



# Sisters of St. Francis

Oldenburg, Indiana

Spring 2024 Vol. 54 No. 1

*franciscans*

# CELEBRATE







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## From the Leadership Team



English poet Christina Rossetti wrote, "Spring is when life's alive in everything." And LIFE is what's definitely featured in this issue of Celebrate!

Meet our Sister Jubilarians whose lives have blessed so many in classrooms, in parishes, in mission lands both at home and abroad, in hospitals, kitchens, and offices. They have nourished the lives of others through their nursing care, justice work, and social service ministries. Their lives of selfless giving have, in turn, enriched the lives of those with whom, and for whom, they've ministered these combined 1100 years.

You'll also be introduced to Sister Shirley Gerth, honored with the Indianapolis Archdiocesan Legacy Award for 2024. Serving as only the second person in the archdiocese to hold the position of parish life coordinator, Shirley ministered in parish leadership for 32 years. While she shared in the lives of hundreds of her parishioners, Shirley also brought renewed life and faith to the parishes in which she served.

A sense of "spring" has come as well to our Oldenburg Community. Our April calendar brings our General Chapter, an event allowing us to assess our faithfulness to our Franciscan way of life, as well as to set direction for upcoming years. Thus, the Chapter breathes new life into our Congregation and its members as we together set off with newly-elected leadership and a renewed energy to be about our mission of presence and service.

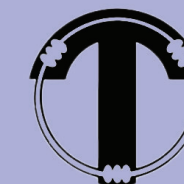
This issue also provides an opportunity for me, speaking on behalf of my leadership team, to thank you, our benefactors and friends, for your support over these past six years. You have partnered with us in so many ways to further our Franciscan mission and to foster LIFE in our various corners of the world.

May the God of Springtime continue to breathe into you the joy and energy of this new season!

Wishing you the blessings of new life,

*S. Christa*

S. Christa Franzer, OSF  
For the General Council



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## LEADERSHIP TEAM

S. Christa Franzer, OSF  
S. Delouise Menges, OSF  
S. Barbara Leonhard, OSF  
S. Annette Grisley, OSF

## ON THE COVER

Top: The Chapter ceremony begins with the lighting of fire to represent the flames of the Chapter logo. Top Middle: The current Council (l to r): S. Barbara Leonhard, S. Annette Grisley, S. Christa Franzer, and S. Delouise Menges. Bottom Middle: Sisters and Associates join in prayer. Bottom Picture: Incoming Council (l to r): S. Susan Marie Pleiss, S. Margaret Rahe, S. Robbie Pentecost, and S. Maureen Irvin. Their term is effective from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2029. Chapter Photos by S. Kathleen Branham. Council photos by Melinda Starkey.

## ADVANCEMENT TEAM

S. Maureen Irvin, OSF - Director of Congregational Advancement and Donor Engagement  
S. Therese Gillman, OSF - Community Grant Writer  
S. Dianne Kaimann, OSF - Assistant  
S. Timothy Kavanaugh, OSF - Assistant  
Emily Lecher - Coordinator of Data Entry and Advancement Support  
Melinda Starkey - Marketing/ Communications Specialist



# Meet the Tebbes...

Glenn and Laura Jo Tebbe are both natives of Indiana. They grew up in the Brookville area and now reside in Greensburg. They will be married for 53 years in June and have four children - two boys and two girls in that order, and ten grandchildren - five boys and five girls.

Laura Jo retired from teaching, where she spent most of her career with second graders. After retirement, she spent several years as the children's librarian at Greensburg Public Library and continues reading for herself and to others. Laura Jo always enjoys seeing her students, discovering who they have become and letting them know how proud she is of them.

Glenn left his administrative role with St. Mary's School in Greensburg, which he served for 18 years, to take a position with Indiana Non-Public School Association, for which he acted as an advocate and spokesperson. Following that position, he was asked to become the Executive Director of the Indiana Catholic Conference. He retired in 2020. Glenn noted how he is proud to have been able to serve the Church in a variety of ways, which included life issues, social justice issues, and human dignity. That continues to be a part of his life after retirement.

The couple have a lifelong relationship with the Franciscan Sisters, beginning in elementary school. Both were taught by Sisters of St. Francis in grades one through eight, although not at the same school. They both went on to attend Brookville High School, where they became high school sweethearts. From there, both went to Marian College (now University), where they would have the Sisters as teachers or as part of the faculty. Their connection continued into adulthood as the Sisters became co-workers and friends.

Glenn's first impressions of the Sisters in a two-room schoolhouse were probably a little different as a young child than they are as an adult. He finds the Sisters to be faithful, fair and professional. He would say they are well prepared and good company. He has fond memories of S. Marie Schroeder, S. Ellen Miller, S. Norma Rocklage, and S. Carlene Becker. But there are so many more, far too many to name. Another impression that Laura Jo has of the Sisters is that they have fun! She can remember Father John Geis having monthly get-togethers where the parish team would do a fun activity and get to know each other. That is when she really got to know the Sisters as people. S. Marie Schroeder helped her understand that through conversation and S. Carlene Becker became a good friend because of that. These friendships extend to Glenn, as well.

Laura Jo has fond memories of Sister Rose Ann Knoob and Sister Adrianna Lentz. The Sisters were good role models for her as to how women could have leadership skills and lead the way. She remarked that the Sisters were principals and leaders before women were seen in leadership roles in the public sector.

The Tebbes have a strong connection with the Sisters, and they want to give to them because the Sisters have given them so much through their education, their experience at Marian, and their friendship. They continued to learn a lot from them as colleagues and professionals and feel they owe them a lot. In donating, they hope to pay back all they have received from them and give them a little peace of mind or comfort knowing people are supporting them and they can have a comfortable retirement. The Tebbes are also strong supporters of Marian University and the Church.

When seeing themselves through their friends' eyes, Glenn feels they would say he was friendly and focused, while Laura Jo hopes they would say she was helpful. These qualities fit with the generosity they have given to the Sisters over the years and follow along with their viewpoint of to whom much is given, much is expected. They try to hold both themselves and their children to that. We appreciate the Tebbes, and all they have given to the Sisters of St. Francis over the years.



## Chapter Reflection

As a new leadership team is preparing to set off on their journey in July, let's reflect on the accomplishments of the community under the direction of the current leadership team during their six-year term as they took on their vision with faith to dare and courage to venture.

