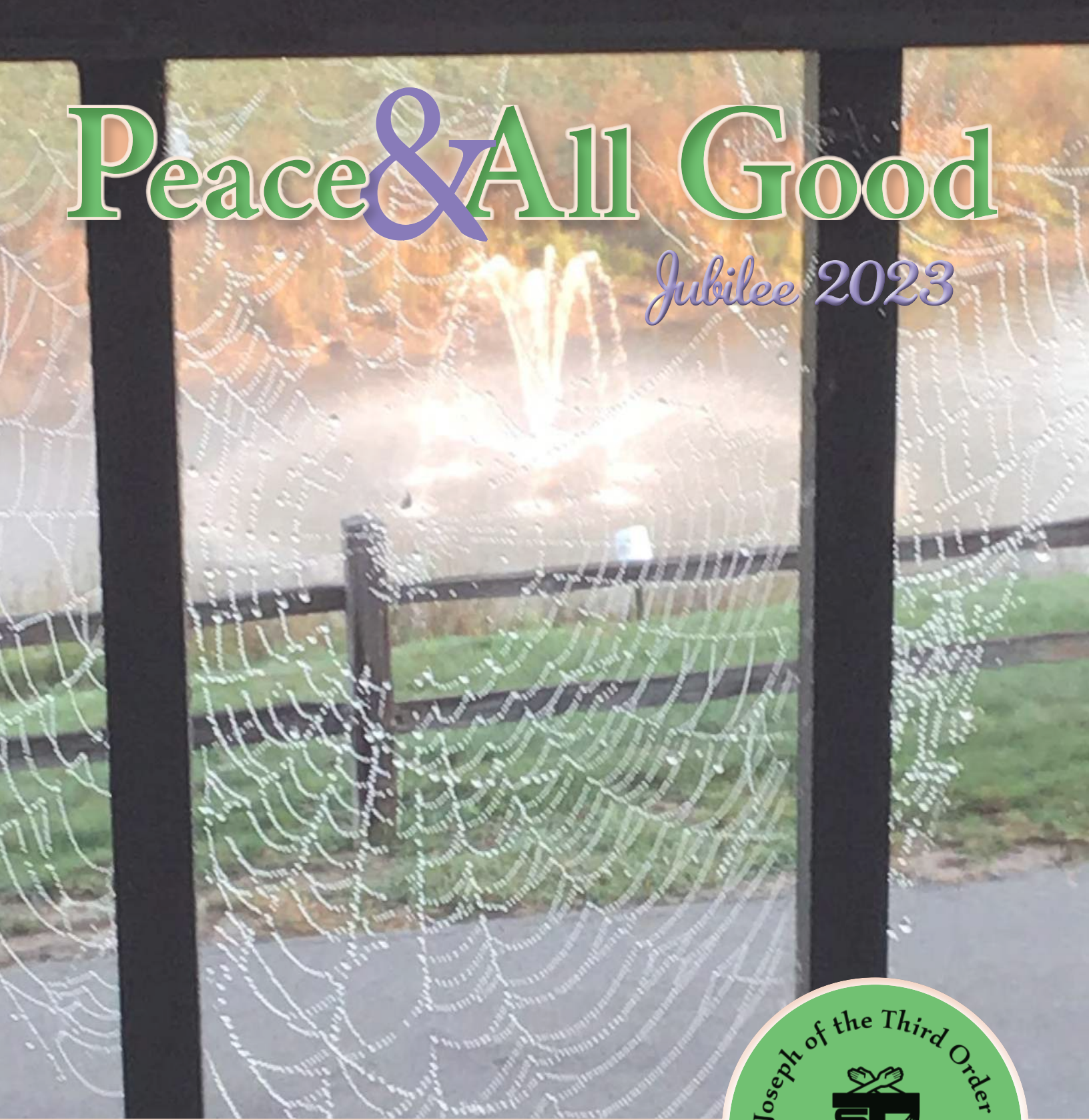


Peace & All Good

Jubilee 2023



~ TOTUS TUUS ~
"I AM TOTALLY YOURS"



"My eyes are ever on the Lord Whose love is steadfast to the end." Psalm 25

On the pages of this special issue of *Peace & All Good*, you will find the memories and stories of this year's fourteen Jubilarians. Thank you to all the Sisters who wrote these delightful biographies about their years in the congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis.

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Mission Statement

Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis



Dedication to Jesus Christ involves us intimately with His liberating and reconciling mission — to make God more deeply known and loved, and in so doing, draw all persons to fuller and freer life.

Together with all our Sisters and Brothers who strive for a more just world, we undertake those activities which will promote the material and spiritual development of the human family.

(The Constitution of the SSJ-TOSF, articles 30 & 37)

Remembering and Celebrating



Dear Friends,

It is with great honor and gratitude that we present to you the 2023 Jubilarians of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis. Their lives span a multitude of years in service to God's people. These women are celebrating 80, 75, 70, 60 and 25 years in religious life.

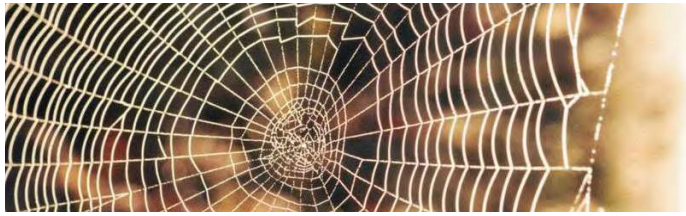
In preparation for this jubilee issue, these sisters reflected on their lives and the importance of remembering and celebrating the gifts they have been given. These gifts have been generously shared with the many people they have met along life's path.

We hope that you will enjoy and appreciate the lives of these women and the various ministries in which they have been involved. It is our hope that you, too, will reflect on your lives and the many ways you have given to God's people. Together, we join in singing Alleluia for all that has been, is now and will be forever. Amen

Sisters Marge, Judith, Michelle, Barb



Sister Marge White, Sister Michelle Wronkowski, Sister Judith Wood, Sister Barb Krakora



“Each of us is a unique strand in the intricate web of life and here to make a contribution.”

~Deepak Chopra

My Dear Friends,

Put down that broom!! Look at that intriguing work of art on the cover. Oh, the life lessons to learn from the spider and her web. Did you know you can move a spider from one place to another and it will rebuild and adapt. God enriches our understanding of life when we PAUSE... STOP, look and listen ... a message we learned when we were tiny tots. So much to understand from simple things in nature. Did you know some spiders just weave their webs to keep busy or to relax? Just like we humans who like to keep busy and have a hobby to relax with.

