

# *Staying Connected*

Volume 22 - Issue 3

September 18, 2025

*Sisters of St. Francis*  
of Mary Immaculate

## *Memories and Pizza*

On Wednesday, August 20, Darcy Mason, Associate Director, organized a pizza luncheon and a viewing of sisters' interviews which were done by Nancy Davis, previous Associate Director, (deceased) and Rita Travis, Associate.

Approximately 50 sisters and associates attended the gathering. Viewing the hour-long video brought back many memories and some tears, as many of the interviews were of sisters that have since gone to heaven. The stories they told were heart-warming and funny. There were many moments of hearty laughter. A big thanks to Darcy, Nancy and Rita for bringing back numerous fond memories!



# *New Art Gallery at JCA*

On Friday, August 22, we were invited to JCA for Mass in Mary, Our Sister Chapel followed by the formal ribbon cutting to the new M. Christine (Wicklein '66) Schwartz Art Gallery.



*Continued on next page*

The National Honor Society officers were all present, the JCA administration, four Joliet Franciscans, the art department and the architect, Scott Czerkies, a former JCA grad and presently active parent as well as former art student himself.



Christine remembers fondly her teachers and her gratitude for her years at SFA/JCA. She is pleased to be able to give back in this way.



The whole display showcased the talent and unique techniques in the art department. What a pleasure to view the works.



# Pray for Peace, Act for Justice

By Theresa Fifer, OSF  
JPIC Commission

As we know, there are terrible wars going on in Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza in Palestine where people are suffering terribly. There are arguments back and forth about who is to blame, but right now, that takes a back seat to addressing the needs of the suffering people caught up in these horrific bombings and lack of food, water, and medical care.



suffer for the sins of the adults. The Gazan and Sudanese children are dying a slow, painful death from starvation. All the children, including those in Ukraine, are terribly traumatized. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." Let the children come into our hearts in prayer and action.

If you would like to contact your representatives to request action on these subjects, you can do so by going online to [house.gov](https://www.house.gov) for Congress and [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov). When you enter your zip code, the names and contact information will come up for your representatives.

Thank you.

In the last few weeks, we have seen huge demonstrations around the world against the Israeli bombardment of Gaza (a small strip of land along the Mediterranean that is separated from the rest of Palestine). Demonstrating against the Israeli bombings is not being antisemitic, it is protesting the government of Israel's devastation of Gaza and its people. There are Jews here in the U.S. and even in Israel who are protesting the actions of the Israeli government and believe that the war must stop in order to secure the release of the Israeli hostages held by Hamas and to let in the trucks attempting to bring in food, water, and medical supplies to relieve the suffering of the people—especially the children.

The Hamas raids on the kibbutzim were horrible and children were among those who were killed, but the Gazan children and children everywhere cannot be allowed to

**1949 Armistice lines**



The Economist

# Message from LSAP Goals 1, 4 Subcommittee



Pope Leo XIV continues the work of *Laudato Si'*. In this month's Creation Care Corner, Pope Leo's recent actions on Care of Creation are listed. If your parish or organization wishes to receive weekly bulletins, google: Catholic Climate Covenant/Creation Care Corner Bulletin.

## Creation Care Corner



*"Now is the time to follow words with deeds. 'Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork...'"* LS (217) - Pope Leo XIV

### **Pope Leo XIV and Care for Creation**

Many of the Catholic faithful have been waiting to see if Pope Leo XIV will follow Pope Francis with respect to his attention to Care for Creation. Initial indications are that he will. Pope Leo's recent actions include:

- Acknowledging the 10-year anniversary of *Laudato Si'* and commenting on the extraordinary impact, and countless initiatives inspired by the work.
- Sending a video message to the Network of Universities for the Care of Our Common Home encouraging their mission: "...to be builders of bridges...working for ecological, social, and environmental justice."
- Celebrating the very first "*Mass for the Care of Creation*," a new formulary of the Roman Missal.
- Issuing the 10<sup>th</sup> *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* which calls environmental degradation a "justice" issue and includes prayers of hope that *Laudato Si'* and integral ecology be increasingly accepted as the right path to follow.