At the last Chapter (2018), the Sisters committed to engage in creative conversations and storytelling to share their charism among themselves and others; make mission integration a reality for the co-workers and ministry partners; extend hospitality through creative and generative opportunities that fan the fire of the Spirit in themselves and others; identify and address the systemic causes of poverty and its effects on women and children through education, advocacy and actions to change unjust systems; and celebrate what has been accomplished and continue to build on our Care of Creation Corporate Stance.

### HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- Sharing reflections in a monthly newsletter to Sisters and Associates
- Providing Sunday coffee talks that were open to the public
- Accepting invitations to speak with groups about our spirituality, our mission and our history
- Offering public presentations, prayer days, and workshops at Oldenburg Franciscan Center



- Appointing a Sister as a Mission Effectiveness Coordinator to help with mentoring co-workers
- Placing monitors in the lobby and lounges where the Franciscan spirituality, feasts and traditions can be shared
- Continuing with Sister/Co-worker prayer partners
- Encouraging "wheelchair rides and conversation" initiated and provided by co-workers



- Appointing a new Vocation Director and Initial Formation Director
- Meeting regularly with Nuns and Nones and inviting them to speak with our Sisters
- Participating in numerous vocation events and opportunities to meet young women interested in religious life
- Creating YouTube videos about our Sisters for the public
- Extending the mission through outreach at several parishes in Indiana and Ohio



- Taking part in the Pajama Project for Christmas
- Hosting Hispanic Women's Day
- Filling children's backpacks for So Loved Closet, as well as supporting other causes
- Signing letters to Congress about issues relating to our Franciscan values
- Displaying banners on the lawn, addressing the dignity of all peoples and displaying yard signs to "Pray for Ukraine" and "Protect Children not Guns"
- Collecting "Bags for Border" and holding special collections for Ukraine, earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria and personal items for Batesville Food Pantry

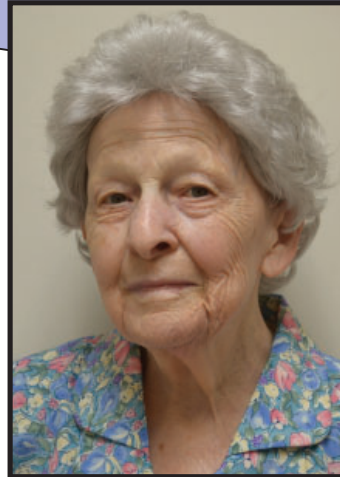


- Recycling incandescent lighting and replacing with LED bulbs
- Performing an energy usage study and researching several climate friendly options
- Providing education on trees and deforestation as well as initiating an adopt-a-tree campus project
- Facilitating the sale and sustainability of Michaela Farm to Greenacres

It is difficult to summarize the many accomplishments of this leadership team. We appreciate everything they have done and wish upon them many blessings through the remainder of their term. They will remain in office until June 30, 2024. You will learn more about the incoming Council in a later publication.

# CELEBRATING OUR 2024 SISTER JUBILARIANS

## 75 YEARS



**S. Mary Kuhl** considered herself fortunate to be born into a large family. Being the sixth of 13 children, she chose to be the babysitter of the family. She cared for the younger children in the family instead of doing the household chores.

So, it didn't seem strange to her when she was assigned or as she says "called" to minister to the little ones. Her entire active ministry was with First graders and Kindergarten children. "The trust, love, joy and laughter of small children has always been a blessing and very uplifting for me." The simplicity of the young children greatly influenced her and deepened her own Franciscan spiritual life. Simplicity is a word that also describes S. Mary. She acknowledges that she is quiet and went about her chores and teaching ministry without a lot of fanfare.

A lover of nature and gardening, Mary says "I love to be outside working with and in Mother Earth." Be sure to notice the flowers and shrubs around the entrance to our St. Clare Hall Health Care Center. You might hear her singing like Louis Armstrong, "I see trees of green, red roses too, I see them bloom, for me and for you, And I think to myself what a wonderful world!"

— S. Annette Grisley



**S. Gloria Kellerman** The line from Luke's gospel: "Let the children come to me..." could be S. Gloria Kellerman's theme song. Born in Cincinnati in 1931, she grew up in a happy family where she used to play school with her two younger sisters whom she loved dearly. She also had a devotion to St. Francis who, like S. Gloria, loved animals, and so she looked to find a group of Franciscan nuns to join. In the convent her love of the little ones continued as she spent 40 years teaching first graders which gave her much pleasure. Later she worked for 12 years with adults to help them get their GED. While she enjoyed them, she still missed her little ones. In her spare time she enjoyed visiting the Cincinnati Zoo where she loved watching the animals, especially the antics of the gorillas.

When she retired to Oldenburg in 2004 she was told that it would be helpful if S. Jean Sora could have a regular visitor. So a new friendship developed with talks and jokes every day and watching the Reds ball games together for the next 18 years. Now celebrating Jubilee, S. Gloria has fond memories of all the people who have touched her life. — S. Donna Rohman

## 70 YEARS



**S. Kate Holohan** Prominently displayed on Kate's windowsill is a plaque that reads, "Be Grateful." Kate says of herself, "I have so much to be thankful for. I've had a wonderful life. I have had so many opportunities and blessings." She grew up in a large, happy family in Streator, IL, the 8th of sixteen children. Her years in community took her around the world and gave her the graced opportunity to embrace the richness of other cultures. As a missionary in Papua New Guinea, she was a teacher and pastoral worker. Eventually, she became a founder and director of a new Community, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, made up of local women who wanted to be Sisters.

After twelve years of leadership in our Franciscan Community in Oldenburg, Kate once again felt called to pastoral ministry in an underserved place – this time in Appalachia. As a Pastoral Associate in two different parishes, she experienced the same reciprocity she had known in Papua New Guinea. She received and was shaped by the wisdom of these people in the very process of sharing her own love of the Gospel and innate ability to create community. Now, in her retirement, Kate marvels at the richness of her life and the many people she has touched along the way. It is no wonder that she has a smile and a story for anyone who stops by to see her. —S. Barb Leonhard



**S. René Langenecker** said, "The Gemini of the Zodiac was strong when I was born on June 21, 1935." A Gemini personality is playful, intellectually curious, and can juggle a variety of passions, hobbies and careers. This seems to fit S. René to a T! She spent the early years of her convent life teaching in grade schools in Indiana and Ohio. After 19 years she became a principal at St. Clement's in St. Bernard and later at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in New Albany.

