Peace Prayer Society and was launched to uplift humankind toward harmony rather than conflict. To date, over 200,000 Peace Poles have been planted around the world in over 180 countries. In the United States, there are over 7,500 Peace Poles.

The eight-foot, four-sided Peace Pole includes the message, May Peace Prevail On Earth, in four languages. Besides English, the other selected languages are Spanish, German and French.

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary have a long history of association with the Jesuit-sponsored University. In partnership with the Jesuits, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary began the Saint Louis University School of Nursing in 1929, with four FSM serving as the school’s dean over its 75-year history. From this association, the University’s School of Allied Health also began.

An identical Peace Pole was planted on the grounds of St. Mary of the Angels Convent following the ceremony at Saint Louis University.
Congratulations to Irma Kennebeck, FSM, and Jeanne Meurer, FSM, who were each recipients of a 2005 Catholic Women award, given by the (St. Louis) Archdiocesan Committee on Women in the Church. Srs. Irma and Jeanne received their awards in the Justice Seeker category, which is modeled after Dorothy Day. Women nominated in the Justice Seeker category are women who work to change systemic injustice and to promote human dignity; who live justly and leave people uncomfortable in their own complacency.

Ramona Meurer, FSM, received a 2005 Good Counsel Alumnae Award. Nominated by her classmates, one exclaimed, “God is definitely with her, giving her the strength to do all which she feels must be done!”

Sherri Coleman, FSM, and Marilyn Davis, FSM, are part of a new initiative, Healers in Ministry, whose mission is “to offer groups and agencies the gifts of different healing modalities to empower those who would not normally have access to them.” Healers in Ministry consists of women actively engaged in a variety of healing ministries including: healing touch, integrative manual therapy, reiki, rosen method bodywork-movement, tai chi, prayer, relaxation techniques, therapeutic massage, therapeutic touch, and yoga.

Angela Murdaugh, FSM, received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Villanova University.

(Fishing the “East Cut” between Laguna Madre and the Gulf of Mexico, Sr. Angela landed a 42-inch red fish!)
Leo Rita Volk, FSM, was honored as one of twenty-five 2004 “Ageless – Remarkable St. Louisans.” “These individuals represent an increasing senior population that refuses to sit back and let life pass them by,” said Mary Alice Ryan, president and CEO of St. Andrew’s Resources for Seniors, who sponsors the celebration.

Mary Jean Ryan, FSM, SSM Health Care president/CEO, was recently recognized by Modern Healthcare Magazine and the American Hospital Association. Modern Healthcare named her one of the “Top 25 Women in Healthcare” and she received the AHA’s Award of Honor for her “exemplary contributions to the health and well-being of people through leadership on major health policies or social initiatives.” Earlier this year Sr. Mary Jean traveled to Japan, Thailand and the Philippines to speak on performance excellence to representatives of the Asia Productivity Organization.

Jeanne Derer, FSM, received “Best in Category Award” at the Arts at Concordia 3rd annual art show held this past spring at Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood, MO. Sr. Jeanne submitted three of her artistic works and received the award in the acrylic category. She received the award for her painting “Mary visits Elizabeth” or “The Dance of Life.” Two other works she submitted were titled “Abram and Sarah” and “Job: Whom God Lives is Tested.” (If you would like to view other works of Sr. Jeanne, visit her website at http://ruahstudio.tripod.com/).

Mary Joan Meyer, FSM, is the author of “Contemplative Solitude”, a compilation of her Haiku prayers and photography.
Sr. Eleanor Marie Kaminski
July 31, 1914 - October 26, 2004

A beatitude that can be associated with Sr. Eleanor Marie is “blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 5:3) Certainly Sr. Eleanor Marie was special in the eyes of God and she shared her personality and presence with others through her eyes and smile.

Josephine Kaminski was born in St. Louis on July 31, 1914 to Anton and Cecelia Dreas Kaminski. Sr. Eleanor Marie professed her final vows on February 10, 1944.

During her ministry at SSM St. Mary’s Health Center, Richmond Heights, she served as an assistant on the nursing divisions within the hospital. As part of her responsibilities, Sr. Eleanor Marie was known to bring the medication box to the pharmacy from 5 West and would exchange pleasantries in brief chats with the pharmacists.

Because of illness, she became a patient at SSM St. Mary’s Health Center and at St. Louis State Hospital prior to living in Our Lady of Victories from 1990 until her death.

In her later years Sr. Eleanor Marie had a special relationship with the nursing staff. Her giggles and smiles were signs of her grateful heart and she gave others joy when she smiled and waved to them as they walked by. The smiles gave staff energy and encouragement. She also enjoyed sharing her mother’s photograph with others.