In this special issue, the reflections of our Jubilarians disclose the beautiful and intricate webs of their lives. Many strands connected with God’s Grace generated the formation of multiple relationships... some shorter than others but all contributing to a piece of a life of value, sense, and perseverance. Often transplanted from one place to another, they found stamina within themselves to stay focused and rebuild their lives, finding hidden blessings and happiness in the new. These Sisters learned which sticky paths to avoid and to move along the lane that matched their values.

Join me in celebration of and congratulations to our fourteen Jubilarians. Together they have contributed 940 years of service to God’s people. Let us rejoice and be glad.

May God bless you with good health, and longevity, keeping you safe for all those who love and need you. Peace and All Good!!



Sister Sandy

Sister Sandy Lasecke, SSJ-TOSF
Mission Advancement Director

“And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
~ Micah 6:8

Dear Friends,

As you read the reflections of these Sister Jubilarians I hope you will be inspired by their lives as I was. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “*The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be **USEFUL**, to be **HONORABLE**, to be **COMPASSIONATE**, to **MAKE SOME DIFFERENCE** that you have lived and **LIVED WELL**.”* These fourteen Sisters of St. Joseph TOSF are a perfect embodiment of that. I wonder how many hundreds of lives have been touched by them as they devote their lives to God and to the service of His people. I believe that number is huge.

To you, Sister Jubilarians, I offer sincere congratulations and heartfelt prayers as you continue on your life’s journey.

With fondest admiration,

Mary Ann Alexander

Mary Ann Alexander
Mission Advancement Personal Assistant



Breathe...

When Life is challenging,
overwhelming and stressful
close your eyes, sit still and
BREATHE.

Don't let the worries of your mind
make the situation worse. Recognize that
those negative thoughts are not real and
BREATHE.

Focus on this present moment,
right here, right now. Enjoy the quietness,
stillness and peace of the moment and
BREATHE.

Remind yourself that you have
survived so much and that not only
will you survive this but you will be
STRONGER, WISER AND BETTER!

*Breathe and Believe
in Yourself!*



LIFE IS...



Sister Frances (Fran) Jerzak

~ 80 years ~



*"I Thank God
for the Gift
of Life"*

Five years ago on May 26, 2018, I was elated to celebrate God's gift of 75 years as a Sister of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis. On that joyful occasion in the beautiful chapel at the Motherhouse in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, the President of our congregation, Sister Marge White, inspired us with her reflection in these prophetic words:

"Do not be concerned about what the future holds for you. The future will unfold moment by moment and I know you will respond to its call. Know that you have the love and support of your Sisters and Associates."

At that time, I envisioned a future spending my last years, as so many Sisters before me, in the Maria Center, the cozy healthcare area in the Motherhouse. BUT ... Our God is a God of surprises!

What came to pass within a few years of that memorable Jubilee Day was the sale of our historic 120-year-old Motherhouse and the surrounding natural pine grove and grounds. It had become too spacious to accommodate our diminishing aging congregation and now serves the Stevens Point lower income community. Our Franciscan charism lives on.

Hence, those of us who lived there needed to transition to other locations. On July 29, 2020 I was welcomed as a resident of Marymount Place, an assisted living facility in Garfield Heights, Ohio. Here I reside with a number of our elderly Sisters and many other women and men.

In this 80th Jubilee year I am profoundly grateful for the ongoing love and support through the years of my late parents, my late brother and sister-in-law, all living and deceased family, relatives, friends, and the very special SSJ-TOSF congregation. Most of all, I thank God for the gift of life and 80 active years in ministries in education, in the health field, and in services to our beloved congregation. As the future unfolds, "moment by moment", I don't know what-if any- surprises God will make known.

My deepest hope is expressed in a prayer: "When I am dying, how glad I shall be that the lamp of my life has burnt out for Thee." (Author unknown)

Prayer to Care for Our Common Home

I

*Father of all, Creator and ruler of the universe,
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.
Help us to care for it and all people,
that we may live in right relationship—
with You, with ourselves,
with one another, and with creation.*

Sister Loretta Zelewski (Helen)

~ 80 years ~

I lost my dear mother at the age of three and miss her dearly each day of my life up to this day. When I asked my dad if I could go to the convent, he was very happy because he knew that was my mother's wish and desire. So, these 80 years have been a blessing for me and my dear family.

One day, Father Charles, an SVD, came looking for vocations. I wrote a letter saying that I wanted to go to the convent. Sister Leonild, who had been my 4th grade teacher, saw my letter and asked if I wanted to go to the SVD Congregation. I said, "No, I want to be like you, a Sister of St. Joseph."

In 1942, right after 8th grade, I left home and entered the convent. I have never had any regrets or thoughts of leaving the community. So here I am, 80 years later, celebrating this jubilee.

After finishing high school, further schooling was not an interest. I was blessed to spend summers in the convent garden. I worked in the kitchen in many places for many wonderful years. That included the kitchen at Divine Infant Hospital in Wakefield, Michigan as well as at the St. Joseph Motherhouse in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. I worked in Puerto Rico for 48 years helping wherever there was a need. I taught CCD and enjoyed my work as a catechist. I enjoyed being of service to the people who were very poor, humble and appreciative of what was done to help them. Living among those people deepened my faith.

When my health deteriorated and I needed care, I moved to Marymount Village assisted living facility in Garfield Heights, Ohio, where I now reside. Many of our Sisters also reside here.

Thank you, Jesus! I am grateful for so many years as a Sister of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis. I wish to continue on this path to the end of my life, O Lord, be it your will.

I will sing your praise: "Before you, O Lord, my life! What a great life before you, O Lord!"



*"O Lord, be it
Your Will"*

Prayer to Care for Our Common Home

II

*Christ our Lord, both divine and human,
You lived among us and died for our sins.
Help us to imitate your love for the human family
by recognizing that we are all connected—
to our brothers and sisters around the world,
to those in poverty impacted by environmental
devastation, and to future generations.*

Sister Alice Chmura (Bonaventure)

~ 75 years ~



*“I am Ever
Grateful
for All the
Opportunities”*

Seventy-five years seems like such a long time, but it has passed so quickly. So many memories of Sisters, friends, former students ... all fond memories!