After 10 years as principal, she moved on to California and studied Spanish to help teach ESL classes for Hispanic clients. René had visited there with her mom when she was young and always hoped to live in California. For many years there she worked as an Administrative Assistant for several Social Service Agencies so she could help the poor. She enjoyed meeting people of different cultures. In 2022, S. René came home to Oldenburg to retire. She enjoys taking part in activities and keeping up with the world news on TV. —S. Donna Rohman



# CELEBRATING OUR 2024 SISTER JUBILARIANS

## 70 YEARS



**S. André Burkhardt's** favorite song is Frank Sinatra's "I Did It My Way". So, she says her life went along with her enjoying all her life experiences and doing them her way! André was the fourth of 11 children and learned at an early age to be helpful and creative. When she entered the convent, she used her creativity well as she taught in grade schools in Indiana and Ohio for 25 years. All these years were a great thrill for André. Later, she was principal at St. Joseph and St. Pius Schools in Cincinnati where she enjoyed working with the teachers and staff. In 1990 she had the opportunity to go to Kisi and Kisumu in Kenya, East Africa. She was a teacher/head mistress at the girls' high school, and retreat director/teacher for the African Luwak novices. Though the experience only lasted two years, André felt it gave her learnings that lasted a lifetime. She had other ministries with various cultures as she worked in Chinle, Arizona and at St. Joseph/St. Patrick in Meridian, Mississippi.

Once retiring to the Motherhouse, André began a new adventure as mentor of the Adopt-A-Sis program. Interacting with the Academy students gives her great pleasure. She also fulfilled her deep love of music as a member of the chime and vocal choirs and by cantoring at Masses.

—S. Donna Rohman



**S. Marian Boberschmidt** In paraphrasing Shakespeare, the statement "And though she is but small, she is mighty," is most appropriate to describe Marian's extraordinary life. Marian has listened deeply with mind and heart and has been a mighty presence wherever she has ministered. Her parents taught Marian and her brother "to listen deeply to the conversations" then bravely venture into the future if they felt tugged in that direction. Marian was tugged from her home in St. Louis, MO, to Oldenburg, IN, and back to Missouri often. In her early years, she taught elementary grades and was principal in schools in Indiana and Missouri where she was well-respected.

After "listening to the conversations", Marian stepped into a new world as the first female Pastoral Minister in St. Engelbert Parish in St. Louis. This gave Marian an opportunity to work with African American parishioners. After a brief time in Oldenburg as Novice Director, Marian returned to St. Louis and was tugged into a relationship with African American women who wanted to give one another spiritual and personal support. It was the beginning of Nia Kuumba African American Spirituality Center where Marian was the director for twenty-five years. Marian states: "I've just been listening to the conversations and going where they lead. I have never been more blessed." —S. Michelle Corliss

## 70 YEARS



**S. Cleopha Werner** "Nature is the footprint of God" says S. Cleopha. Growing up on a farm, nature was a big part of her life and prayer. Wherever S. Cleo is, she always has a ready smile, is interested in what is going on in your life and is easy to talk to. S. Cleo's culinary talents were put to good use preparing meals for Archbishop Schulte, in the diet kitchen at the Motherhouse and for the Sisters at Ritter House. Her love of people was seen as she found her niche in parish work bringing Communion to sick, visiting families, greeting people coming to Mass, giving Cursillo talks and RCIA presentations, or starting a Senior Citizen group. Working as a nanny was a special time. There were three children and then a baby was born. What a delight!

In 2017, Sister Cleo's Homemade Ice Cream arrived at the Carriage House Antiques operated by Associate Jim Meyer, who enjoys telling the customers about S. Cleo and her 17 siblings. She takes an active role in making the ice cream and enjoys talking with the customers as well.

"Open My Eyes, Lord" is her favorite song. The last verse, "Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like You." S. Cleo sees the face of God in everyone she meets. — S. Annette Grisley



**S. Amy Kistner** The youngest of six children, Sister Amy Kistner grew up in a family that nurtured Franciscan relationships. Though her own early Franciscan journey found her serving in elementary classrooms, those opportunities which she considered ministry highlights were to follow. A year-long program in religious formation, together with succeeding years as Director of Novices, brought new, exciting, and demanding challenges. Serving a term as Congregational Minister brought to her and her team "blessings unimaginable". It was during the twenty years that Amy ministered in the "holy land" of Kentucky, however, that she fell in love with the Appalachian people. She shared that her joy was in matching people who need with others who are generous.

Since returning to the Motherhouse, Amy has been able to be even more involved in social justice activities. She has shared a compassionate presence with refugees at the border, volunteers in the local food pantry, and is coordinator of our Little Portion Club, a fund which supports mission activities. Thinking back over these 70 years, Amy attributes all to "the grace of God at work". She notes, "Prayers of gratitude are first and foremost each day, from the love of God to the love of family and the blessings of community." — S. Christa Franzer

# CELEBRATING OUR 2024 SISTER JUBILARIANS

## 70 YEARS



**S. Mary Fliehman** is a native of Cincinnati, raised in the suburb of Saylor Park. Her first experience with Oldenburg Franciscans came with her elementary years at St. Aloysius School on the Ohio. Already as a second grader, she was drawn to religious life, especially after playing the role of a Sister in a Christmas play. Before the year was out, Mary wrote a letter to Oldenburg, intent on learning more about becoming a Sister. Unfortunately, at seven years of age, Mary was considered too young to make such a decision!

Midway through high school, however, Mary was accepted into the Aspirancy program at Oldenburg Academy, leading ultimately to her entry into the Community. Her early years of ministry were served in education as elementary teacher and principal and as a high school teacher, where she loved working with students. Later, she accepted the new

challenge of hospital chaplaincy at Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati. Being present to people, sharing their life moments and praying with them were high points in her ministry. Mary's skills for compassionate presence were further utilized at the Motherhouse, where she provided pastoral care for our Sisters. She continues today to be a positive and joyful participant in the life of the Motherhouse community. — S. Delouise Menges

*Did you know our 70-year Jubilarians are known as the Senators? Here's how that came about:*

**One day on the Main Chalk Board which holds all the most important information for the day's activities, the postulants noticed this sign: TODAY OFFICE OF THE DEAD. Below that was the word OPTIONAL. When the postulants returned to their study room, someone raised the issue and began to invite a VOTE to take place...one after another, "Will the Senator from Illinois speak, are you going to The Office of the Dead? Kate Holohan replied, "yes". Next followed "Will the Senator from Indianapolis speak, are you going to The Office of the Dead?" The reply was no. After a few more invitations, a door opened from the Novice Director's office which was next to the Postulants' study. Sister Estelle quickly reminded the Senators that the Office of the Dead was NOT OPTIONAL for the Postulants. There was no need to take a vote. However, inviting one another to be called a Senator continues to this day.**

## 60 YEARS



**S. Miriam Kaeser** "I have been so blessed to have many wonderful experiences, but my favorite ones are my early years in the classroom. I taught music, art, and physical education (PE) to grades 4 through 8, with abundant opportunities for creativity and fun. My students won national contests in music and art, "cut" two LP record albums (today we would make CDs) and participated in a wide variety of projects and performances. Hopefully they gained a lifetime love of the arts! I love a challenge, especially finding ways to do things more efficiently and effectively, and that served me well in my 20+ years in the Cincinnati Catholic Schools Office. I enjoyed the opportunity to connect science, literature, and social studies with the Creator in a series of religion lessons I wrote for Macmillan McGraw Hill.

