

July 10, 2025

Dear Associates,

During our Congregation Community Days our associates met at the Joliet Franciscan Center to discuss ways to continue supporting each other as we live our Franciscan charism. Although we recognize that we may be slowing down, we have many gifts to share with each other and those in need. The following are some of the items we discussed :

- ♦ Meet more regularly. We plan on getting together at least every other month.
- ♦ Meet at JFC to together attend a virtual meeting offered by other organizations.
- ♦ Get to know other Franciscan associate communities. I will reach out to the leadership of the Frankfort and Wheaton Franciscan associates.
- ♦ Volunteer at Feed Our Starving Children in Aurora, Illinois. We will pack meals for the those suffering from malnutrition in nearly 70 countries.
- ♦ Visit our sisters and associates in assisted living facilities. At our meeting we discussed going as a group to each facility. A large group may be overwhelming so I invite you to call the sister or associate you would like to visit and set up the time yourself. One or two associates visiting allows for a more relaxed and informal conversation. Our sisters and associates love having visitors.

Taking into consideration the results of our meeting, the Associate Leadership Council has planned the following events. This list also includes some events planned by congregation.

August 9- 160th anniversary celebration at USF-10:30am

August 20- Pizza and viewing the video of some of the Sisters residing at OLA at the Joliet Franciscan Center– 12:00pm

October 4- Feast of St. Francis – details to follow

November 19- Gratitude Celebration– Joliet Franciscan Center— 11:00am

December 8- Feast of the Immaculate Conception– details to follow

January 6- Epiphany Celebration—Joliet Franciscan Center– 1:00pm

March 19- Feast of St. Joseph— details to follow

April 18 - Attend a virtual day of reflection together– Joliet Franciscan Center 9:30-3:30 Reflection presented by the Conference of Associates and Religious in the Midwest Area. (CARMA). Facilitator Marci Modary– Moving with Mutuality into the Unknown Future.

May- Volunteer at Feed Our Starving Children –date and time to be determined.

We hope that by sending out the information in advance, each of you can attend most, if not all of these gatherings.

Peace and all good,

Darcy

708-508-7795

dmason@jolietfranciscans.org