Sr. Eleanor Marie died on October 26, 2004, just after lunch. She was more alert that morning and was “blowing kisses” to those who passed by. Perhaps she knew God was coming for her and in her way was saying goodbye. Certainly God welcomed and clothed her splendidly with a royal robe, not of purple, but in her favorite shade of pink, and delighted her with everlasting strength and dignity.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”
There are people of many talents in our world: some can run with the grace of a deer, some can write beautifully, but not many can live to the age of 102 with the grace and strength of character that is incorruptible, unbending and undimmed by age or condition as Sr. Bernard Marie. She understood well how important it is that what you say be said gently. When you were with her, you knew you were really with someone special and honorable. One of her hallmarks was that of gratitude for everything done for her.

Helen Marie Boland was born August 12, 1902, in New Haven, MO, the sixth of ten children born of William and Hendrina (Lakebrink) Boland. She entered the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in 1923 and made her final vows in 1929. Sr. Bernard Marie wanted to be a nurse, even before she entered the congregation. She served in the following ministries: St. Mary’s Infirmary, the former Firmin Desloge, and SSM St. Mary’s Health Center, St. Louis; St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center, Madison, WI; St. Francis Hospital and Health Center, Blue Island, IL; St. Clare Hospital and Health Services, Baraboo, WI; and St. Eugene Community Hospital, Dillon, SC.

Not until her 80th birthday did she retire from the operating and emergency rooms of St. Eugene’s, only to begin work in the cardiopulmonary department. She continued to minister in that department until well past her 90th birthday.

In fact at the age of 90, she developed her artistic talent – the art of making cards with pressed flowers, which she continued until the end of her life. Many people have been graced by her card-making ministry. Sr. Bernard Marie was a very good correspondent with letters and cards sent to many people. Besides her large and devoted family, she enjoyed the visits of her beloved friends from St. Eugene’s when they came to visit. She held great love for the congregation; she loved her sisters and prayed for their needs and those of the world.

On the evening of March 18, 2005, her earthly life came to a peaceful close. The celebration in eternity is just beginning, with those whom she loved and ministered to, and is greater than any celebration she had on earth. Certainly Alleluias were sung by Sr. Bernard Marie, since it was her fervent desire that God would bring her home.

“My God and my all”

“I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart.”
A member of the FSM Centenary Club, Kathryn Weiss was 101 years old and was in religious life for 84 years when she died quietly and peacefully, just as she had lived, the morning of April 12, 2005. When she met her God face to face, God saw this work of creation now having been fulfilled and “saw it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31)

Kathryn was the second of six children born to Charles and Theresa (Weixelbaum) Weiss, in Morrison Bluff, AR. Her father died when she was six and her mother married Casper Hoelker; two step-brothers and a step-sister were born. Her parents owned a peach farm in Anton, OK.

Kathryn was received as a novice and received the name Sr. Mary Virginia in 1921; she returned to her baptismal name after Vatican II. She professed her final vows in 1925.

Sister graduated from St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing, Maryville, MO. She ministered as a nurse at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, Hannibal, MO and St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City, OK. In 1947 Sister was one of four founding sisters to serve in North Carolina, initially at Maryhurst Retreat House in Pine Hurst for several months, and then St. Joseph of the Pines Hospital in Southern Pines, where she remained until the Sisters withdrew from the hospital in 1966.

Sr. Kathryn served as nursing supervisor at St. Mary’s in Nebraska City, NE, and as assistant administrator and superior of St. Francis Hospital in Maryville in 1969, before returning to St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, Hannibal, MO. A new ministry was begun when she went to Mount Alverno in 1980 to serve in the apostolate of prayer before she moved to St. Mary of the Angels Convent serving in the prayer ministry of the Sisters.

Sr. Kathryn’s most satisfying ministry was as a bedside nurse. She was one who was happy to be with people, ministering by her presence, instead of dealing with paperwork. Yet she was grateful God gave her the gifts which she used and that enabled her to serve others during her many years of ministry.

Now Sr. Kathryn enjoys a life in God’s presence for all eternity.

“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.”

——

Agnes Adell Borst, born August 8, 1914, in Salina, KS, was one of four girls and two boys born to Louis W. and Helen H. (Holly) Borst. Her father was described as a Jack of all trades, who worked as a carpenter, barber, butcher, ran a grocery and meat market and was a nurseryman in later years. Agnes entered the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in 1932; she professed her final vows in 1938.

Sr. Aloysius Marie earned degrees in radiology technology and education research from Saint Louis University. She ministered within the radiology departments of SSM St. Mary’s Health Center, Richmond Heights, MO; St. Marys Hospital Medical Center, Madison, WI; the former Firmin Desloge Hospital, St. Louis; the former St. Mary’s Infirmary, St. Louis; St. Clare Health Center, Baraboo, WI; and St. Francis Hospital Health Center, Blue Island, IL. She also served as a radiology instructor at Saint Louis University, and as executive director of St. Clare Health Center, Baraboo, WI.