I was the seventh child of eight born to Martin and Victoria Chmura, very devoted and church-minded parents. It seemed like St. Barb's (St. Barbara Parish in Cleveland, Ohio) was our second home. At the time, Fr. Solinski was the pastor, and the school was staffed by the Franciscan Sisters of Sylvania, Ohio. Two of my sisters entered that congregation.

When Fr. J. Jarosz became pastor, he asked for the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis to teach at the school. I was taught by our Sisters in grade school and at Marymount High School. It was during my years in high school and under the guidance of Sister Anicita Brys that I felt I was being called to enter the convent. Becoming a Sister was something I began thinking about in seventh grade because of the example and influence of Sister Oswaldine Krajewski. I entered the convent after graduation in 1947.

Instead of completing my scholastic year as a novice, I was sent out to teach. I served in Michigan and Ohio schools for nearly 30 years.

In 1977, I was given permission to take care of my mother. During that time, I served as a lector at St. Barb's speaking both in Polish and English. I considered it a privilege. From 1989 to 2016, I was the Marymount Congregational Home treasurer. I retired in 2016.

Now, I have 75 years of memories to look back on. Prayers come first and then I don't feel guilty about relaxing, reading Christian novels and working crossword puzzles. I love to bake breads and to cook.

I am gratefully and wonderfully blessed to be a Sister of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis. I am ever grateful for all the opportunities for my personal growth – spiritually, mentally and physically.

Now is the time to reflect and thank God for the life-choice I made seventy-five years ago!

*“Remember, the best criticism of the
bad is the practice of the better.”*

~Richard Rohr

Sister Alice Trebatoski (Gabriel)

~ 75 years ~

To reflect on 75 years of fidelity in living the Gospel Life in the footprints of Jesus and after the example of St. Francis is an awesome task. Francis wrote to his good friend Leo, one of his companions, and offered this directive for his commitment: "In whatever way it seems best to you to please the Lord and to follow in His footprint and His poverty, do this with the blessing of God and my obedience." What was Francis saying to Leo? One way to paraphrase it for today is "Be free, listen to the Spirit of God, and follow. Be the person God is calling you to be."

Talking with Sister Sandy Lasecke about writing a Jubilee reflection about Sister Alice, Sandy told me that a favorite song of Alice's is "I Did It My Way", by Frank Sinatra. It struck me that the song title and the commission of Francis to Leo are similar. As the many who know her are aware, Sister Alice is "one of a kind". She is the last living sibling of three children and a loving family.

Sister Alice is fun and funny. She is ready with a quip or a humorous response to a situation. She is also a woman who has had a rainbow of ministerial experiences, many in leadership roles and in settings with those who are marginal in our society. Her participation as a founding member of the staff of the innovative high school, Prologue; her ministry as development director of Centro de la Comunidad Unida, a Hispanic not for profit, and her involvement in many projects of the St. Francis Region of the Congregation represent a few of the colors in that rainbow. In retirement she remains committed to keeping up with news and politics and of course the Green Bay Packers.

Sister Alice's nieces, nephews and friends attest to Alice's strength, uniqueness, and goodness. Her cousin Pat often refers to her as the "Last of the Mohicans" as she is the only one still living of her siblings. Her nephew Bill says, "Sister is someone with an enthusiastic sense of humor and "come backs". She is someone who I look up to and who has motivated me to always try to do better, to be better."

Another nephew, Mike, says: "She is a Trebatoski. A fisherwoman from a long line of fisherwomen who learned to enjoy fishing from their mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers. She always enjoyed a drink with the family and appreciated receiving a bottle of Glen Fiddich for her birthday." Dawn, Mike's wife, remembered that she was astonished that at one gathering where Alice led the prayer before eating Alice began, "Mother God". Dawn says: "she opened me up to the possibility of a feminine image of God".

Sister Alice enjoys a broad range of interests and is forward-thinking and sometimes outspoken. She knows her own mind. Alice has been faithful to hearing the call of a God who is loving and faithful. She has allowed herself throughout these 75 years as a Sister of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis to be free, to be led by the Spirit of God and to follow. As she celebrates the 75th anniversary Sister Alice is most grateful to those family and friends who have given her support in her life of "being who God is calling her to be."

~ Offered by Sister Donna Wilhelm, SSJ-TOSF



*"Sister Alice is
One of a Kind"*



IT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE THE TIME
TO PAUSE AND REFLECT ON HOW

Blessed

WE ARE FOR SO MANY THINGS THAT WE
TYPICALLY TAKE FOR GRANTED.

Be Very Grateful for Your Home Sweet Home

that has clean water, electricity and heat;
the variety of delicious food you eat,
the clean clothes you wear, the car you drive and
the comfy bed that you sleep in at the end of each day.



Sister Barbara Jean Peplinski

~ 75 years ~

At the time of Jubilee all creation shouts and sings for JOY! I join in singing "All My Days" compliments of Dan Schutte, musician and composer:

"Till the end of my days, O Lord, I will bless your name,
Sing your praise, give you thanks, all my days."

Music has been such an integral part of my life story - my ministry, my prayer, my celebrations! I truly believe that God speaks the unspeakable in music.

So, as I reflect now on my gift of 75 years as a Sister of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis, I would like to share with you the Creed of My Life from my Musician's heart.



THE MUSICIAN'S PRAYER

You've given me the words,
Lord, and the music,
a song of life that's new and unrehearsed...
You've given me the joy
that makes my heart sing,
even though at times the tears come first...
You've taken all my yesterdays of discord,
a clash of cymbals,
meaningless and vain;
transposing all the noise into a love song,
that floods my very soul with its refrain...
You've taken all the gifts
I once thought mine, Lord,
and changed the composition of their worth;
reclaiming what was Yours
from the beginning,
returning them, transfigured by rebirth...
You've given me the theme for my existence,
and I will sing Your glory all my days;
For now, Lord... and forever...
be my Music,
and make my life a symphony of praise...

