



FRANCISCAN
SISTERS
OF LITTLE FALLS
MINNESOTA

NOVEMBER 11, 2020

Community News

Outside my bedroom window . . .

Sister Gloria Haider

Community Minister Sister Carol Schmit led the final ritual for the October 2020 Community Days with the reading of “A Hopi Elder Speaks.” Concluding the reading, Sister Carol asked us to participate in a ritual by reflecting on our personal response to the theme of the meeting, “We live fully and faithfully into our future.” We were to write our promise on a small piece of paper, then wrap the paper in a piece of fabric and tie it with a string to form a little bundle. Finally, we were to take it outside and hang it in a tree or bush so all the energy of the universe could strengthen and fill our bundle with love.

The day after the meeting, I reflected on how I would fully and faithfully live into our FSLF future. I wrote on a small piece of paper, “I will live fully and faithfully into our future by listening more deeply to the nudging and energy of the Holy Spirit and the people in my life in order to discern God’s will both communally and personally.” Then I wrapped the paper in fabric and tied it with string to form the bundle. A beautiful lemon tree is growing directly outside my bedroom window facing the south. It was there that I decided to hang my small bundle with my reflection. Now I can look at the small bundle hanging outside my bedroom window and remember my personal response of how I want to live into our future. This ritual was very sacred and energizing for me, and I feel it was a wonderful way to end our first online Community Days meeting.



My bundle hangs from a branch of a lemon tree outside my bedroom window.

Living the Gospel courageously . . . with energy, spirit, peace.

First Black Cardinal

Sister Callista Robinson

Let us rejoice at the very great news as Pope Francis has named Archbishop Welton Gregory as the first African American Cardinal of the United States. Archbishop Gregory is a shepherd who is very pastoral and committed to social justice and human rights issues. He has demonstrated this as the Bishop of Belleville, Illinois; Archbishop of Atlanta, Georgia; and Washington, DC.

SFMC presents live stream concert

Robyn Gray, St. Francis Music Center

St. Francis Music Center proudly presents the St. Francis Concert Orchestra in a live streaming Facebook concert Tuesday, November 24, at 7:30 p.m.

This live stream event will welcome the Christmas season with beautiful music of the season, featuring “Nocturne” from *Midsummer Night’s Dream* by Felix Mendelssohn, “Linus and Lucy” by Vince Guaraldi, and two traditional carols “O Little Town of Bethlehem” and “O Tannenbaum.”

Masked and socially distant, the St. Francis Concert Orchestra has been rehearsing since the end of September. The faithful musicians wanted to present a Christmas mini-concert in a safe way to brighten up the season!

The orchestra is directed by Olivia Munson, a recent graduate from St. Olaf College with a bachelor of music degree in violin performance and a string instructor at the Music Center.

On November 24 at 7:30 visit the St. Francis Music Center Facebook page and welcome in the holiday season with beautiful music!

NOTE

An electronic copy of the Franciscan Federation *Musings* will be available online. Printed copies will also be in the Mail Room and the library.

All Community Gathering 2020

Sister Carol Schmit

It is hard not to compare our October 21-23 All Community Gathering with one of a year ago, when there were hugs all around and story telling into the evening, good food... snacks galore. We continued our study of racism focusing on the American Indian. We ended with a fine celebration with Associates. There were a lot of miles traveled.

2020 presented us with the need to plan a very different experience. And we did it! We gathered together, prayed together and had fruitful small group discussions. Even the successful Otter Tail drawing left us dreaming of next summer at the lake. The bonus—we now have a grasp of how ZOOM can serve us in the future. Thank you for your cooperation in making this virtual meeting very worthwhile.

The next step will be to study our break-out notes and evaluations. Shortly after Thanksgiving we will begin early plans for our gatherings into the future.

THANK YOU

Let us continue to pray for each other, as I received so many good wishes and prayers for this special year for me, celebrating my 60-year Jubilee and 80th birthday. Thank you so very much.

- Sister Lorraine Olmscheid

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Please make the following changes to the Sisters section of your directory:

Sister Shirley Mueller - change address to Trade Winds Resort, 1005 North Stewart Road Lot 313, Mission, TX 78572-4559. Her cell phone number remains the same.

Sister Pat Forster - change address to Trade Winds Resort, 1005 North Stewart Road Lot 318, Mission, TX 78572. Her cell phone number remains the same.

Give to the Max Day . . . we need your help!

Elizabeth Rydeen, CRD



The big day is November 19 and excitement is already building. Last year, we raised over \$76,000 on Give to the Max Day. People were so generous! This year, we've secured \$25,000 in matching funds from our pool of donors who love Give to the Max as much as we do.