Leo has stated that "We must also pray for the conversion of many people, both inside and outside the Church, who still do not recognize the urgency of caring for our common home."

# Franciscan Human Trafficking Joint Committee



Submitted by: Associate Therese Griffin

## Sweeping Changes Being Made To Illinois Human Trafficking Laws: Police

*Governor J.B. Pritzker signed a new law Wednesday that requires state agencies to build a network of services for human trafficking survivors.*

By: Eric DeGrechie, Patch Staff  
Posted Wednesday, August 13, 2025

"As Illinois continues to enhance its strategies to combat human trafficking, it's crucial that we ensure survivors — no matter who they are or where they live — have access to the resources they need," Pritzker said. "This vital legislation marks a coordinated, multi-agency effort to better identify, protect, and support our most vulnerable, making Illinois a safer place for everyone."



According to IPS, 448 human trafficking survivors were reported to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority as receiving services from an Illinois domestic violence or sexual assault agency in 2024. In addition, 213 possible cases of child trafficking were reported to DCFS during that same time frame. Despite this, authorities believe these numbers only represent a fraction of human trafficking victims in Illinois.

"Human trafficking can come in many forms, from commercial sex acts to forced labor," ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly said. "Because human trafficking has many faces and can happen almost anywhere, it is important to have a comprehensive, statewide victim-centered, trauma-informed response that encompasses those who may come in contact with individuals who are being trafficked, such as law enforcement, child services, case workers, treatment providers, and others."

The legislation will impact laws governing ISP, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois Department of Labor, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, Illinois Department of Corrections, Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board, Children's Advocacy Centers, the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor, the Illinois Secretary of State, and other stakeholders.

Anyone suspecting human trafficking can contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text \*233733. For more information, visit

[www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org) or email [ISP.CrimeTips@illinois.gov](mailto:ISP.CrimeTips@illinois.gov).

*How sweet do you like your apples?*



THE OLD  
FARMER'S ALMANAC

# APPLES

## SWEET TO TART

**MOST  
SWEET**



Fuji



Gala



Red Delicious



Honeycrisp



Braeburn



Cosmic Crisp



Empire



Pink Lady



McIntosh



Granny Smith



**MOST  
TART**

# "National Punctuation Day September 24"

National Punctuation Day commemorates all punctuation on September 24. A period, a comma, a semicolon, a question mark, and an exclamation point are examples of some of the punctuation used in writing. They separate sentences and their elements to clarify meaning. Without them, meaning would be lost or up for interpretation.

## HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL PUNCTUATION DAY

What better way to celebrate punctuation than by using it. Seek out unique ways to punctuate your sentences. You can also try a few of these suggestions:

Jeff Rubin founded National Punctuation Day in 2004 as a way to promote the correct usage of punctuation.

- Spend the day carefully correcting your own mistakes.
- Determine which of your contracts for insurance, warranties, or service have a misplaced comma that might be to your benefit.
- To avoid punctuation altogether, just complete crossword puzzles all day. They don't use any punctuation.
- Write an error-free email and send it to everyone you know. Better yet, write an email with a single error and challenge your friends to find it.
- Open up a debate about the Oxford comma online. It may get as heated as a political debate.
- Try using every type of punctuation throughout the day.
- Create a painting or collage of your favorite punctuation marks.
- Express how you feel about the evolution of punctuation into emoticons. ;-)

Make meatloaf and form the loaves into punctuation shapes!!!! (See page 12.)

Q. Why is punctuation important?

A. Punctuation is important because sentences that don't use punctuation are difficult to read. Punctuation helps define the end of a sentence, a pause, and even emotion. Without punctuation, chaos ensues and the entire world order falls apart. Now you wouldn't want that, would you?

*Punctuation intentionally omitted. :)*

Q. Is punctuation overused?

A. Sometimes. Some people overuse punctuation. There are lots of ways to overuse punctuation!!!! It's sometimes hard to read sentences that use too much punctuation. More importantly, using punctuation incorrectly is confusing? Examples include; too many commas, exclamation points, and semicolons; using the wrong punctuation, and lack of consistency. Some people consistently use the Oxford comma and others don't use it at all!?!?!?

# Punctuation Self-Test

(No worries - we will not ask you to report your score!)