I've welcomed the opportunities to live, learn, teach and travel in many diverse cultures, including Finland! I love the wealth other cultures bring to us. I cannot thank my good God enough for such a rich life!" — S. Rose Lima Frerick



**S. Alacoque Burger** Prayer and complete trust in God's plan for her life have been the hallmarks of Sister Alacoque Burger's saying "yes" to all she was asked to do, as each new endeavor was presented to her. Trained as a licensed practical nurse, her new assignment began in the Community's infirmary. This ministry led to a special service as she assisted at a men's residence for recovering alcoholics. There, Alacoque enjoyed the acceptance and trust of all. In time, she returned to the healthcare center as head nurse on second floor, where she worked with Sisters needing special care.

In 1997, Alacoque was invited to join the Community's Formation Team. "I didn't feel very prepared for it," she remembers, "but after praying about it, I accepted." This same attitude surfaced when, in 2001, she was

elected to the Community Leadership Team. She served in this capacity for six years. Taking on a new challenge, Alacoque became a part of the Pastoral Care Team. In this role, she found particular enjoyment, "because I could make relationships and pray with the Sisters." Since her retirement in 2022, Alacoque finds more opportunities to share the Franciscan charism. Her work with the dying as a hospice volunteer with Margaret Mary Hospital in Batesville is especially fulfilling. She now has time to read, to visit relatives, and to spend time daily in the Adoration Chapel, her favorite place to pray. — S. Rose Lima Frerick



# CELEBRATING OUR 2024 SISTER JUBILARIANS

## 60 YEARS



**S. Donna Graham** Donna, a Cincinnati native, is the oldest of five with four younger brothers. She grew up in a Catholic family, next door to grandparents and great grandparents. She's proud of her ancestral connection to Oldenburg; one great-grandfather was born on a farm in Peppertown and baptized at Holy Family Church. Another relative at one time owned the tract of land on the west side of Theresa Hall.

She ministered at elementary schools in Indianapolis while earning a BS in Chemistry from Marian College. Later, she taught science at four high schools. While serving as a dorm chaplain at Xavier, Donna received an MA in Theology from Notre Dame. Donna's desire to understand young people better lead her to pursue coursework in Alcohol and Drug Studies and earn an MSW, spending many years at hospitals and mental health agencies.

Her many gifts, love for spirituality and the earth, and heart for adventure, guided Donna for fourteen years as the Director of the JPIC Office for the St. John the Baptist friars. She was blessed to travel internationally while educating and animating the friars on justice and peace issues.

We celebrate the sacred passion Donna brings to the rich tapestry of her life! — S. Susan Marie Pleiss



**S. Bridget Arnold** Teachers have the opportunity to change the world, and Bridget has done just that for hundreds of children who have passed through her classrooms. Bridget grew up in a farming family in southern Indiana where she learned early the blessings and challenges of living in close connection to nature. From her family life she learned to trust in God's providential love, the powerfulness of prayer, and that generosity and care for others is a call for everyone.

Bridget's grade school and high school education put her in touch with the Oldenburg Franciscans. The Sisters' dedication to the principles she was taught at home led her to discern her call to religious life.

Bridget is an educator to her core. One of her creative projects was to have the children plant a garden by the school, tend it and harvest the produce. It was a great lesson on where their food actually comes from and the challenges that go with raising crops. Some of the harvest was shared with those in need and some was sold. The profit from the sale was used to help a sponsored student in Haiti. Throughout the years Bridget and her classes sponsored three students. It was a lesson in generosity and caring. Teacher, volunteer, woman of faith and prayer; Bridget is a gift to the Congregation.

— S. Margaret Maher

## 60 YEARS



**S. Maggie Rahe** Be doers of the word, not listeners only. (James 1:22) From little on, Maggie is someone who likes to be doing things. Growing up on a farm, every family member had indoor and outdoor jobs. Maggie preferred the outdoor jobs like mowing the lawn, gathering eggs and filling cattle troughs. While James' words may not have meant much then, they certainly are fitting now. Maggie carried the theme of doing into her ministries as a Sister of St. Francis. Maggie's earlier years were spent in the classroom teaching in the middle grades. Maggie's creativity in the classroom would have helped them to learn. Maggie says the children helped her to stay young at heart.

Her more recent experiences have been working with elders. She says that these experiences teach her about the aging process and how we at any age can bring joy, laughter and happiness to others. One lady sends birthday cards to everyone in their health care facility. Another makes her way around the facility weekly to see if anyone needs some assistance. These are concrete examples of how we can bring something to others who might be ill and facing difficult times. Throughout her life Maggie has learned to always be teachable and to be a doer of good. — S. Margaret Maher



**S. Noella Poinsette's** love for the marginalized stems from her childhood – hearing stories of Grandma feeding hobos, observing Mother working in health care, and her father, a fireman, befriending the mentally ill at the asylum adjacent to the firehouse. Noella is a woman of many gifts – a musician, artist, poet, and photographer – and a risk-taker studying acting and ethnic dance as an adult. These gifts have been integrated into her ministry of music and justice. She is most passionate about the plight of refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers – and about transforming racism. While teaching Lakota youth at Red Cloud High School on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, she organized a "White Train" vigil against nuclear weapons. She has been involved in the Sanctuary movement, volunteered at a refugee camp near Harlington, Texas,

and with Common Ground in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina. She also directed the Covington Diocese's Catholic Social Services Bureau refugee program. She has studied Spanish in Guatemala, visited Nicaragua, and danced with guerillas in El Salvador. She has lost her heart to these people. Her photography reveals their beauty. Now, as Director of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, she prays weekly with detained undocumented immigrants near Terre Haute. — S. Mary Lynn Calkins



# CELEBRATING OUR 2024 SISTER JUBILARIANS

## 60 YEARS



**S. Julann Butz** Named Sister Julann, she is known to many as “Jul”; also translated “Jewel”, for that she is!

She learned from her home life the love of family that has transferred to both young and older Sisters in community. Having earned her degree in Math from Notre Dame University, thirty-two years of her ministry were spent teaching students Math at Cardinal Ritter High School in Indianapolis. She was also in charge of Students for Action which allowed her, with her students, to minister selflessly to those in need.