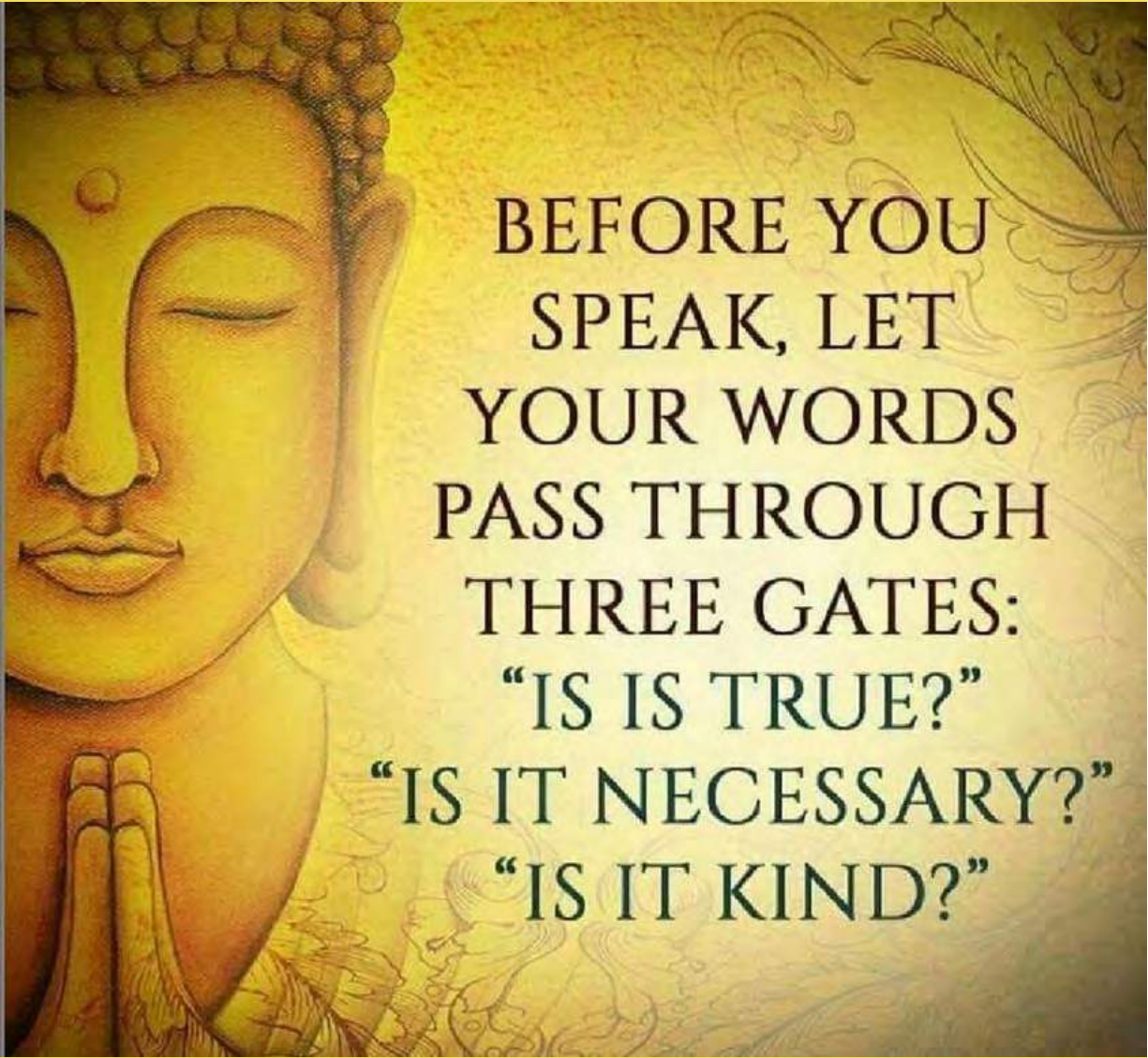
B. J. Hoff

*"With my whole
being I sing endless
praise to you,
O Lord, my God!
Forever will I give
you THANKS!"*

~ Psalm 30:13

Organist at
St. Joseph
Motherhouse
1972-1978 • 1990-2010

Parishes
(teacher & organist)
1950-1970



Sister Denise Seymour

~ 70 years ~

Seventy years already? It seems like I just wrote about my 60 years in our SSSJ-TOSF congregation. Where does time go? What I need to say to God is "Thank You God for 70 wonderful, blessed years filled with Your Blessings!" How good God is to us!

My encounter with the Sisters of St. Joseph, TOSF began when St. Marys school opened in Kalamazoo, Michigan with the arrival of Sisters Valencia, Noel, Ludgera and Doloria.

I was ready to enter the 5th Grade and since the classrooms under the church were not yet completed, the creative Sisters held classes in the church. We sat on kneelers and used the benches for desks. Actually we students enjoyed it! Not so for the teachers! God bless our creative Sisters! I do believe this was the time when my religious vocation became real for me.

When I was ready for the 12th grade, Mother Dionysia made a visit to the Sisters at my Parish. She was on her way to Rome. The Sisters knew I was interested in religious life and called me to meet her. Since I was not Polish, I could not enter a Polish congregation. Mother Dionysia said she would see what she could do. Upon her return I received the good news from the Sisters that the SSSJ-TOSF congregation could now accept non-Polish women. Needless to say, inspired by the Sisters at St. Marys, I felt the call to religious life was God's call for me and on August 23rd 1952, I answered that call.

Now, 70 years later what more can I say except "Thank You God for these 70 wonderful, blessed years in Your service." God is so good!



*"How Good
God is to Us!"*

Prayer to Care for Our Common Home

III

*Holy Spirit, giver of wisdom and love,
You breathe life in us and guide us.
Help us to live according to your vision,
stirring to action the hearts of all—
individuals and families,
communities of faith,
and civil and political leaders.*

Sister Elizabeth (Liz) Koszarek (Martin) ~ 70 years ~

In reflecting on my on-going journey of life I have come to believe that in celebrating the fullness of life, one celebrates God whose eternal graciousness, love and mercy remain constant and all encompassing. Miracles do happen. It's those moments when one is delighted with the beauty observed, the right thing happening at the right time, the new insight that is generated from within or from another's sharing, the accomplishment of a task which enriches one's life and/or the lives of others. I believe that entering fully into the mystery of life, one can recognize all of life as gift wherein even the simplest acts and events are meant to be treasured.

I feel privileged to have entered into the lived experience of so many people. My own faith has been significantly enriched because of the faith of those who journeyed together with me. Their loving support sustained me in the daily circumstances and challenges of life. Their insights and questions called me to a deeper awareness and appreciation of God's multiple gifts to all. Their dedication and commitment inspired me to join them in carrying out the mission of Christ in our world today. Their hope for a better tomorrow calls forth a shared vision of justice and peace for all.