A true Franciscan, she loved everything about nature and was an avid fisherwoman, catching many a fish! Photography became a hobby, and her camera went along wherever she went. While in Baraboo, she assisted with the liturgy at St. Mary’s Ringling, playing the organ. She was able to enjoy a variety of vacations with Sisters, as well as family and friends, including a trip to the Holy Land. Letterwriting, sending cards and correspondence to others became a part of her apostolate, as well as her prayer for everyone. Sister made the most of her life!

The morning of May 9, 2005, Sr. Aloysius Marie died peacefully. Perhaps Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John were there with Jesus when she was called to eternity. It would not be surprising if the apostles quickly said “Let’s go fishing Allie! We know just the spot where we can make quite a catch.”

“I know that my Redeemer lives.”

——
As Franciscan Sisters of Mary, we live the Gospel as sister to all. We give our life by being present, hospitable and compassionate, choosing to stand with our sisters and brothers who are poor and on the margins of society.

We invite you to join in the mission and ministries of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary through your prayers and your support.

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- include the FSM in your estate planning through a bequest
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- create a trust
- research your employer’s matching gift program
- give a gift to the FSM in memory or honor of a loved one or friend
- serve as a contact or initiator for corporate gifts
- send us your gift in the envelope inserted in FSM Magazine
- respond to our development appeals
- make a secure online donation (coming soon!)

Our legal name is Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

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You may specify that your gift support our active ministries, our retired sisters, or our greatest need.

Gifts to the Franciscan Sisters of Mary are tax-deductible.

Thank you in advance for your heartfelt support of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7
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Ms. Mary A. Pitts
Rev. James E. Purcell
Father James F. Quinn
Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Reedy
Mr. and Mrs. Roger D. Reilly
Mr. and Mrs. Alex J. Reinkemeyer
Rev. John C. Reinkemeyer
Ms. Marie Reinkemeyer
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Reiter
Renard Paper Company, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas A. Ries
Mr. James B. Rigby
Mr. Frank A. Riget
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ripp
Mr. George F. Robertson, III
Robinson Hearing Aid Co.
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Rodgers
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rotter
Dr. and Mrs. William T. Russell
Ms. Jeanne D. Salmon
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Sanger
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Scarpone
Mr. and Mrs. William Scheibel
Mr. and Mrs. Mark A. Schieber
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schmitz
Mr. Albert Schoendienst
Mr. and Mrs. William Schoenhard
Mr. and Mrs. Ken W. Scott
Dr. and Mrs. Austin R. Sharp
Ms. Gail B. Shea
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Shekleton
Dr. and Mrs. Charles S. Sherwin
Sisters of Benedict
SSM Health Care
SSM Health Care of Wisconsin
SSM Information Center
St. Clare Hospital and Health Services, Baraboo, WI
St. Mary’s Good Samaritan, Inc.
St. Marys Health Center, Jefferson City, MO
Ms. Donna G. Stanfill
Ms. Margaret Stollborn
Ms. Mary M. Stonner
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Stutte
Mrs. Emma V. Taylor
Tech Electronics, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Telle
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. J. Maurice Thro
Marie Therese Townsend, FSM
Mrs. John Valentine
Mr. and Mrs. Bua Van Le
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Venegoni
Mrs. Jean Vilimek
Ms. Rose Mary Vogel
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Waechter
Drs. David and Corinne Valantik
Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Warren
Ms. Judy M. Wilke
Ms. Sara H. Withgott

Planned Giving

The estate of Rev. Dennis A. Brodeur
The estate of Agnes Gahagan
The estate of Peter DiMo Gark
The estate of Fr. John Huhmann,
In honor of my sister, Mary Josephine Huhmann, FSM

Do not neglect to do good
and to share what you have;
God is pleased by sacrifices
of that kind.

Hebrews 13:16

Please remember the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in your will.
As Franciscan Sisters of Mary, we live the Gospel as sister to all. We give our life by being present, hospitable and compassionate, choosing to stand with our sisters and brothers who are poor and on the margins of society.

Identity & Mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary

FSM Ministries
Almost Home, St. Louis, Mo
SSM Health Care, St. Louis, MO
Woman’s Place, St. Louis, MO

FSM Co-Sponsored Ministries
Holy Family Services, Weslaco, TX
The Sarah Community, St. Louis, MO

We also have Sisters serving in other ministries in Ohio, Arizona, Missouri, South Carolina, New York, Texas, Wisconsin and Oklahoma.

www.fsmonline.org ... it’s where to find the Franciscan Sisters of Mary online!