

May 29, 2024

Dear Sisters,

Although we will be together in a few short weeks for our summer gathering and extraordinary chapter, we want to provide you with a few updates.

Sisters Living in Long Term Care Facilities

From the fall of 2022 through winter of 2023, we moved a total of 36 sisters to four buildings at three sites: Heritage Woods (Minooka), StoryPoint (Romeoville – two different buildings), and Villa Franciscan (Joliet). As of today's date, we have 21 sisters residing in four long term care homes. We thought you'd appreciate a quick look at who is where, especially as you may be planning visits in June if you are from out of town.

Heritage Woods	St. Patrick's Residence	StoryPoint	Villa Franciscan
Lourdes Boyer	Paula Bingert	Mary Ann Hamer	MaryAnn Jerkofsky
Mary Ann Clark	Mary Agnes Cross	Brigid Jacobs	Janet Tucci
Rosemary Fonck	Odelia Kloc	Mary Lou Marchetti	Helen Zulka
Ann Freiburg	Margaret Krieger		
Teresa Noser	Mary Jean Morris		
Joan Clare Wisner	Phyllis Pitz		
Irene Yosick	Grace Ann Rabideau		
	Pat Skowronski		

Please call before you visit to be certain that those you wish to see will be home that day.

Archives

Although we had planned for our archives to be part of the Living into Our Legacy Task Force work, it quickly became apparent that this cannot be handled by a volunteer committee. We therefore decided to make this part of the Congregation's administrative work. We are very, very grateful to Sister Faith Szambelanczyk for her 11 years of ministry as Interim Archivist. Faith was positively active in the professional organization, Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR). Through that organization, we have learned of various repositories either in existence or forming to hold the archives of religious orders in the U.S.

We began conversations over a year ago with a small group of Franciscan congregations looking to bring their archives together in Chicago. The Franciscan Central Archive (FCA) is taking shape with the formation of a board of directors, a relationship with a larger archive collective called the Chicago Collaborative Archive Center, and the recruitment of additional Franciscan community-members. After meetings with this board, numerous conversations with professional archivists, and a recent formal assessment of our archives, the Central Administration has made a first monetary contribution to the FCA. While we do not yet know how much this project will require in financial support from each congregation, we know it will be significant. We also know that our archives are one of our valuable assets and resources.

With assistance from the FCA, we are writing a job description for a Project Archivist, who will be hired to get our archives in order, help us decide what to keep and what to let go, and prepare our collection for its eventual move to Chicago when the site is ready and we have our “house” in order. We are hoping to recruit sisters, associates and other volunteers to help the Project Archivist as needed. We also plan to mount a few exhibits of our “treasures” in Joliet before they become part of the research archival collective for Franciscan women.

Members of the FCA so far are the following congregations:

- Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity
 - Stella Niagara, NY
 - Denver, CO
 - Redwood City, CA
- Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY
- Sisters of St. Francis of Rochester, MN
- Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis, WI
- Wheaton Franciscans, IL
- Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet IL

We will keep you posted with more information as this project unfolds. We hope you will be excited and relieved that our archives will eventually pass into good hands!

Extraordinary Chapter

As of this week, we will have an exact count of the number of sisters who will participate in this summer’s extraordinary chapter. We are happy to share with you that eight sisters will be joining us from Brazil. As a reminder, the chapter portion of our time together is only on Thursday afternoon, June 20th, and Friday morning, June 21st. We have required that all delegates attend all of the sessions to be led by the Legacy Task Force on Wednesday and Thursday prior to the chapter. The input, questions, synodal conversations and prayer during those sessions lead up to the extraordinary chapter itself.

We will be reviewing the feedback / input from the Local Chapters, which have all met by now. We will inform you ahead of time if there are additional time-sensitive or otherwise compelling decisions that we may need to add to this summer's agenda. Our facilitator for these sessions will be Sr. Carole Shinnick, SSND, who facilitated our 2016 chapter. Let us hold one another in prayer as we face the important topics and time we are facing together!

Sisters from Brazil

Lastly, we think it's important that you know who is coming this summer and where they are staying so you can connect with our sisters from Brazil while they are in town. Our goal, to the extent that it is possible, is to ensure that each one has some private and comfortable space during her time with us.

Sister	Host(s)
Ruth Berry	Barb Kwiatkowski
Maria das Mercês Alves Barbosa	Barb Kwiatkowski
Jeronima Marques da Costa	Kathy Salewski
Débora de Castro Alves	Jeanne Bessette
Maria Aparecida Gomes	Jeanne Bessette
Izabel Lopes dos Santos	Jeanne Bessette
Margaret Noser	Family → Sharon Frederick / René Simonelic
Teresinha Mendonça Del'Acqua	Sharon Frederick / René Simonelic

Thank you again for the energy and time you have put into our May Local Chapter meetings. We promise another communication very soon related to the extraordinary chapter. Meanwhile, let us hold one another in prayer, caring always for the health and heart of each of our sisters.

Peace and all good,

Your sisters,



Jeanne Bessette, OSF
President



Peggy Quinn, OSF
Councilor



Roberta Naegele, OSF
Councilor



Barbara Kwiatkowski, OSF
Councilor



Rene Simonelic, OSF
General Secretary



MJ Griffin, OSF
General Treasurer

