

Staying Connected

Volume 22 - Issue 10

June 4, 2026

Sisters of St. Francis
of Mary Immaculate

2026 Jubilarians!!



Sr. Lucille Krippel
75 Year Jubilarian



Sr. Margaret Noser
60 Year Jubilarian



Sr. Patricia Skowronski
60 Year Jubilarian



Sherry Bockus
40 Year Anniversary of
Associate Relationship

2026 Jubilarian Stories

Sr. Lucille Krippel
75 Year Jubilarian

I, Lucille Krippel, better known as Lou to my family, friends and community, was born in Dwight, Illinois, on November 18, 1932. I am fifth oldest in a family of 10 children, born to Gertrude and Raymond Krippel.

My family later moved to Kankakee and Bradley, Illinois, because of my father's work. When I was about 10 years old, we moved to Crest Hill, Illinois, into a subdivision known as Lidice, and to St. Ann's Parish which was a mission of St. Mary's Nativity.

I attended Chaney School for two years and then Fr. Sinshey or Bill Burish drove a bus to the Crest Hill area to pick up me and my siblings to go to St. Mary's Grade School. I graduated from there and then continued my education at St. Francis Academy for the next four years. It was there that I was impressed with the Sisters of St. Francis and decided to enter their community in 1950. I made First Profession in 1953 and Final Profession in 1956. I was named Sr. Gertrude after my mom. I was a teacher and school principal in Ohio and Illinois for the next 15 years.

In 1970 the congregation asked me to go to Guardian Angel Home and convert it from an orphanage to a treatment center for

emotionally disturbed children aged birth to 16. I served there for six years and then was elected to the Governing Board of the congregation from 1976 to 1980.

In my travels for the congregation, I served the sisters in the west. While in Colorado I experienced a special peace which helped me to request to go to Colorado for study. I attended UCCS and St. Thomas in Denver. Sr. Joan Wendell accompanied me to Colorado. I also studied and then was hired as a counselor at St. Mary's High School. After that, I was hired by the newly formed Diocese of Colorado Springs and served at a parish and then as Director of Catholic Charities.

In 1989 the president of the congregation visited Colorado Springs and asked me to come to Joliet to help with the establishment of and serve as President of Joliet Catholic Academy. JCA was to be a new coed high school which was a merger of the girls' school, St. Francis Academy and the boys' school, Joliet Catholic High School. I served there from 1990 to 1994.

In 1995 I was requested by Penrose St. Francis Health Care System to serve as the Director of Mission and Spiritual Care. I ministered at the hospital for 10 years and then was asked to open a guest house for the hospital. I was Director of the John Zay Guest House until

2026 Jubilarian Stories continued

2020 when I was nearly 90 years old and felt the need to be closer to the congregation and my family.

Amid COVID issues I came to Joliet and have lived happily at OLA Village for the last six years. I now reside at Heritage Woods in Minooka with five other sisters. I am grateful to family, friends and the congregation for all these years and experiences and strives to continue serving as able.

Sr. Margaret Noser
60 Year Jubilarian

I, Sister Margaret Alice Noser, was born to Teresa Grassbaugh Noser and Alexander Earl Noser in Mansfield, Ohio, the 24th of October, 1945. Being the seventh child in the family, I was surrounded with much love, care and support. Three sisters and one brother arrived after me. My parents gave us a Catholic education at Saint Peter's school in Mansfield, Ohio, where the influence of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate was our basis of education. When my mother took me to first grade, Sister Georgine welcomed us at the door. I thought, "I want to be like her."

In fourth grade, Sister Terasita influenced us with the missionary spirit, and in 1963 I entered the convent wanting to be a

missionary. Eleven years later I found myself in Brazil after two years in the hills of Kentucky. It was to be only three years, because I wanted to see the world. Here I am 52 years later in Brazil because I know that here is where God wants me. I came to know the Lord more intimately through the Brazilian people, who are welcoming, spiritual and loving people. I am here in Pará on the Amazon River, where we, as a community, walk and struggle with the people to make a better world.

We as a parish team reflect with our people on the need to preserve this beautiful Earth that God has given us. It is a struggle because multinational companies have their eyes on the natural resources here. Basing our formation on the encyclical "*Laudato Si*" and social doctrines of the church, our people are true guardians of the Amazon.

I am responsible for our Children's Pastoral which accompanies pregnant mothers and children up to 6 years of age. In our parish we have 62 communities to which we attend. So our energy and prayers are in being a presence to these people in the Amazon forest.