1. Which of the following is correct?
  - A. My pin number has two 5's. It's easy to remember.
  - B. My pin number has two 5s. It's easy to remember.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ was a period of great achievements. It followed the \_\_\_\_\_ and lasted from the 14th \_\_\_\_\_ until 1600.
  - A. Renaissance, Middle Ages, Century
  - B. Renaissance, Middle Ages, century
  - C. Renaissance, middle Ages, century
  - D. renaissance, middle ages, century
3. Which of the following is correct?
  - A. The weather this winter has been: windy, wet, and unpredictable.
  - B. The weather this winter has been windy, wet, and unpredictable.
4. Which of the following is correct?
  - A. Waiting for the storm to stop I was anxiously looking out the window.
  - B. Waiting for the storm to stop, I was anxiously looking out the window.
5. Which of the following is correct?
  - A. The table was set — knives, forks, candlesticks — all were set up correctly.
  - B. The table was set — knives, forks, candlesticks all were set up correctly.
6. Which of the following is correct?
  - A. A friend of mine works as a translator for U.N..
  - B. A friend of mine works as a translator for U.N.
  - C. A friend of mine works as a translator for UN.
7. Semicolons and colons should always be placed outside the closing quotation marks.
  - A. True
  - B. False
8. Which of the following is correct?
  - A. Harvey is a good driver, moreover, he is a very friendly one.
  - B. Harvey is a good driver. Moreover, he is a very friendly one.
  - C. Harvey is a good driver; moreover, he is a very friendly one.
9. Is this sentence correct?  
 Quantum mechanics is a branch of physics, it was initially developed to explain atoms.
  - A. This sentence has a comma splice.
  - B. This is a sentence fragment.
  - C. This is a run-on sentence.
10. Is this sentence correct?  
 Mary came home from work early she had been feeling ill all morning.
  - A. This sentence has a comma splice.
  - B. This is a sentence fragment.
  - C. This is a run-on sentence.
11. Is this sentence correct?  
 Since you drew the short straw. You must walk to the gas station while we stay here.
  - A. This sentence has a comma splice.
  - B. This is a sentence fragment.
  - C. This is a run-on sentence.

| PUNCTUATION MARKS |                     |           |                  |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|------------------|
| •                 | Full stop or Period | “ ”       | Quotation Marks  |
| ,                 | Comma               | '         | Apostrophe       |
| :                 | Colon               | ...       | Ellipsis Points  |
| ;                 | Semicolon           | !         | Exclamation Mark |
| ?                 | Question Mark       | <u>  </u> | Underline        |
| ( )               | Round Brackets      | -         | Hyphen           |
| [ ]               | Square Brackets     | /         | Virgule          |

Answers on page 12!!!

# From Abba to Eloi

by Sister Karen Berry

As I contemplate the upcoming feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis this month, I am remembering my retreat experience last summer. I went to the Redemptorist Retreat Center in our Tucson desert, the place that called to my heart when I was first drawn to Tucson many years ago. This time, I took with me Fr. James Martin's book, *Jesus, a Pilgrimage*.



He reflects on the life of Jesus while sharing with the reader his own pilgrimage to the Holy Land. In each of the sacred places connected with Gospel stories, this Jesuit priest reflects on possible meanings of every event and invites the readers traveling with him to find their own meaning as the stories touch their lives.

Although I received new insights about many of the places, one particular story really jolted me and moved me to tears. After describing Jesus' plea to his Father in the Garden of Gethsemane to remove the "cup" of suffering that was about to assail him, Father Martin went on to describe Jesus' acceptance, arrest, and crucifixion. But he wrote in detail about Jesus' sense of abandonment on the cross. He had been betrayed, denied, and abandoned by his closest friends and then even seemed to be abandoned by God. He didn't cry out "Abba, Father" as he had at Gethsemane. He cried out, "Eloi, God", as if he no longer felt the closeness of the Father. That's what jarred me! Martin referenced Raymond Brown's treatment of this in *Jesus's Death Cry*.

When I think of St. Francis wanting to share the wounds of Christ, I will think of the pain of abandonment that was so much a part of Jesus' dying agony. Francis might have also felt that. If his Order was moving in a direction he hadn't wanted or anticipated, maybe he too wondered if his work would be lost.