Throughout the years I have learned from many whose lives and choices have witnessed the truth of Gospel values. They have helped me recognize that there are other ways to solve problems than through confrontation, other remedies to injury than "getting-even", other routes to happiness than the gaining of possessions, and cooperation being more life-giving than competition. They have helped me to see that tolerance teaches with a gentle, yet insistent voice. Acceptance of shortcomings, within oneself and within others, helps to develop patience, understanding and good humor. Most importantly, the experience of God's presence and action in all of life sustains one in the covenant of God's love. When we enter into that love our very being becomes absorbed into the totality of life lived for and on behalf of others, a life whose quality and depth bear witness to the reality that the reign of God is already in our midst.

I believe it is with a listening heart, an open mind, a loving spirit and a shared journey that we accept and celebrate the mystery, mercy, compassion and love of our God. In gratitude and praise we are called to celebrate that life.



*“Miracles
DO Happen”*

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you.

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

DR. JANE GOODALL



Sister Janice Rosinke (Virgilia)

~ 70 years ~



*“My Life
has been a
Full One”*

GOD IS FAITHFUL, I AM GRATEFUL

My life journey began on a hot summer day on the south side of Chicago and I was baptized 24 days later. I was blessed by enjoying a Catholic education both at home and at school as I grew in my love for God, attending daily Mass and receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Early on in my journey of life, I was attracted to the Religious Life as a way that God might want me to live my life for Him and in service to others. After graduating from Lourdes High School, I worked as a secretary while beginning to seriously prepare for entrance into the Sisters of St. Joseph, TOSF. My actual entrance day was the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, which continues to be a special day for me every year.

I felt privileged to attend DePaul and Loyola Universities to earn an undergraduate degree while beginning to teach. My ministry as an elementary teacher included the parish schools of St. Mary of Perpetual Help, St. Roman, and Queen of the Universe, all on Chicago's South Side. These were good years and I continued to grow in so many ways. God then directed my path west to DeKalb, IL, where I attended Northern Illinois University and earned a Masters of Business Administration degree. The College of Business at Northern Illinois University then hired me. I enjoyed this experience for some years, but when the local pastor offered me a position as Director of Religious Education, I believed it to be a nudge from the Holy Spirit and accepted.

After a number of wonderful years enjoying the beautiful people and atmosphere of DeKalb, I was called to take on the responsibilities as the Central Treasurer for our congregation. This was definitely a new direction on my journey which also meant moving to South Bend, Indiana. After serving my time there, I returned to Illinois to resume Parish Religious Education ministry, first in Crystal Lake and then in Elgin.

My life has been a full one and just like everyone else I know, it has included many rich experiences. My years of membership in the Mission Region of our congregation were some of the best years of my religious life. I am grateful to God for leading me in that direction and to the Sisters who walked with me during those years helping me to grow and flourish.

When reflecting on my journey of life, I can so clearly recognize God's faithfulness and guiding presence throughout the years. God continues to bless me with many opportunities and sufficient health to remain actively involved in Scripture sharing and other faith sharing opportunities. I continue to be inspired and encouraged by people who are eager to grow in their faith and deepen their relationship with God.

GOD IS FAITHFUL and I AM TRULY GRATEFUL

Sister Janine Rajkowski

~ 70 years ~

When I look at my life as a Sister of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis, I realize that many doors have been opened to me... the latest of which brings me to celebrate my 70th Jubilee, now, in 2023. Yes, I will be given some new gifts from God Who is calling me to bring His love to others in need of His love.

My days have been busy doing various volunteer nursing activities for people in need. Throughout the years I have been involved in a variety of nursing tasks: surgery, private duty, labor and delivery, pediatrics, and assisting seniors with ambulation. I have a bachelor's degree in nursing, so I was able to serve in labor and delivery. I have fond memories of helping to deliver many babies.

Later in life, I earned a Master's degree in Counseling, Psychology, and Hypnosis. I ministered to people who suffered with Paroxysmal Sympathetic Hyperactivity, a disorder in the function of the brain due to severe injury.

I also trained in Massage Therapy and opened the Center for a Balanced Life in Minnesota. There I trained students in Massage Therapy who became therapists on their own. I worked there for 32 years before I was called back to Wisconsin and closed the business on July 25, 2019.

I provided some massages while I was in Stevens Point, Wisconsin; however, due to the restrictions of Covid 19, that service was put on hold.

Then I moved to Light of Hearts Villa, an assisted living facility in Bedford, Ohio where I now reside. I am keeping busy and finding time and opportunities to use my gifts to send peace, love, and whatever others may need to remain in God's peace and love. I enjoy being active and helping those who seek healing, like one resident who needs help with mobility. We are making progress. We see this as a positive gift from God. We are ready to receive the next healing gift from God.

I am very happy here as each day brings new opportunities where I can use the gifts that God has given me to help others and bring glory to Him. I am ready for wherever God leads me in the coming years as a Sister of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis.



*"I am Ready for
Wherever God
Leads Me"*

Prayer to Care for Our Common Home

IV

*Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those
in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that
we may together care for our common home.*

Amen.

Sister Patrice Schulist

~ 70 years ~

*“I slept and dreamt that life was all joy.
I awoke and saw life was service. I served
and understood that service was joy.”*

~Tagore



*“I Take One
Day at a Time”*

With a simple, cheerful spirit, I continue loving life. I take one day at a time. Some days offer a few “twists and turns,” but all for the good. I love working with the sick and elderly parishioners from Sacred Heart in Custer, Wisconsin. Thursday mornings are our senior days, playing Shanghai or Bingo. They enjoy our time together as much as I do. I am an early bird, responding to my alarm without grumbling! By evening I’m quickly winding down.

I love people – young, elderly and those precious souls in-between. Often I am surprised by couples giving me a warm hug at a parish picnic and I’m unable to place them – yes, former students! That is so rewarding.

I love joining my sisters at St. Joseph Motherhouse for Mass once or twice a week. My sisters are so welcoming and always ask me to stay for dinner. What a beautiful family spirit!

My greatest joy is serving God as a Sister of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis. I am thankful for family and friends that support me.

Editor’s note: We asked for sisters’ friends and family to offer some words at Jubilee time. We share words of love here from Sr. Patrice’s sister and brother-in-law.