It is a grace to be a Sister of Saint Francis of Mary Immaculate here in the Amazon region and be able to contemplate God's artistic creation in the forest, animals and loving people that He has placed in this world for all of us.

2026 Jubilarian Stories continued

Sr. Patricia Skowronski 60 Year Jubilarian

I was born in Lansing, Illinois. Having had Joliet Franciscans for my teachers at St. Ann's I always "wanted to be one of them." As a Franciscan, I hope that I have been able to share the joy and simplicity of a very much-loved saint with the many people I had the privilege of working beside each day, sharing the "ups and downs" of life and giving one another support along the way.

As I look back over my 60 years of religious life, I have special memories of Mary Breckinridge Hospital in Hyden, Kentucky. I was an elementary school teacher until I became interested in medical technology while I was teaching Bible school in Pikesville, Kentucky, one summer. It was all about the people, their needs, and how I could help give them a better life. I studied at Methodist Hospital to earn certification as a medical technologist. I loved working in the lab. It was quiet and peaceful. Even more, through the testing entrusted to me, I knew I was helping people whom I would never meet have a healthier life. After completing my internship, I became chief technologist for Mary Breckenridge Hospital in Hyden Kentucky, a position I held for ten years. Then I moved on to become a medical technologist in special chemistry at McGraw Hospital of Loyola University in Maywood for seventeen years. My work in the laboratory primarily centered on testing that aided doctors in diagnosing, treating and monitoring patient care. I especially remember the people with whom I worked.

My life is always enriched through the times I spend in prayer. I always look forward to being with the community, so community gatherings, large and small, bring me joy. My pastimes include needlepoint, singing, playing games, reading mysteries and watching TV. Mostly I enjoy being around people and helping out wherever I can.

Sherry Bockus 40 Year Anniversary of Associate Relationship

In 1980, while coordinating music ministry for a conference for women and men religious, I met the Joliet Franciscan sisters who were living in Ohio. The relationship grew and continued through monthly prayer gatherings. I was accepted into the associate relationship March 1, 1986, at St. Paul's Parish in Columbus, Ohio.

My life is one committed to service. After receiving my Master of Science in nursing, as Director of Medical Nutritional Nursing Services, I engaged in research, nursing education and authored articles. At St. Paul's, I continue to volunteer as lector and minister of Holy Eucharist. In my ministry to the homebound, I bring them Eucharist, provide support by listening and spending time praying with and for them. Although I am no longer able to visit Joliet, I continue to live my associate commitment by serving my family, friends, and church family as needed. I hold our community and our prayer requests in daily prayer.

37th Annual Golf Outing at St. Patrick's Residence



The Sisters of St. Francis happily sponsored a hole and a foursome at the St. Patrick's Annual Golf outing on June 1. Participants included Mike Green, friend, Sr. Sue Bruno, Councilor, Sisters of St. Francis, Carl Bessette, Director of OLA Village and Rick Spence, OLA Village maintenance assistant.



Cheri Bissett, former Guild member, Sr. Sue Bruno, Sr. Anthony Veilleux, Director of Mission Integration and Melissa Hageman, Director of Development and Marketing, St. Patrick's.



USF Commencement - May 9, 2026

Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, President of USF, with trustees, Sisters Sue Bruno, Meg Guider, Jeanne Bessette and Roberta Naegele
Sister Meg Guider was the commencement speaker at both the undergraduate and graduate ceremonies.



**Franciscan
Federation**

News from the Franciscan Federation

The Franciscan Federation is hard at work to implement its new strategic plan. It offers various gatherings both in person and online to provide all members with access to opportunities to gather around specific topics, conferences, and retreats that further the Franciscan Charism.

One of the newest initiatives is a digital piazza for the Franciscan Heart scheduled for June 16, Tuesday. This will be a digital town square for connecting with Franciscan friends and exploring the rhythms of Franciscan life together. During this gathering, you'll be introduced to the vision behind The Piazza, learn how to navigate the space, and discover ways to engage in prayer, reflection, and community.

The Piazza is a new digital gathering place for Franciscans and anyone who feels drawn to the Franciscan way of life. Over the past year, as we've listened to members and friends while shaping our strategic plan, one thing has come through loud and clear: people are lonely, and they're craving real community. Franciscans are no exception.

