

HE LEADS



IFOLLOW

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

Immaculate Heart of Mary Province

The Servant Of The Lord: World Youth Day Panama.

Four of our Sisters were blessed to join pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for World Youth Day in Panama. Their pilgrimage brought to life the World Youth Day theme, “I am the Servant of the Lord.” Sister M. Lucia Richardson reflected that, “Mary, the image of the Church, said ‘yes’ to her vocation as Mother of the Christ. When we say ‘yes’ to God, we are united to Christ and His Church; we become family. At World Youth Day, you are surrounded by family – a family that has found joy and peace in their chosen-ness.” The sense of intimacy also came alive to Sister Mary Grace Richey: “After experiencing World Youth Day, the one word that comes to mind is intimate: an intimate experience of the universality of the Catholic Church. I could not always converse with those right next to me, but, we were able to communicate the language of the Church: to praise and worship Jesus Christ.” Sister M. Ignatia Henneberry compared the experience to attending World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany, as a teenager. “At WYD in Panama 14 years later, I was able to experience



Sr. Mary Grace, Sr. M. Ignatia, Bishop Rhoades, Sr. M. Lucia, and Sr. Maria Faustina

how my vocation as a religious sister was now a part of the greater mission of the universal Church. Whether it was meeting pilgrims, receiving prayer intentions, or joining the Holy Father in prayer, I knew that my life was about something so much bigger than myself.” Check out the Source and Summit page for a reflection from Sister Maria Faustina Herber!

SPRING 2019

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In-Formation:
Two Sisters reflect on their Mission Experiences

Servants of the Divine Physician

Bringing the Body of Christ
The Closing Mass at World Youth Day in Panama

Our Life in Pictures

From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friends,

"I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). The Blessed Virgin Mary is a model for all Christians. We are called to respond generously each time even when the call comes very unexpectedly. We recently bid farewell to three of our Sisters who died unexpectedly within a month. We are grateful for the lives and vocations of Sr. M. Rose Agnes Pfautsch, Sr. M. Raphael Kochert and Sr. M. Monica Bertha. We rejoice for them that they remained faithful to God's call to the end. But, oh, how we miss them! Each Sister was called to do a variety of apostolates within our Community and each one responded with generosity, fidelity, and perseverance. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

We frequently talk about the fact that we never "retire" as Sisters. When our senior Sisters no longer engage in an apostolate such as teaching or healthcare, they continue serving as official adorers at the Motherhouse where our primary charism of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration is carried out. We are blessed in many ways with their presence among us. They teach us each day even though some of them have never taught in a classroom. We are blessed that our senior Sisters live on the same grounds as the youngest members of our Community. It amazes me to hear the young Sisters relate their conversations with our older Sisters. What a joy it is to see the strong bonds that develop between the generations. Our oldest Sisters have traveled the road, and they know what is important. They have made many sacrifices for us and we are eternally grateful.

I close with a quote from Pope Francis: "The Virgin Mary likewise shows us the way: the way of encounter between the young and the elderly. She set out to visit her elderly kinswoman, to stay with her, to help her, of course, but also and above all to learn from her – an elderly person – a wisdom of life. The wisdom of Elizabeth and Zechariah enriched her young spirit. They were experts in faith, experts in God, experts in the hope that comes from Him: and this is what the world needs in every age" (Pope Francis, Sept. 28, 2014).

Sister M. Angela

"Daily, yes, even hourly we plead with God, to prepare our hearts as He prepared the heart of our Blessed Mother. Oh, that we say with Mary and in all circumstances: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord," and then add joyfully, "Be it done to me, according to your word." (L IV-59)."



DID YOU KNOW...

A Dream Come True.

Danny Thomas had a dream to build a shrine to St. Jude. He wanted this to be a hospital where children could be cared for regardless of race, creed, or ability to pay. This dream was realized when St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was opened in 1962. Danny consulted his good friend, Cardinal Stritch, regarding where to locate the hospital. A site was chosen in Memphis, TN across the street from St. Joseph Hospital, which was administered by our Sisters. Cardinal Stritch asked that our Sisters be the first administrators of St. Jude Hospital. Sister Mary Henrita Laake became the administrator, Sister M. Rita Schroeder was the business manager and Sister M. Doris Ann France was the Director of Nursing. Our Sisters served in these roles for the first eight years of the hospital's existence. In the early years all surgeries were performed at St. Joseph Hospital. The two hospitals were connected by a tunnel. St. Joseph Hospital also provided the power house and laundry for the new hospital.

Mother M. Emilie Wessendarp, Samuel Cardinal Stritch, and Sr. M. Stephanie Hvidous.



IN-FORMATION

Highlights from the Sisters in Initial Formation

The Truth Of His Love: Sister M. Fiat's Mission Experience.