“I have known Sr. Patrice, who is also my sister-in-law, for over fifty years. In that span of time, there was not one second that I doubted her sincerity, loyalty and friendship to me and our entire family. More importantly, she has been steadfast in keeping her vows and faith in Christ, by being a Christian role model for our family and all who know her. She truly is God’s servant. Thank you, Sr. Patrice. We love you and are proud of you! ~Francis and Harriet Wysocki

UPDATE: Sister Patrice currently resides at North Ridge in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. She has joined an old friend, Sister Lucentia Klonecki, who is now 104 years old. They loved praying together and attending other activities but that has come to an end now. As this is being written, Sister Lucentia is receiving the Last Rites and dying. Sister Patrice is in Hospice Care. Please remember them and all of our deceased Sisters and Associates in your prayers.

(*The reflection above was written by Sister Patrice for her 60th Jubilee.)

This is my prayer to You, my God.

*May my heart be open to every
broken soul, to orphaned life,
to every stumbler wandering
unknown and groping in shadows.*

*Bless my eyes, purify me to see beauty rise
in the spirit of humanity.*

*Deepen and broaden my senses to take from
This flowering world the secret of life.*

*Let not my spirit wither and shrivel
in its thirst for You.*

Praise to the Holy One, oh so Divine.

Sister Gloria Jean Kozlowski (Juniper) ~ 60 years ~



*“Goodness &
Kindness have
followed me”*

It has been ten years since this face appeared in a Jubilee issue, and now you see it again. It's not quite the same, but then again, neither am I. Yet, it is me – Gloria Jean Patricia Kozlowski who has now reached the status of a 60-year jubilarian. As I wrote a decade ago for my Golden Jubilee, the Godspell song-prayer, “Day by Day”, continues to be my heart's reply to the Voice within me. From my birth, it has been luring me deeper and deeper into the mystery of the magnificent, multifaceted revelation that is the love of God. The Triune One holds that for me – Gloria Jean. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto... and each one of us.

Each day is indeed a blessing to be lived to its fullness, but an anniversary day is to be savored. It is for remembering, rejoicing in, giving thanks for and reaping the wisdom gained thus far so one can continue the awesome, adventurous, unpredictable, unimaginable amazing journey that is one's own graced God-given life unfolding day by day until that day!

September 30, 2022, marked the start of my 77th trip around the sun. I noted this birthday in a simple celebration and regular workday. Presently, I am serving as the Director of Religious Education at St. Stanislaus Parish in East Chicago, Indiana, my hometown. The office space I now occupy in the Faith Formation Center was my kindergarten classroom. It is from this parish school that I graduated and went forth “into the convent”. On September 2, 1959, my family drove me to the Provincial Home of the Sisters of St Joseph TOSF to follow the vocation that was calling me. With embraceable bear-hugs and tear-filled eyes, my parents entrusted me to the Sisters' care there in Chicago, Illinois, and I became an aspirant who would soon be attending Lourdes High School as a freshman. That was 64 years ago!

I was accepted into the Order on February 2, 1963, and invested as a novice on August 10th with a new given name – Sister Mary Juniper, the first choice of three I gave for consideration. Why Juniper? Because in the third grade I had to do a book report and chose the book Least of All Me. Having read that and written my report I told my mom that one day I am going to be Sister Mary Juniper just like the Sister in this book. Also, having come to know a little about Franciscan Spirituality, I was introduced to Brother Juniper and wanted to have him guide me as I journeyed on. That was sixty years ago.

At that time there were nearly 1,400 Sisters with 33 of us in the novitiate in South Bend, Indiana. We had 3 Provincial Homes, one of which was our Motherhouse in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. John F. Kennedy was president; the Beatles and hippies were becoming household words; the micro-chip was initiating changes in technology; space was the final frontier being explored; St. John the 23rd was Pope, and the Church was involved in a council named the Vatican II.

Sister Gloria Jean Kozlowski (Cont.)

(Juniper) ~ 60 years ~

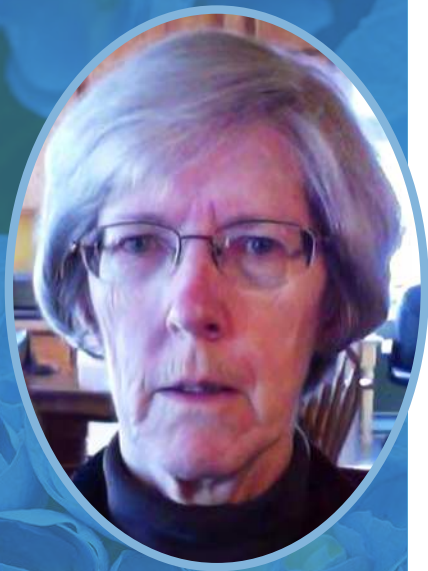
That notable yesterday was #1 of the 21,900 Diamond Days that have led me into this known future day upon which I reflect, remember, rejoice in, and give thanks for so many persons, experiences, and insights that have graced me in the days between then and now.

How each has helped or hindered me I cannot say. Having lived into this future moment, I wonder is it better or worse than the initial one? I cannot judge, yet I know I have been changed for the better by each moment and enriched by the gifts presented to me. Undeniably these are concrete expressions of the One whose Voice I hear. Goodness and kindness have followed me all the days of my life thus far and will faithfully continue to lead me into the future and my search for the ongoing revelation of God's love.

As I close for now, I wonder if there will be another opportunity to share the days of my life as a 70th anniversary approaches and you behold a somewhat recognizable face. Till then I share this gem of wisdom I found on the front of a greeting card with no source given – “She said she usually cried at least once each day, not because she was sad, but because the world was so beautiful and life so short.”



Sister Margaret Trzebiatowski (Jean d' Arc) ~ 60 years ~



*“Ever Dutiful,
Responsible,
Quiet”*

I am from Stevens Point, WI
from the Sisters of St Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis

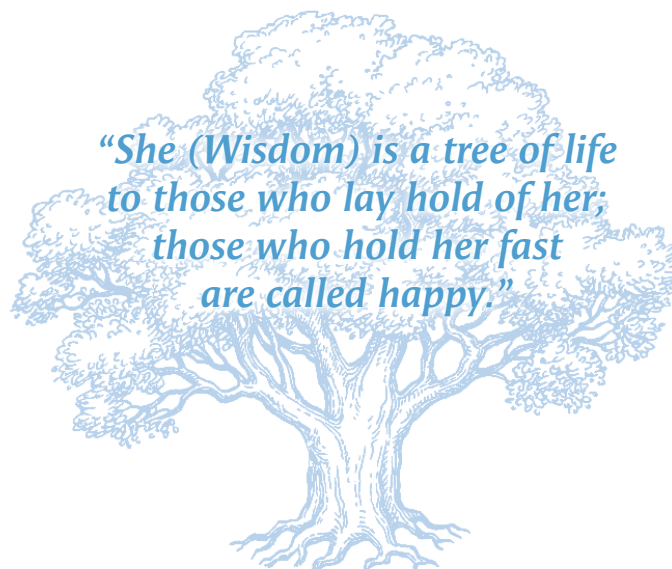
I am from the red brick building behind a black fence
ever dutiful, responsible, quiet