We're spread out across the country, and the Franciscan family can feel a little siloed at times. People want more chances to meet others who are trying to walk this Franciscan way of life, and carry this movement forward in ways that meet the needs of our world right now. The Piazza is our way of bringing everyone into one shared space — one big, open piazza — where we can actually find each other again. This isn't about the Federation; we're simply hosting the space so the whole Franciscan world has a place to gather.

To register use the link
<https://franfed.org/welcome-to-the-piazza/>
or the QR's provided here.

LAUNCH EVENT

**A live Zoom gathering to open the
Piazza together, bless
this new space, and welcome the
first wave of members.**

**Tuesday, June 16
11 AM Central Time**



Jubilarian Celebrations!

Sister Lucille Krippel celebrated her 75th Jubilee with members of her Local Chapter. We are sure this was the first of many to come and wanted to share some pictures. We started with a prayer of blessings, had a tasty lunch and a delicious cake. Congratulations Sister Lou and thank you for your faithful service.



Sister Patricia Skowronski, OSF, 60 Year Jubilarian, Sr. Raphael, OCarm, 50 Year Jubilarian and Sr. Mary Vianney, OCarm, 25 Year Jubilarian celebrate their Jubilees at St. Patrick's Residence. Congratulations Sisters Pat, Raphael and Mary Vianney!

Congratulations!

When Sr. Margaret Noser returns to the USA for the official Jubilee Celebration, a huge 60th Jubilee party with her family is in the making for her to enjoy and reunite!



From the Archives

By Elizabeth Piskorski, Archivist

Hello Sisters and Associates,

This update shall be called, “The Magic of Opening Drawers.”

Sometimes I get so caught up in processing that I don’t go through drawers again for a very long time. One such example happened this last week. I opened a drawer in one of the flat-lay storage cabinets and found treasures.

Some treasures did not relate to the Joliet Franciscans, including books about Old Joliet Prison and a booklet from a postmasters meeting. For these items, I was able to contact the Joliet Area Historical Museum to see if they would be useful for their collection and got to meet with their curator, Steven Wright.

Our meeting was very fruitful! Not only did we connect over our love for the archives we manage, but while looking through the postmaster’s booklet the staff found an answer to a long-standing question. Events in Joliet were often held in the “Castle Building” and yet they did not know what this building was. Lo and behold, the booklet had the Castle Building named and a photograph next to it! It is

always so exciting to see what discoveries can be made when we collaborate.

Also in this magical drawer I found photographs I had been looking for for a long time: photographs of the sisters processing to Stateville Prison in 1954. I knew they were somewhere since they are on the website, yet I could never figure out where.

I opened these drawers back in 2025 when I first assessed the archives, and subsequently for each round of inventory I did. However, what I am looking for always changes, and each time I re-visit a box or drawer there is always something new to see.

Thank you for your survey responses and for always helping me to the best of your abilities. I can’t wait to see what’s next!

Elizabeth



An Apology for Slavery in "MAGNIFICA

HUMANITAS"

By Sr. Lois Prebil



On March 15, 2026, the 135th anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*, Pope Leo XIV released his first encyclical, entitled "Magnifica Humanitas: On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence." He appeals for the safeguarding of humanity, promotion of truth, dignity of work, social justice, and peace. The encyclical went public on March 25th.

In just a sentence or two, newscasters first announcements about this encyclical included that the Pope apologized for slavery.

In sections 173 to 176, Pope Leo addresses slavery encompassing all forms of slavery: the new forms of slavery related to the digital economy, human trafficking, commodification and the slave trade.

Pope Leo points out, "It was only in the nineteenth century that a formal, absolute and universal condemnation of slavery was clearly articulated, notably under Pope Leo XIII. This development offers a clear example of the Church's growth in understanding the perennial truths of Revelation that she safeguards. Although there was not always consistency in practice — given that slavery was long tolerated before being unequivocally condemned — there has been a continuous

affirmation throughout history of the dignity of every human being, created in the image of God, even if it took eighteen centuries for its full incompatibility with slavery to be explicitly recognized."

The last three sentences of article 176 are strong and greatly longed-for by people whose ancestors were enslaved. The final sentence brings me to tears! I thank God for Pope Leo XIV, his insights and for making an apology.

"This constitutes a wound in Christian memory, one from which we cannot consider ourselves detached. It is impossible not to feel deep sorrow when contemplating the immense suffering and humiliation endured by so many in stark contrast to their immeasurable dignity as persons infinitely loved by the Lord. For this, in the name of the Church, I sincerely ask for pardon."