On a college campus, there is a particular longing for the truth. Students, faculty, and staff desire to know that they are good and loved and that their work is meaningful. Because I have committed my life to the truth of Jesus' love, He has given me the power to bring Him to others. It was very humbling to witness the effect of my presence, and it was so beautiful to be able to bring Jesus to His beloved souls!



Sr. M. Fiat Staley interacts with students at the University of Saint Francis.

His Overwhelming Generosity: Sister Marie Thérèse's Mission Experience.

For my novitiate mission experience, I was assigned to our convent in Lafayette, Indiana and to St. Boniface School. It was very special for me to live and serve in a place that is so treasured

by our community, and I often tried to imagine all of the Sisters who had served there.

I had the opportunity to interact with the children in many different ways:

serving as a teacher's aide, helping teach art and religion, assisting in the office. It was beautiful to experience the children's receptivity and excitement for what I desired to share with them.



Overall, the greatest blessing has been the Lord's overwhelming generosity. Going into this time I was nervous, but at the end of every day I was blown away by His ability to use me for His glory when I sought to trust in Him and be generous with Him.

Sr. Marie Thérèse Lolmaugh teaches art to students at St. Boniface.

Servants

Of The Divine Physician:

The Franciscan Leadership Enhancement Program

The Franciscan Leadership Enhancement Program (FLEP) began in 2011 as a means to help our coworkers develop and enhance their “ministerial” leadership skills by engaging in this two-year intensive study program. Participants are identified and recommended by the hospital Presidents/CEOs and include a diverse group of Sisters and physician and departmental leaders from all our healthcare facilities, and representatives from the University of Saint Francis. The program focuses on the Catholic Church, St. Francis, Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel and the history of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Catholic Social Teaching, Prayer, Canon Law, and the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services.

The first year classes are held at the Motherhouse. It provides the opportunity for the Sisters to meet some of our coworkers. Participants are provided an in-depth insight into the lives of the Sisters and true Franciscan hospitality. We are grateful for the leadership of Kevin Leahy and Sister Jane Marie Klein for

providing this program for our coworkers.

Sister M. Rose Agnes Pfautsch: I am privileged to share the spirit of our beloved foundress with our coworkers in our various apostolates through the Franciscan Leadership Enhancement Program (FLEP). Our co-workers are eager to embrace her spirit of a life of prayer, adoration and loving service which speaks to their hearts and impels them to be a witness in carrying out her spirit in whatever they do so as to make a difference in our world now and in the future.

Sr. Rose Agnes Pfautsch addresses members of the Franciscan Leadership Enhancement Program.



Above: A FLEP group holds class at the motherhouse.

Upper Left: Sr. M. Madeleine Schumacker serves homemade dessert to Jason Middleton.

Upper Right: Brenda Duncan and Sr. M. Karol Ann Hoefler participate in a small group.

Lower Left: Sr. M. Lois DeLee and Amanda Parker get to know each other.

Bottom: Sr. M. Anna Marie Hofmeyer and Sr. M. Lisetta Gettinger serve Greg Williamson during a meal.





SOURCE AND SUMMIT

*Combining the Contemplative Life with the Active
in Perpetual Adoration and Works of Mercy*

Bringing The Body Of Christ To The Body Of Christ.



Sr. Mary Grace distributes Holy Communion to pilgrims.

Sister Maria Faustina Herber:

We were at the Closing Mass at World Youth Day in Panama and had just spent the night in an open field for the vigil. Just before Mass began, a volunteer approached and said that they did not have enough priests to distribute Holy Communion and asked if we would help. With great joy at such a blessing, we said “Yes!” We held Jesus in the Eucharist in our hands in

a gold ciborium and got to adore Him during the Mass and then give Him to the many pilgrims there. It is just like our Charism: we strive to combine the contemplation life with the active in Perpetual Adoration and the works of mercy.

Sr. M. Timothy Caywood

Sister M. Timothy Caywood:

Like our foundress, the center of my life is God’s greatest gift to us, His Eucharistic Presence. To belong to a community whose mission is perpetual adoration is a grace beyond measure. My greatest joy, delight, and peace is my “prime time” with the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.



Our Life In Pictures



Hospital Move: Franciscan Health in Michigan City opened its doors this January. Sister Jane Marie Klein was on hand to welcome patients to the new hospital.

OLA Therapy: Sister M. Caroline Knapik works with Sister M. Lucia Richardson in the therapy room, where Sisters exercise daily, work with the physical therapist, and have fun with many other activities.

Assisi Conference: Over 150 young adults gathered at the University of Saint Francis for the first-ever Assisi Young Adult Conference March 3-4.





Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

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Return Service Requested

Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, participate in the mission of the Roman Catholic Church by living the Gospel after the example of Saint Francis and our foundress, Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel. We strive to combine the contemplative life with the active through perpetual adoration and the works of mercy in education, healthcare, and other ecclesial ministries.



Join us for a

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

June 14-16, 2019 — ssfpa.org/retreat