I am from a desire to serve the whole Body of Christ
too young to grasp this reality
needing to grow and deepen

From teaching (a mistake) to ministering in a rural parish
to graduate study, to 25 years a hospital chaplain,
to the well-being, care,
and companionable presence to a dear friend with dementia

Each give new visions of the Body of Christ -
each body, enhanced meaning, renewed awe, sacred, holy
From a desire to serve, to simply being a presence among the people

“Preach the gospel, and if necessary use words.” St. Francis
Gift given, gift received, grateful!



Sister Mary Alice Jarosz (Charlotte) ~ 60 years ~

*“God’s Great Love and Amazing Gifts
Ours for to Accept and Embrace!”*

Entering the convent right out of 8th grade, I didn’t expect to survive let alone thrive through four years of high school in a “sheltered” environment 150+ miles away from my family and friends! Frequent times of prayer, spiritual reading, Mass, meditation, and “grand silence” after night prayers until after breakfast the next day took some getting used to. Daily life run like clock-work, practices like penances for minor infractions, restrictions in the kinds of clothing I could wear (including pajamas for pete’s sake!) were also difficult.

In spite of the “externals” of those early years, God was prodding me to recognize something magical happening to me. It was something deep within me I had never felt before and it was almost frightening at times. It took years to realize I had stayed the course and became a Sister for a different reason than my deciding to do so. I don’t remember exactly when I realized it, but I had emptied myself of enough distractions to meet and fall in love with God deep within my heart and soul. I had come to know and absorb the truth that I was being called to commit my life to serving God by serving others. I professed final vows a year early when Canon Law changed to make it possible. My heart didn’t need more discernment and “temporary” commitment -it was ready to embrace the personal growth and spiritual well-being that was coming with living fully and experiencing deeply the life God meant for me to live from the day of my birth.

I’ve had amazing life and ministry experiences—teaching in high school, serving in community leadership, and discovering the collaborative culture of being on multiple institutional governing boards. Since 2009 I’ve been ministering among the elderly and infirm at the Village at Marymount. I’ve been awestruck by the “wisdom of the ages” that surrounds me each day and humbled by the dedication of the caregivers on every level who have also been called to this ministry. (I also enjoy being called “a baby” as I inch closer to turning 80!)

What am I most grateful for as I reach this 60-year milestone? The best way to express it is by saying I’m so grateful the journey of my life and ministry has been more than I could have ever imagined as a young girl of 14 and more than I, personally, could have ever done enough to have deserved. I’m most grateful, too, for the constant “God-gifts” of personal relationships with my extraordinary family, like-family friends, co-workers and ministry partners. Their love sustains me and gives me confidence that perhaps I truly am, as Francis put it, “doing what is mine to do” and that I will be able to do that until my last breath on earth!



*“Doing What
is Mine to Do”*

Sister Barbara Anne Gluck

~ 25 years ~



*“This
Achievement
is a Gift
from God”*

On the occasion of this jubilee year, Sister Barbara Anne Gluck, giving thanks to God for the many blessings received, reflects back on her life before and during the 25 years she spent as a Sister of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis.

Before entering Religious life I was married for 25 years, from 1966 to 1991. During that time I gave birth to 5 daughters, one of whom died of cancer as an infant at one year and two weeks of age, My prayer to God then was that if I ever became single and was still healthy, I would like to dedicate the rest of my life to God. I continued caring for my girls while discerning religious life.

I had a book titled Guide to Religious Ministries. I began looking at congregations for women. I contacted a few, but was told my age and having been married were factors against me. However, this did not discourage me from continuing my discernment journey. I wanted to know what religious life was like, what Sisters did, and if they were accepting new members. I knew Sisters taught and worked in hospitals, and I wanted to be able to use my nursing assistant skills. I was waiting for my papers from the Matrimonial Tribunal of Dallas which would confirm the end of my marriage in 1991.

In the summer of 1997 the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis were having a “Come and See” weekend In Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The Sisters were welcoming and gracious. One of the Sisters was making her First Vows. I met with Sister Jeanne Conzemius, who was the President of the congregation at that time, and she accepted my request to stay and begin my journey, That was a “WOW” moment!

I had never driven highways to other states by myself, but I learned to drive to many of the Congregation’s different locations. I spent time learning about the Sisters and their ministries.

In August of 1998 I became a novice. For 9 months I attended and studied at the Tau Franciscan Sister Novitiate in Winona, Minnesota along with five other Franciscan Sisters. We studied community living, shared prayer and reflections on the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

After those 9 months I returned to Wisconsin where I worked as a STNA (State Certified Nursing Assistant) in the infirmary at the Motherhouse in Stevens Point caring for the Sisters in the Maria Center.

On August 8, 1998 I made my First Vows and made my Final Profession in 2005.

For a few years I lived with other Sisters in a parish house. While there, I met a young couple who were just starting a family and were in need of a caregiver for their children while they worked. I took on that role.

Sister Barbara Anne Gluck (Cont.)