JUNETEENTH



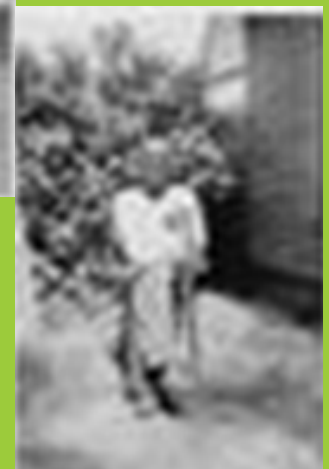
Juneteenth is a federal holiday celebrated on June 19th each year marking the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln took effect on January 1, 1863. On the eve of January 1, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in homes and churches all across the country waiting for news of the Emancipation Proclamation. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as enslaved people were declared legally free!

The implementation, however, was limited in all areas under Confederate control. More than 250,000 enslaved black people in Texas were not freed until June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston Texas with about 2,000 Union Soldiers. His main goal was to bring an end to the Civil War and welcome Texas back to the Union. A much bigger announcement was made for the enslaved people. General Granger issued General Order No. 3 that said, "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."

The day became known as Juneteenth! Juneteenth is recognized as the nation's second Independence Day. For African Americans, it represents true liberation; it is a day to celebrate culture, history and freedom.

Following decades of grassroots advocacy, Juneteenth was officially signed into law on June 17, 2021, as a U.S. federal holiday by President Joe Biden.

Happy Juneteenth!



Ex Slaves - Sarah Ford, Texas; Squire Dowd, Age 82; Martha Spence Bunton, Age 81, Martin Jackson, San Antonio

JPIC Grant Awards 2026

Our Joliet Franciscan Congregation was able to award nine Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation grants through the JPIC Grant Fund. The following projects have been awarded this year:



- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Compassionate Senior Program , Uganda | \$2000.00 |
| <i>Requested by Associate Roberta Spencer</i> | |
| 2. Further Development of Nyunga Streams Village Library , Uganda | \$2000.00 |
| <i>Requested by Associate Thomas Spencer</i> | |
| 3. Mercy Immigration Justice Project and Ongoing Needs, Casa De Misericordia , San Diego, CA | \$5000.00 |
| <i>Requested by Sister Marianne Saieg</i> | |
| 4. Replace & Expand Computer Stations to Will County Jail CCC classrooms , Joliet, IL | \$7054.00 |
| <i>Requested by Sister Mary Rose Lieb</i> | |
| 5. School of Formation of Leaders & Community Education , Brazil | \$45000.00 |
| <i>Requested by Sister Margaret Noser</i> | |
| 6. Sharing Cultures Zoom Series 2026 and Speakers for ARC | \$1082.00 |
| <i>Requested by Sister Lois Prebil</i> | |
| 7. Streatorland Food Pantry , Streator, IL | \$4500.00 |
| <i>Requested by Sister Alice Ann Harcharik</i> | |
| 8. Update for Dignity and Hygiene at drug recovery Facility , Brazil | \$3000.00 |
| <i>Requested by Associate Graceli Bezerra</i> | |
| 9. Water for Ishmael , Toledo, Ohio | \$2000.00 |
| <i>Requested by Sister Theresa Fifer</i> | |

Additional funding was given from the Bill Berry Sr. Ruth Berry Gift Fund

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Assistance with a Housing Addition , Brazil | \$3000.00 |
| <i>Requested by Sister Izabel Lopes dos Santos</i> | |
| 2. Help Ministry to Teens for Training, Setup & Entry Fees , Brazil | \$400.00 |
| <i>Requested by Sister Maria das Mercês Alves Barbosa</i> | |
| 3. Sister Ruth Berry Music School , Brazil | \$6000.00 |
| <i>Requested by Sister Maria Aparecida Gomes</i> | |
| 4. Update for Dignity and Hygiene Facility , Sta. Helena, Brazil | \$2000.00 |
| <i>Requested by Associate Graceli Bezerra</i> | |

Message from LSAP Goals 1, 4 Subcommittee



Consider asking your parish to subscribe through Catholic Climate Covenant/Creation Care Bulletin.

Do you wonder....?

*What is happening in
the migrant detention
centers?*



Who is advocating for improvements?

By Jane Nienaber, OSF JPIC Commission

A May 27, 2026 article in National Catholic Reporter highlights what is happening in the Broadview, Illinois Detention Center. Significant and revealing information is given about persons detained by ICE at this much publicized place of detention. A legal breakthrough now allows spiritual caregivers to provide service.