As Franciscans, let's be a voice for Gospel values, care for the poor, and the protection of all creation. Let's not abandon what we have been called to.



## **Autumn** John Clare

I love the fitful gusts that shakes  
    The casement all the day  
And from the mossy elm tree takes  
    The faded leaf away  
Twirling it by the window-pane  
With thousand others down the lane

I love to see the shaking twig  
    Dance till the shut of eve  
The sparrow on the cottage rig  
    Whose chirp would make believe  
That spring was just now flirting by  
In summers lap with flowers to lie

I love to see the cottage smoke  
    Curl upwards through the naked trees  
The pigeons nestled round the coat  
    On dull November days like these  
The cock upon the dung-hill crowing  
The mill sails on the heath a-going

The feather from the ravens breast  
    Falls on the stubble lea  
The acorns near the old crows nest  
    Fall pattering down the tree  
The grunting pigs that wait for all  
Scramble and hurry where they fall

---

## **Fall, Leaves, Fall** Emily Brontë

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;  
Lengthen night and shorten day;  
Every leaf speaks bliss to me  
Fluttering from the autumn tree.

I shall smile when wreaths of snow  
Blossom where the rose should grow;  
I shall sing when night's decay  
Ushers in a drearier day.

# Save the Dates - Mark Your Calendar!



Virtual Viewing (via Zoom) of the  
**Joliet Franciscan Stories OLA 2019**

Saturday: October 18, 2025



## Celebrating 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope

Wednesday: November 19, 2025 at JFC

Details to follow.

Darcy

## Recipe Corner:

### *Meat Loaf*

#### Meatloaf Ingredients:

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 medium onion
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 2 large eggs
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 Tbsp ketchup
- 3 Tbsp fresh parsley, finely chopped
- 3/4 cup Panko breadcrumbs, or gluten-free
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 tsp salt, or to taste
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper

#### Meatloaf Sauce Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup ketchup
- 1 1/2 tsp white vinegar
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp onion powder

#### Instructions

1. Prep — Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper or foil for easier cleanup, and preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Sauté onions — Set a medium skillet over medium heat. Add 1 tsp oil and chopped onion and sauté, stirring occasionally, until softened and golden, about 5-7 minutes.
3. Make the meatloaf mixture — In a large bowl, add all of the meatloaf ingredients and mix just until well combined.

4. Shape Meatloaf and Bake — Add meat to the pan and shape it into a meatloaf about 8 inches long, 4 inches wide, and 3 inches tall. Bake uncovered at 350°F for 40 minutes.
5. Make the Sauce — In a small bowl, add the sauce ingredients and stir to combine.
6. Add the Glaze — Spread the sauce over the meatloaf, then return to the oven and bake for an additional 20 minutes or until the internal temperature is 160°F on an instant read thermometer. Rest the meatloaf for 10-15 minutes before serving and it will be much easier to slice.



|                    |             |              |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Punctuation</b> | <b>3. B</b> | <b>8. C</b>  |
| <b>Quiz</b>        | <b>4. B</b> | <b>9. A</b>  |
| <b>Answers:</b>    | <b>5. A</b> | <b>10. B</b> |
| <b>1. B</b>        | <b>6. C</b> | <b>11. B</b> |
| <b>2. B</b>        | <b>7. A</b> |              |

## *Staying Connected*

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www.jolietfranciscans.org

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If you would like to submit an item for *Staying Connected*, or if something you have requested to be published is inadvertently omitted, please e-mail Sister René Simonelic at [rsimonelic@jolietfranciscans.org](mailto:rsimonelic@jolietfranciscans.org) or Renée Cipriani at [rcipriani@jolietfranciscans.org](mailto:rcipriani@jolietfranciscans.org)

## Facebook Prayer Authors

September Sr. Karen Berry  
November Sr. Rosemary Huzl  
December Sr. Marianne Saieg

**Volunteers needed for January,  
February or March 2026 to be a**

**Facebook Prayer Author!**

Please contact Karen Garifo at  
[kgarifo@jolietfranciscans.org](mailto:kgarifo@jolietfranciscans.org).