We appreciate your help in spreading the word about this fun campaign to raise money for our Franciscan ministries. Donating online appeals to a younger generation, an audience we are really trying to reach. Direct your family and friends to GiveMN.org. Early giving started November 1—and we're well on our way to our \$50,000 goal.

We have a script and beautiful images that tell our story at GiveMN.org. Just search "Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls." The FSLF website is loaded with new photos of sisters and staff promoting GTTM. And this year's posts and videos on Facebook are really cute. Thank you so much for helping us spread the word!

On Chapter 2 of *Laudato Si'*

Sister LaVonne Schackmann

If you find yourself needing to read something uplifting during this COVID time, try Chapter 2 of *Laudato Si'*. In this marvelous chapter, Pope Francis shows us a loving God who creates a "very good" universe with diverse creatures. Pope Francis refers to biblical teaching, the psalms and the prophets to show that every creature has value and purpose. Everything belongs. The human being, in addition, has the privilege and responsibility to not only cultivate and develop the natural world, but to protect and care for it. Humans also have a moral obligation to work for the equitable distribution of goods, because "the earth is essentially a shared inheritance whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone" (#93). Our unique human worth is to be instruments with Jesus the Christ leading all creation to fullness in God. Let the heavens and the earth and all creation shout for joy!

ENCLOSURES

The Associate
The Cosmic Rosary

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(from Aramaic translation directly)

O Cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration!
Soften the ground of our being so that we
OPEN to awareness of Your Presence.

Awaken Your creativity within us,
that we may be empowered
to fulfill our life purpose.

Let each of our actions bear fruit
in accordance with our highest intentions.

Endow us with the wisdom to create and share
what each being needs to grow and flourish.

Untie the tangled, binding threads of our
past mistakes, as we release others from our
judgements of what seems to bind them.

Do not let us be diverted, but keep us focused
upon our true purpose and the opportunities
of the present moment.

For You are the ground and the fruitful vision,
the birth, power and fulfillment,
as all is gathered and made whole again.

Amen.

Briefly

FROM DEATH TO LIFE WE PRAISE GOD IN...

Bernice "Bee" Banish, who died October 27 at the age of 91. She is the daughter of deceased Sister Mary Alma Barthel and the sister of deceased Sister Rita Barthel.

Sharon Ostendorf, who died October 29 at the age of 69. She is a cousin of Sister Marguerite Ostendorf.

Kenneth Larson, who died November 7 at the age of 95. He is a brother of Sister Georgine Larson.

Barb Grossman, who died November 10. She is a sister-in-law of Sister Char Grossman.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Sister Anita Jennissen's sister, JoAnn, who had knee surgery.

Sister Julien Dirkes's brother, Richard, who was hospitalized with Covid-19.

Michael Lentner, who was airlifted to Region's Hospital after a chain saw he was using kicked back and struck him in the face. He is a nephew of Sister Ruth Lentner.

Sister Juanita Mauer, who is recovering from Covid-19 and resulting anxiety from being in isolation.

Aaron Taylor, who is a paraplegic after a motorcycle accident three years ago and recently had surgery on a pressure wound that was badly infected. He is Sister Michelle L'Allier's nephew.

Sister Mary Ann Capizzo's grand-nephew, Nick, who is 18 years old and had a cardiac arrest, developed pneumonia, and was placed on a ventilator and in a medically induced coma. He had a pacemaker installed and is awake and recovering.

David Jennissen, who was diagnosed with a malignant nasal polyp after recovering from prostate cancer. He is a brother of Sister Anita Jennissen.

Sister Georgine Larson's niece-in-law, Jane, who has cancerous tumors in her hip, femur, breast and lung.

Mary Lust, who had surgery and developed problems. She is a sister of Sister Ruth Lentner.

Sister Ruth Lentner's niece, Danielle, who is having a lot of emotional problems.

Sister Char Grossman, who tested positive for Covid-19.

Sister Helen Weier, who was diagnosed with polymyalgia rheumatica (inflammation of the optic nerve). She is a sister of deceased Sisters Elizabeth, Lenore and Vianney Weier.

Steve Schmit, who is recovering from back surgery. He is a brother of Sister Carol Schmit.

Sister Trudy Schommer, who is recovering from Covid-19 specialty care.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 19.....Give to the Max Day

November 19.....Centering Prayer, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

December 3Centering Prayer, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Community News

is published biweekly by the Community Relations Department of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota, for its members. News items and suggestions for this publication are welcome from community members. Send to:

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phone: 320-632-0614
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Articles are due noon Monday.

***The next newsletter will be issued
December 2, 2020.***