For the past twenty-three years, Julann has served as Director of Human Resources at the Motherhouse. She shares the challenges of the office with Marnita Clagg. Together they make up the dynamic duo of HR. Marnita relates that early after she was hired, Julann told her that her style of typing was the Columbus method—Seek and Find. “I had to laugh.” Thus, Marnita has become the

typist for the office. Julann finds working with our Co-workers both challenging and rewarding.

Julann has contributed her gifts of a grateful heart, being a faithful friend, willingness to help, and to see the good in others. She enjoys sharing the gift of her life while bringing happiness to others.

— S. Bernice Roell

## 40 YEARS



**S. Robbie Pentecost** From the inner-city to the mountains of Appalachia, Sister Robbie has left her mark working to lift those on the margins and celebrating diversity. She is a woman of many gifts. As executive director of the New Opportunity School for Women (NOSW), she finds ways to empower women to discover their own gifts and build self-worth. For the past 30 years she has served the Appalachian region in the Diocese of Lexington, Ky. People who know her recognize her passion, her team spirit, and her commitment to hope. In addition to her position at NOSW, Sr. Robbie serves on the Board of Network, is the spiritual assistant for the local Secular Franciscan Fraternity and involved in furthering the work of the Synod across her Diocese by facilitating listening sessions. A long-term member of Network, she traveled with

the Nuns on the Bus across various states to create awareness of the power of the ballot. Her resume includes multiple activities related to non-profit management, social justice and empowerment. She is a fellow with the Center for Women, Faith, and Leadership with the Global Institute. Sister Robbie is most nurtured by taking long walks in the woods, hands in the earth and opportunities to breathe in God’s creative activity. — S. Mary Lynn Calkins



Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg was established

1851

1902

S. Bernadina Schaefer celebrated her Golden Jubilee. It was the first in the community.

We began celebrating Jubilee according to the year of entrance and not the year of profession

1921

1967

We began summer Jubilee celebration for Sisters only. Also began to celebrate Home Sisters Jubilee in spring.

We began to celebrate with only one Jubilee, which is held in July, instead of two separate ones

2018

*Congratulations to our 2024 Jubilarians*



# Sister Shirley Gerth Spotlight

Reprinted with permission from The Criterion, by Sean Gallagher (article dated September 8, 2023) and John Shaughnessy (article dated February 16, 2024)

Sister Shirley Gerth, 80, grew up as a member of St. Mary Parish in North Vernon. Being educated in the parish's school by Franciscan sisters from Oldenburg, she felt drawn to their vocation. She entered its novitiate in 1962 and expected to spend much of her life serving in Catholic schools. "I never thought about what work I would do. I just knew I wanted to be a sister," S. Shirley said. "Of course, in that community in that time, most of them taught."

And, for 12 years, that is what she did, serving, among other schools, at St. Louis School in Batesville and the former St. Rita School in Indianapolis. Beginning in the early 1970s, when S. Shirley was still only in her late 20s, she began to feel a call to parish ministry. "I felt that, if God was calling me to this, God would find a place for me," she said.

That place ended up being her home parish in North Vernon, where she served as pastoral associate for a decade from 1974-84 before moving on to St. Mary Parish in Greensburg for three years.

In Greensburg and at Enochsburg, she collaborated with Father John Geis, the pastor and administrator of those faith communities.

In 1991, Father Geis was appointed archdiocesan vicar for clergy. That same year S. Shirley became a pioneer Parish Life Coordinator

(PLC) in the archdiocese. Although she was keenly aware of the responsibility she had taken on, S. Shirley appreciated the wide range of ministry open to her in leading parishes.

"One of the joys for me of being a PLC was that I was involved with all age groups, from babies all the way to the elderly," S. Shirley said. Father Geis was certain she could lead a parish well. "She really was truly involved with people and knew what their needs were. She made decisions from that point of view," said Father Geis, now retired. He also knew that S. Shirley was able to face crises and make difficult decisions in the life of a parish. "She took it to prayer and then did what she felt was the right thing to do. She gave herself as a sister totally to her ministry, to the Church and to people in whatever way she could."

S. Shirley's decades of parish ministry were put to a test that she could never have imagined on the morning of April 7, 2007. She had been serving as PLC of St. Anne Parish in New Castle and the former St. Rose of Lima Parish in Knightstown since 1995. On that Holy Saturday morning, just hours before the parish's celebration of the Easter Vigil, S. Shirley discovered that St. Anne Church was on fire.

The fire, later found to have been started by an arsonist, gutted the church.

S. Shirley leaned hard on her dedication to prayer and to the people of St. Anne as she led them



Front row: S. Shirley, Bernard Gerth (father), Mary Gerth (mother), Larry Gerth, Fr. Robert Gerth. Back row: Janice Vawter, David Gerth, Raymond Gerth, Paul Gerth, James Gerth and Diana Franklin.

through this tragedy. "I learned to take it a day at a time," she said as she recalled those difficult days. "I felt such a part of the people. I cried with them. Together, we tried to speak words of hope, trust, and encouragement."

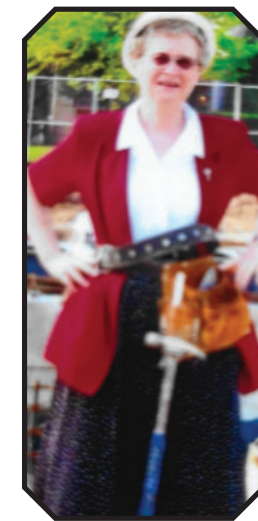
As the parishioners learned that the destruction of their beloved church was not an accident but an act of arson, S. Shirley faced the challenge of leading her parishioners to forgive him. She only became fully aware of the enormity of this test as she sat in a Henry County courtroom during a court hearing related to the arson fire. "I remember both of us looking at each other," S. Shirley said. "I said to myself, 'My God, I'm asking the parish to do something that I haven't begun myself.' And that was the journey of forgiving him."

