

Staying Connected

Volume 22 - Issue 4

October 23, 2025

Sisters of St. Francis
of Mary Immaculate

St. Francis Day Celebration



On Saturday, October 4, 2025, 60 sisters, associates, staff and guests gathered to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis. Father Jerry Bleem, OFM, presided at the 10:30 mass, assisted by Sr. Maria Bui. The choir and musicians provided beautiful music. After the Mass, a delicious taco bar lunch was served and enjoyed!



Photos by Sr. Marianne Saieg, OSF

Continued on next page



Installation of USF's New President

October 3, 2025

Ryan C. Hendrickson, PhD



The Brothers Hendrickson

L-R: Rev. D. Scott Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, Interim President of Regis University, Denver; Ryan C. Hendrickson, PhD, President of University of St. Francis, Joliet; Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, President of Creighton University, Omaha



Conferring of the President Medallion

L-R: Shane Green, Vice Chair of USF Board of Trustees; Ryan Hendrickson; S. Jeanne Bessette, OSF, Congregation President



Members / Representatives of the Third Order Franciscan University Alliance

Maureen Irvin, OSF, Community Minister, Oldenburg Franciscans; Mary Beth Giannoli, OSF, VP for Mission, Marian University; Jeanne Bessette; Meg Guider, OSF, President of TOFUA; Debi Haug, TOFUA Board Member; S. Sue Bruno, OSF, TOFUA Board Member; Dr. Michael Poradek, VP for Mission and Student Life, USF

ARC Begins a New Year

By Lois Prebil, OSF



On September 16th, ARC kicked off the new year with an in-person meeting at Joliet Catholic Academy. We gathered to do some thoughtful planning for the '25-'26 year. We had an opportunity to incorporate several new members, renew old friendships and talk about what is important to us as we do this work. The photos show ARC looking down at a poster board with 85 symbols that we used to describe "A World Without Racism."



Message from LSAP Goals 1, 4 Subcommittee

We are called to protect life, to preserve that which sustains life, to care for our common home. Pope Francis *Laudato Si'* Catholic Climate Covenant/Creation Care Corner Bulletin.



October is Respect Life Month



© Image by Mary Southard, CSJ. Used with permission

**PROTECT LIFE.
PRESERVE THAT WHICH
SUSTAINS LIFE.
CARE FOR
OUR COMMON HOME.**

POPE FRANCIS, *Laudato Si'*



As Catholics, we are called to:

- uphold life and the dignity of each human person
- support families and future generations
- love the poor and vulnerable
- advocate for basic rights and a just economy
- be in solidarity with all, as one human family
- care for all of God's creation

Grounded in our Catholic Tradition, now is the time to protect the earth for our children and grandchildren.

PRAY to hear God's call to live our faith for the common good, knowing that everything is interconnected.

LEARN how the climate crisis is a profound moral issue greatly affecting the poor and vulnerable.

TELL your local and national leaders to protect creation.

Praise be to you, our Lord, God of all Creation!

Learn more!

usccb.org/environment
wearesaltandlight.org/cst101
catholicclimatecovenant.org

Please recycle

Jubilee Year of Hope



**Join our Sisters and Associates
as we reflect on the many people
and events in our lives that have
filled us with hope.**

**November 19, 2025
Joliet Franciscan Center
11:00 AM Prayer
followed by Luncheon**

**Please RSVP to Darcy at dmason@jolietfranciscans.org
or 708-508-7795 by October 29**

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Eleven of our sisters residing at Our Lady of Angels in 2019 share their stories in an hour-long video.

“Joliet Franciscan Stories”

This video will soon be available on our website for viewing at your convenience. We will send out the details when it is ready. This is the same video shown in August and October.

Please contact me with any questions.

Peace and all good,
Darcy

dmason@jolietfranciscans.org
708-508-7795



Franciscan Human Trafficking Joint Committee



Submitted by: Associate Therese Griffin



**ALLIANCE TO END
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

Let Us Pray:

Psalm 82:4: "Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

Prayer to End Human Trafficking

O Lord, you said you came: "to set the captives
free." In our world young men and women
who are trafficked are modern day slaves.

Help these young people not to lose hope.
Give the grace for elected officials to grow in
awareness of and to take active steps to
eradicate this horror.

Teach them not to prosecute the victims of
trafficking but to bring to justice those who
perpetrate this crime. Lord, give the grace of
conversion to those who mistreat unfortunates
for their own personal gain.

May demand decrease as people realize that
prostitution is a crime against human dignity,
forced upon these people, who are more victim
than anything else.

May the awareness of this horrendous crime
spread throughout the world and may many
join the efforts to stop trafficking and help the
victims begin anew, filled with hope.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

~ Sr. Veronica Piccone, MSC
Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Special Message for Our Members

Do you know other members who would like
to receive the Alliance to End Human
Trafficking Newsletter or need to update your
contact information, email us at
Info@AllianceToEndHumanTrafficking.org
and we will add them to our newsletter listing.