~ 25 years ~

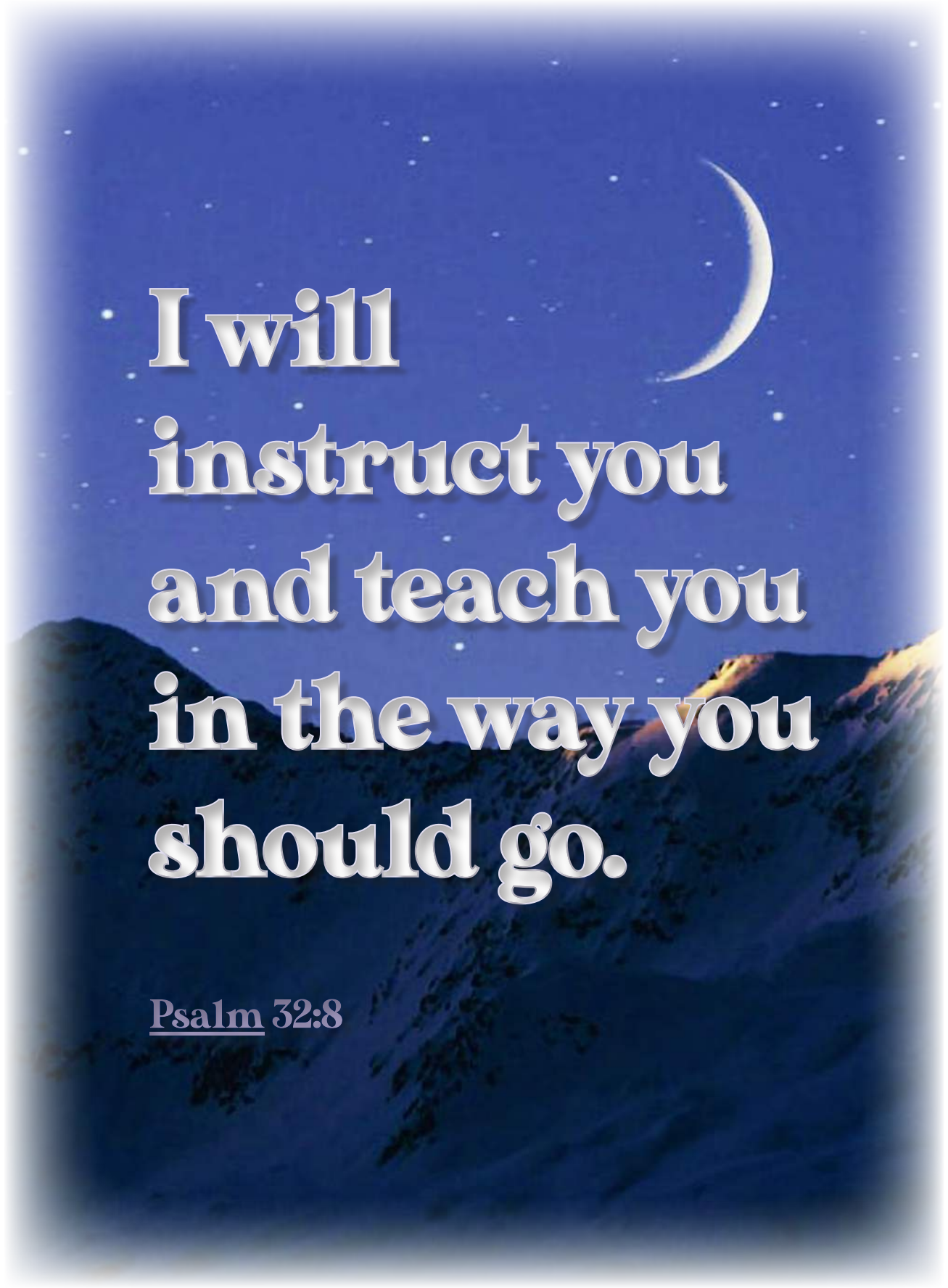
In 2012 I moved to an apartment in a near-by Senior Independent Complex for folks 55 and older. Some residents needed a little help, so I drove them shopping, to doctor appointments and Mass on weekends. I also volunteered at Saint Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton, Wisconsin in the (SPA) Special Procedure Area visiting patients before they were taken to surgery.

In the winter of 2019 I became very ill and needed to be brought to Ohio for health reasons. I take care of myself in mind, body and spirit. Now at 80 years of age, I reach out to residents at Jennings in Assisted Living in Garfield Heights, Ohio. I set up for Mass daily at 9:30, light the candles, and read. I visit and distribute Communion to a few residents after Mass. I also prepare for Adoration and Benediction on First Fridays.

What remains with me is my STNA classes and training which I had at Illinois Central Community College from 1995-1996, finishing with a 4.0 GPA. My credentials traveled with me and I was able to put them into practice in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Ohio. This achievement is a gift from God, as is giving the past 25 years to the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis in the life of prayer and service. This expands my soul and unites me to Jesus.

**“Lord, You are the Love to be Loved
The Life to be Lived
The Joy to be shared
The Bread to be eaten
The Blood to be drunk
The Truth to be told
The light to be lit
The peace to be given
Only this I want
But to know the Lord
And to bear the cross
So to wear the crown He wore.”**

~ Phil. 32:7-16, 2:15, 18

A night sky with a crescent moon and stars over a mountain range. The text is overlaid on the sky.

**I will
instruct you
and teach you
in the way you
should go.**

Psalm 32:8

The Last Word from the Desk of Sister Sandy

Let me 'weave' you with a divergent thought: Did you know that author Stephen King received 60 rejection slips for his first work which he earned \$35 dollars for? It is told the nail on the wall couldn't hold them all.

Celebrate these Sister Jubilarians that didn't let failure suppress their vocation dreams and aspirations either.



Ways to Give

Cash/Check/Online Donation

Cash can be used immediately for the purpose you intend and provide a tax savings. By itemizing these deductions on your federal income tax return you may qualify for a tax benefit. Many of our friends support the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis with an annual monetary gift.

Honorariums/Memorials

Make gifts in memory or in honor of family and friends.

Stock

Gifts of stock that has appreciated can save you from having to pay taxes on the capital gains. You may also qualify for an income tax deduction.

Bequest by Will

Including the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis in your will is one of the simplest forms of planned giving. Simply designate a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate after other disbursements. A bequest can reduce the amount of your taxable estate and may increase the actual amount available to loved ones.

Life Insurance

Making a contribution of life insurance can provide a substantial gift. The value of an ordinary policy at the time of the gift is tax deductible. If you continue to pay the premiums, they may also be tax deductible as charitable contributions. If you donate a paid-up policy, the cost of purchasing a new paid-up policy at your current age is the value of the charitable deductible.

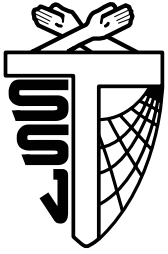
Beneficiary Designations

You may name the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis as the beneficiary of a retirement IRA, savings account, and/or certificate of deposit.

Planned Giving Strategies

You may set up trusts and annuities as a way to give a larger gift and reduce your estate taxes at the same time.

If you have questions about how to make a gift, please contact Sister Sandy Lasecke in the Mission Advancement Office at 216-215-5193 or slasecke@ssj-tosf.org.



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Peace & All Good

Jubilee 2023

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