In addition to the spiritual challenges S. Shirley faced from the fire at St. Anne, she also had a physical one—leading the building of a new parish church. She

called on the assistance of parishioner Jack Basler, at the time a longtime CEO of Henry Community Health, a hospital in New Castle, to lead the parish's building committee.

Calling S. Shirley "a born leader," Basler was impressed by her leadership of the parish during this difficult time. "She knew what had to be done, got to it and did it immediately," he recalled. "Without her, we would have never accomplished the project." Basler noted that S. Shirley's ability to handle the many complexities of building a new \$4.4 million church wouldn't have been effective had she also not been able to bring the parish community to support the project. "She was able to get the people all on the same page, all heading in the same direction at the same time," Basler said.

"A small parish like we are, and considering the age of the parishioners, she raised more money than I thought was possible. After we built the church, we had



Castle when then-Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein appointed

her as PLC of St. Maurice Parish in Napoleon.

S. Shirley reflected on how during times of transition, she always asked God to prepare the place where she was going to take up a new ministry. Those prayers seem to have been answered when she arrived in Napoleon.

"They were and are a welcoming community," S. Shirley said. "I felt very comfortable the very first time I was there." She hoped, after dealing with the crisis of a church burning and the complexities of building a new church, that ministry in Napoleon might be a little more relaxed.

However, S. Shirley soon learned that the St. Maurice parishioners had been working for a decade to raise enough funds to build a new parish life center.

When she saw the people's faith, she knew she couldn't ignore their desires.

"We still had to have a capital campaign to raise about half [the funds needed]," S. Shirley said. "But we had it paid off in six months."

That wasn't the only project S. Shirley oversaw in her 13 years in Napoleon. During that time, she raised some \$1.6 million in the small parish to put a new roof on the church and do tuckpointing work on it.

In her final days in the parish, she made sure a new sidewalk was poured in front of the parish rectory, stained-glass windows in the church were repaired and new fencing installed in the parish cemetery.

Although many people praised S. Shirley for her pastoral leadership, the retiring PLC pointed to all the people she served for making her into the Franciscan sister that she is.

Her successful tenure paved the way for the deacons, religious sisters and lay people who have



served as parish life coordinators for parishes across the archdiocese.

In July, S. Shirley retired after nearly 50 years of parish ministry in the archdiocese, 32 of those leading parishes as a PLC, and moved to her community's motherhouse in Oldenburg. Her retirement was short-lived as she now has a new role as Secretary to the Council.

With all these accomplishments, it is no wonder she received the Legacy Award, one of the archdioceses' highest honors, at this year's Legacy Gala. In this award, the archdiocese's gala celebrates people who have made outstanding contributions to living the faith and sharing the faith in a way that has touched the lives of so many. On this night that Archbishop Charles C. Thompson presented S. Shirley with the Legacy Award, this pioneer in the archdiocese



also thought of the children she taught, the parish members she counseled, the shut-ins and prisoners she visited, and her fellow Franciscan sisters who always have given her a sense of community. On this night when she received a standing ovation from more than 1,000 people, S. Shirley thought of her father—a man who had both legs amputated after a train accident, a man who spent the next 30 years of his life making

and who have helped me in my ministry." That sentiment echoed her earlier comments when she said that all her different families have "helped me to see glimpses of God's beauty, love, compassion, and goodness. They've welcomed me into their presence and into their lives. It's a sacred thing, I think, to be invited into someone's life."

Her words and memories reflect the heart, the humility and the faith that have guided her life, that have made her such a natural choice for this honor. Now, she views every day as "a precious gift," part of "a life of gratitude."

In presenting the Legacy Award to S. Shirley, Archbishop Thompson drew from that perspective of gratitude. Amid all the hugs, smiles and the thank yous that she received that evening, S. Shirley beamed and held hands with people, giving each person her time and the sense of her deep appreciation.



***"That's why I say in accepting this honor, I accept it in the name of everyone who has been a part of my journey in life and who have helped me in my ministry." - S. Shirley speaking at the 2024 Legacy Gala***

nine children and created a home where God and the Blessed Mother were at its center. "I'm very proud of being a Sister of St. Francis and having loved that life now for 62 years. I am proud of the accomplishments, but I am who I am because of all the people who blessed my life," she noted. "That's why I say in accepting this honor, I accept it in the name of everyone who has been a part of my journey in life

The scene called to mind the words she shared about receiving the Legacy Award, words that revealed the way she has lived her life in tribute to God, her Catholic faith and all the families she has created along the way in the 62 years of her ministry: "They've welcomed me into their presence and into their lives. It's a sacred thing, I think, to be invited into someone's life."

*Thank you  
for your kindness,  
thoughtfulness  
and generosity*

**St. Maurice Parishioners honor Sister Shirley Gerth with financial donation**

S. Shirley was surprised the evening of her retirement celebration at St. Maurice's when they presented her with a check for \$26,000. The parishioners raised money to help cover expenses for repair to the Adoration Chapel at Sisters of St. Francis. Money was first collected from the parishioners at St. Maurice's. They wanted to make sure there was enough to cover a large portion of the expense, so they then went beyond their own Church and collected from S. Shirley's previous parishioners. Many people were willing to give in her honor. St. Maurice's dedication to S. Shirley and the repair of the Adoration Chapel has made a significant difference in not only S. Shirley's life, but for all of those that pray there.



Sister Shirley accepting a check from St. Maurice's to help toward the repair of the Adoration Chapel

**Oldenburg Franciscan Center**  
Retreat ⊕ Renew † Rejoice! ♥

*Upcoming Programs...*

**A Sacred Romance: Drawing Near to the Heart of God**

Saturday, July 13, 2024  
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



**Richard Brendan, Psychologist**

**Prime Paradigm Shifts for Believers in the 21st Century**

Saturday, August 24, 2024  
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



**John Kirby, Theologian**

**Immigration: Experience the "line" and Scripture Says...**

Saturday, Sept 21, 2024  
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



**S. Noella Poinsette**

**Grieving Into Love**

Saturday, November 16, 2024  
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



**Richard Brendan, Psychologist**

**Spiritual Autobiography: Our Journey to God**

Saturday, August 10, 2024  
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



**S. Olga Wittekind, PhD**

**Love Is the Only Answer**

Saturday, September 7, 2024  
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



**Bill Tonnis, Chaplain**

**Francis, Clare & Bonaventure: Repairing Person & Planet**

Saturday, October 5, 2024  
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



**Bruce Epperly**

**Advent Mindfulness Retreat: Cultivating Peace Within**

Saturday, December 21, 2024  
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



**S. Olga Wittekind, PhD**

**To register for program visit our website: [www.oldenburgfranciscancenter.org](http://www.oldenburgfranciscancenter.org), call us at (812)933-6437, or email us at [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com)**



## Resting in God...

### S. Rachel West

Jan. 13, 1933 - Nov. 19, 2023



Shortly after midnight, well before many of us had read this Sunday's Gospel, its words came true for our Sister Rachel West: "You yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night."