Thanks!

&

Truckers Against Trafficking
Nonprofit organization



Make the Call, Save Lives

**I PUT THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE**



CALL
1-888-373-7888

TEXT
"BeFree" (233733)

24/7 • Toll free
Confidential
200+ languages

LIVE CHAT
humantraffickinghotline.org

GET HELP • REPORT TRAFFICKING

October

By Robert Frost 1984-1963

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.
The crows above the forest call;
Tomorrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow,
Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know;
Release one leaf at break of day;
At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away;
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.
Slow, slow!
For the grapes' sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
For the grapes' sake along the wall.

This poem is in the public domain.

National Food Day !!! ~ October 24

National Food Day focuses on healthy and nutritious food and takes place annually on October 24th.

One of the themes of the day aims to help people to "Eat Real." This theme is defined as "cutting back on sugar drinks, overly salted packaged foods and fatty, factory-farmed meats in favor of vegetables, fruits, whole grains and sustainably raised protein." The observance involves some of the country's most prominent food activists, too. Their vision includes food that can be healthy, affordable, and sustainably produced. At the same time, the goal is to produce food with care for the environment, farm animals, and the people who grow, harvest, and serve it in mind.

The movement seeks a balance between nutrition, affordability and the environment. They strive to meet these goals by consistently addressing policy. In 2012, there were 3,200 events taking place from community festivals to a national conference in Washington, D.C. to thousands of school activities.

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL FOOD DAY

Attend an event near you. Learn about healthful eating and sustainable farming. Other ways to celebrate include:

- Reading some food labels. Learn where the food you eat every day comes from, what's in it, and more.
- Challenge yourself to try a food you've never eaten before.
- Plant herbs to use in your kitchen.
- Start a compost pile to use in your garden.

Discover a healthier way to cook your favorite foods.

NATIONAL FOOD DAY HISTORY

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) initiated National Food Day 2011. The nationwide celebration of healthy, affordable, and sustainably produced food is a grassroots campaign for better food policies. This project builds throughout the year and culminates on October 24th of each year.

Try Healthy Pumpkin Pie Energy Balls!
Recipe on page 12



NATIONAL FOOD DAY - October 24

Halloween Quiz

Movie-TV-Netflix

1. Which science fiction horror series from Netflix is set in the fictional town of Hawkins?
2. In *What We Do In The Shadows*, what specific type of vampire is the character Colin Robinson?
3. Who plays the title character in mystery crime drama *Jonathan Creek*, which first aired in 1997?
4. In the *Friends* episode 'The One with the Halloween Party', the characters dress in memorable – but not particularly spooky – costumes. What did Phoebe dress as?
5. In Tim Burton's *Wednesday* reimagining for Netflix, what's the name of the supernatural creature Wednesday Addams' love interest, Tyler transforms into?
6. What iconic phrase do *Scooby Doo* monsters and villains usually say when they're captured by the gang?
7. How many of the six types of infected 'zombies' can you name from *The Last of Us*?
8. Which sister from the famous Kardashian-Jenner family starred in *American Horror Story: Delicate*?
9. Which American sports star and fiancée of a famous singer had a role in *Grotesquerie*?
10. *Bates Motel* starring Freddie Highmore is the prequel to which classic horror film?
11. In *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*, what is the name of Buffy's vampire love interest played by James Marsters?
12. What is the surname of Sabrina the teenage witch?

Answers on Page 12

Recipe Corner:

Healthy Pumpkin Pie Energy Balls

Ingredients:

- 1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1/2 cup unsweetened coconut flakes or shavings
- 1/2 cup unsweetened almond butter, warmed
- 1/3 cup unsweetened pumpkin puree
- 1/4 cup golden raisins
- 2 Tbsp. maple syrup
- 2 Tbsp. chia seeds
- 2 Tbsp. pumpkin seeds
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice



Instructions:

1. In a large bowl, mix together oats, coconut, almond butter, pumpkin puree, raisins, maple syrup, chia seeds, pumpkin seeds, and pumpkin pie spice until combined.
2. Using your hands, form mixture into 2" balls. Transfer to a plate or small baking sheet.
3. Refrigerate balls until set, 20 to 30 minutes.
4. Store in the fridge in an airtight container until ready to eat.

Facebook Prayer Authors

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.

Thank You!

Answers to Halloween Quiz

1. *Stranger Things*
2. An energy vampire
3. Alan Davies
4. Supergirl
5. A hyde
6. I would have gotten away with it too, if it weren't for you meddling kids
7. Runners, Stalkers, Clickers, Bloaters, Shamblers and The Rat King
8. Kim
Kardashian
9. Travis Kelce
10. *Psycho*
11. Spike
12. Spellman



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before the issue date.***

Next issue of *Staying Connected*: November 13, 2025

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 or Renée Cipriani at rcipriani@jolietfranciscans.org