Rachel was born in Waukesha, Wisconsin. While still a baby, Rachel and her family moved to Amo, Indiana when her dad inherited the family farm. During World War II Rachel's dad was stationed for three years in San Antonio, Texas, and the family moved there to be with him. Returning afterwards to Indiana for high school, Rachel fell in love with basketball, movie stars, and blues music.

Rachel enrolled at Marian College. She had never been around Sisters, and was not as brought up in 'Catholic ways,' yet still became a member of the last all-female graduating class at Marian. She attributes her belief that social justice is a religious commitment to Monsignor Doyle. It was at Marian that Rachel and the Sisters of St. Francis were introduced. She regarded two of her mentors, Sisters Mary Carol Schroeder and LaVerne Frietsch, as "two of the finest teachers I ever had." With their encouragement, Rachel entered the novitiate after graduation, where she became Sister Audrey. Rachel's career in education included teaching elementary grades, high school history, French and English, and college history. She earned graduate degrees from Indiana University. Rachel's highly acclaimed doctoral dissertation was published as a book, *The Department of State on the Eve of the First World War*. Having become more and more interested in justice and peace issues, she left the college scene to pursue justice ministry on a full-time basis. She first spent a year in D.C. as an intern with Network and then joined the staff of Groundwork, an intercommunity justice and peace center based in Detroit. Rachel was appointed the first director of the Community's Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation. In 2002, Rachel returned to Marian College. Upon retirement, Rachel was asked to oversee the Congregation's archives at Oldenburg. Rachel recalled, "I loved teaching and the time I was engaged with Justice and Peace issues. However, my work with archives was a favorite time. This work brings together my love for history."

Rachel concluded her autobiography, writing: "As for my life as a whole, a 19th century Quaker woman wrote, 'Live up to the light thou hast.' I hope I have done this and, with God's help keep growing into the Light." Rachel has also been quoted as saying: "I have been greatly gifted by God, and want my life to be a prolonged Thanksgiving!" We are confident that Rachel has "grown into the Light," and prolong our giving thanks for her life!

### S. Doris Holohan

Apr. 28, 1935 - Nov. 30, 2023

On this feast of St. Andrew, our beloved S. Doris Holohan heard the summons of Jesus, and she followed our God into the joy of eternal life. Dorothy was born, the tenth of 16 children, to John and Anna Meyer Holohan in Streator. Her elementary education at St. Anthony School set the stage for her consideration of religious life. Another influence was the fact that her older sister, Cecilia, was already a member of the Franciscan Community. The sudden death of her father during her 8th grade year necessitated Dorothy's employment at St. Mary's Hospital in Streator. While there, Dorothy began to think again about a religious vocation.

During her senior year in 1953, Dorothy entered the Community and became S. Doris. Her sister, Kate, would add another Holohan presence when she later joined the Community.

Doris's work in the Community is a powerful testimony to her attitude of service. For 10 years, Doris ministered as an elementary teacher in Indiana and Ohio. Meanwhile, the call to be a missionary was very strong for Doris. After many requests, she was assigned to the Community's mission in Papua, New Guinea, where she served as primary school teacher and headmistress. She then moved to Holy Trinity Teacher's College, where she provided training for native teachers, while also serving as Dean of Women and later, as Assistant Principal.

In 1982, Doris was sent to Manila to spend eight months at



the Asian Religious Formation Institute in the Philippines. This training readied her to assume the role of Novice Mistress and Director of a Diocesan national Community of religious — the Franciscan Sisters of Mary. While serving as the elected Regional Coordinator of the Sisters of St. Francis in Papua New Guinea, Doris once again found herself in a new area of ministry, one she loved best of all. "My favorite [ministry] was being a Personality and Human Relations educator. . . I helped the women to develop their self-image and not be satisfied with the role assigned to them by their tribe."

When Doris returned to the U.S. in 2011, the Franciscan Federation honored her and fellow missionary Sister Martine Mayborg as Peacemakers at their annual conference. In her retirement years, Doris was a hostess at the St. Clare Hall door and also enjoyed being a Minister of Care and a Transitus Sister (sitting with dying Sisters) because she could offer personal service to others. Her interaction with Oldenburg Academy students through the Adopt-a-Sis Program brought her meaningful contact with young people, which she loved.

Doris discovered this truth about her life as a true disciple, a religious woman and a dedicated missionary: "This life gives you the chance to help people realize the beauty of who they are before God." May Doris, who helped so many find the goodness of God in themselves, now enjoy the fullness of God's beauty shining in her for eternal days!

## Resting in God...

### S. Marie Camille Schmaltz

Feb. 11, 1927 - Dec. 29, 2023



As the year of 2023 neared its ending, S. Marie Camille Schmaltz knew that it was time to begin a whole new year, a year of heavenly glory.

LaVerne Dorothy Schmaltz was born to Joseph Schmaltz and Dorothy Frietsch Schmaltz in Cincinnati on February 11, 1928. As the years continued, LaVerne was joined by four younger brothers.

When she grew up, it was no real surprise that LaVerne was attracted to the Oldenburg Franciscan community, as she had three relatives who preceded her there: her great-aunt Sister Lamberta and aunts Olivia (Laverne) Frietsch and Mary Paschal.

As a second-year novice, S. Marie Camille was sent out to St. Louis to teach 56 first-graders, a challenging beginning to her career, as she felt unprepared and no help at her mission. In succeeding years, she honed her skills, spending 45 years with all grade levels at elementary schools in Indiana, Ohio, and Missouri.

Marie Camille reported that "in 1993 I realized that it was time to stop teaching and try something else. I saw in the newspaper that there were job openings at Lazarus and since I had worked at the Five and Dime before entering, I thought I could try this. I applied and was hired to work in the department with picture frames, art, albums, and art supplies." Marie Camille's file is filled with commendations from various customers. It was no wonder that Marie Camille received sixteen of Lazarus's "Red Apple" awards in recognition of outstanding customer service!

In 1996 Marie Camille took on still another ministry, this time as a telemarketer at St. Anthony Messenger. Marie Camille spent her last ten years with the Messenger as Assistant Manager before retiring to Oldenburg and taking care of the media room/spiritual library. She loved listening to classical music and opera; she was an avid sports fan. Marie Camille also had a wonderful sense of humor.

Marie Camille also enthusiastically participated in Oldenburg Academy's Adopt-a-Sis program which gave her an opportunity to hear about the lives of teenagers here on campus. At one time she had 27 adopted students!

Above all, Marie Camille loved her family and her visits with them. Marie Camille has achieved many certificates and awards of various kinds — Religious Sister of the Year, Distinguished Graduate, Dedicated Service to Catholic Education, Who's Who Among American Women, Who's Who in American Education. We rejoice with her in her latest and greatest achievement as she joins the company of our Franciscan saints in heaven.



## Resting in God...

**S. Lucy Driscoll**

Jul. 5, 1937 - Jan. 25, 2024

As the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were drawing to a close, our S. Lucy Driscoll left this life to live eternal life with our loving God.

Ann Catherine Driscoll was born to John Driscoll and Henrietta Kuderer Driscoll in Carthage, Ohio, on July 5, 1937, the seventh of eight children. She attended St. Clement School in St. Bernard, Ohio and moved on to Our Lady of the Angels. As a sophomore, she decided to join the Juniorate (Aspirancy) at the Academy in Oldenburg, anticipating becoming a Sister of St. Francis. She entered the convent on February 2, 1955.

As a second-year novice, she began her teaching career enjoying 15 years with children in the primary grades, especially first grade. Then came a change of pace. When the school at St. Athanasius in Roseville, Michigan closed, the Sisters began serving in various ministries in the parish, not just at Roseville.

S. Lucy became a catechist in the Eucharistic program preparing second graders for First Communion. The Senior High Religious Education Program, along with their teachers, benefited from her expertise. In addition, she became the Coordinator of the Senior High Social Club. Her fun-loving, outgoing personality and generous nature made her successful in working with teens. Then there was Parish Ministry. She visited shut-ins and took Communion to some of them. Summer Vacation Bible School was an activity which benefitted from her experience as a teacher.

S. Lucy found involvement in Christian Service activities most rewarding. The parish prepared baskets that were delivered to the sick and shut-ins at Thanksgiving, and other needs at Christmas and Easter. She worked alongside the full-time Christian Service Coordinator on parish activities that helped the sick, those in need of food, and other needs.

When asked about her call to ministry in the parish, S. Lucy wrote, "Francis was a pilgrim person who was uncertain about where God's ministry would take him. Like Francis, we live on a day-to-day flexible schedule. With him, we try to live this with Franciscan joy. Francis ministered to the needs of all people and I feel this is what we are doing."

Another skill of S. Lucy's was being a certified bus driver! She used this gift to take senior citizens, teens and other church groups on outings. Sometimes she was needed to pick up children to come to the Religious Education classes. She enjoyed the variety of the work in which the Sisters were involved.

Eventually she responded to the call to return to the classroom she had always enjoyed. Finally, she worked as an Administrative Assistant for the friars of St. John the Baptist Province in Cincinnati before returning to the Motherhouse.



## Memorialize a Sister

Sending a memorial donation in memory of one of our late Sisters is not only a thoughtful gesture, it also helps our Sisters continue their ministry serving God. Did you know that donations may be directed in several ways:

### RETIREMENT FUND

To help care for our senior Sisters who are 70 and over

### LITTLE PORTION FUND

To assist with the Sisters' mission activities

### SPIRITUALITY CENTERS

To support the Oldenburg Franciscan Center and the Nia Kuumba Center in MO

### ASSOCIATE RELATIONSHIP

To support the Associate Relationship Program of the Sisters

### UNRESTRICTED

To help the Sisters where funds are needed most

Whichever fund you might support, your donation will benefit the Sisters in their ministry of serving God. You may donate using the enclosed envelope. Donations may also be given online by visiting [www.oldenburgfranciscans.org/donate-online.html](http://www.oldenburgfranciscans.org/donate-online.html).

## Let's Hear From You...

As a Franciscan Community, we are committed to Care of Creation, the gift given by God. One way we can express our care is by seeking your input regarding your preferred mode of communication. Please take a moment to review the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ I am receiving duplicate copies of *Celebrate*. Enclosed is the address label that contains the mailing address to be removed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please remove my name from the mailing list. I no longer wish to receive *Celebrate*.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed a donation of \$5.00. Please send a copy of *Celebrate* to the following person:

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please add my name to your e-list so I can receive communications electronically. In addition, remove my address from your hard copy list. My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also make changes to the way you receive our communications by emailing [elecher@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:elecher@oldenburgosf.com) or mail to: Development Office, Sisters of St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036

### What is your Legacy?

*"I have a great deal of reverence for the Franciscan order. I know they live a life committed to serving the Lord by serving others. Giving back was instilled in me by my family and the example set by the Franciscan Sisters. I have included the Sisters in my Estate Plan. It is my way of GIVING BACK! I encourage each of you to join the Epiphany Star Legacy Society!"*  
**Paula LaBonte**

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Become a member of the Epiphany Star Legacy Society.**

Join us on September 28, 2024 from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. to hear what Planned Giving offers you.

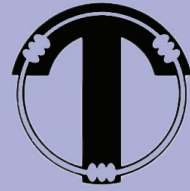
Be a partner in building our Franciscan legacy as we extend the mission of Jesus to others.

Following the presentation, we invite you to join us for a 4:00 p.m. Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy in our Motherhouse chapel, and afterward Hospitality in the Oldenburg Franciscan Center.



# Planned Giving





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*Creator God, my heart is filled with the wonder we have seen!  
Usually when there is an eclipse of the sun somewhere in the  
world, we watch it on the news. What a spiritual gift You gave  
us when the total eclipse was visible to many of us as it passed  
along the path of totality and we watched it outside on a glorious  
April day.*

*My prayer rises with that of St. Francis as he wrote the Canticle  
of the Sun.*

*“Praised be You, my Lord, with all your creatures,  
especially Sir Brother Sun,  
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.  
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;  
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the  
stars,  
In heaven You formed them clear and precious and  
beautiful.”*

*As I marvel at the sun during the day and the moon at night,  
may I recall Your love for us!*

*Amen.*

*- S. Jean Marie Cleveland*