Here's the link to the full article:

<https://www.ncronline.org/node/331621>

Information about what is happening throughout the country can be found in websites, including: American Immigration Council, National Immigrant Justice Center, Welcome USA.

Creation Care Corner



"The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change... can only precipitate catastrophes....," "Truly much can be done!" – Pope Francis

Electric Vehicles: A Creation Care Benefit or Harm?

Transportation emissions in the United States are a huge source of both air pollution and carbon emissions. Any car, whether it has an internal combustion engine (ICE) or whether it's fully electric (EV) also has a heavy carbon footprint related to its manufacture. The longer you can keep from buying a new car and make use of the old one, the better. Reducing the number of cars your family uses is better yet. As such, purchasing an EV will not solve climate change, but it could help significantly.

When it's time to acquire a new vehicle, drivers minimize their footprint by purchasing the most fuel-efficient vehicle in the class of vehicle they really need. EVs have a heavier carbon footprint in manufacture than an ICE vehicle. But after 2 years of average driving (about 25,000 miles) that higher carbon manufacturing disadvantage goes away, and the EV becomes a "cleaner" option in "cradle-to-grave" and "well-to-wheel" carbon emissions. According to the US Dept. of Energy, electric vehicles today produce 46% fewer GHGs than comparable gasoline powered vehicles on a life cycle basis.



Franciscan

Human

Trafficking

Joint Committee

Submitted by Therese Griffin, Associate

We are active members with Alliance



Human Trafficking and Forced Migration

The U.S. Department of State estimates that over 70% of persons trafficked in the United States each year are immigrants.” (Human Trafficking Institute) People on the move or recently arrived are at particular risk of exploitation by human traffickers.

Alliance to End Human Trafficking (AEHT) and the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (NAC), faith-based networks that work to end human trafficking, deplore the increase in human trafficking in the United States and around the world, some of which results from unprecedented forced migration.

June Trivia

1. Of the countless film classics released in June, many of the best belong to Steven Spielberg. Which of the following June releases did Spielberg agree to direct in exchange for a promise that the studio would then produce one of his passion projects: Schindler’s List?

- A. *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*
- B. *Raiders of the Lost Ark*
- C. *Jurassic Park*
- D. *Minority Report*

2. Napoleon Bonaparte fought—and lost—the final battle of his military career on June 18, 1815. About 159 years later, what pop group won Eurovision with a song inspired by his crushing defeat?

- A. *Ace of Base*
- B. *The Spice Girls*
- C. *ABBA*
- D. *The Beatles*



3. Fans of the Beatles celebrate June 25 as World Beatles Day. The day commemorates their 1967 appearance on the BBC program *Our World*, during which they premiered their new song “All You Need Is Love.” Appropriately enough, *Our World* was the first-ever...what?

- A. *Live global TV broadcast*
- B. *Singing competition*
- C. *TV appearance by the Beatles*
- D. *BBC TV show*

4. June bugs, or June beetles, are a group of 100 species of insect across North America. These leaf-chomping pests are so named because they generally reach adulthood in June. Fittingly enough, all species of June bugs are related to the scarab, which was popular in ancient Egypt for its association with whom?

- A. *Osiris, god of death and resurrection*
- B. *Ra, god of the sun*
- C. *Cleopatra, queen of Egypt*
- D. *King Tut, SNL character of Steve Martin*



Answers are on the last page! NO PEEKING!

June 12, 2026

National Movie Night

National Movie Night on the second Friday in June encourages us to start (or restart) a tradition of movie nights with friends and family. Pop some popcorn, grab a blanket and your favorite buddy, put away the cell phones and tablets, and then queue up a string of movies for a fun night of entertainment.

Movies have been bringing people together for over 100 years. The movie stars and the stories entertain us, connecting us while we create memories. As technology evolves, so does how we enjoy our movie nights. From the theater to reel-to-reel home movies, the VCR, DVD, and streaming, we've been enjoying movies on big and small screens. Drive-in movies invited us to enjoy films from the comfort of our cars. Today, our video library is as large as we want it to be thanks to streaming services. We can even enjoy movies in our own backyards projected onto screens under the stars.

What is your favorite movie?



Name the movies these quotes are from:

"I have a feeling we're not in Kansas any more."

"If you build it, he will come."

"Here's Johnny."

"Wax on, wax off."

"Go ahead, make my day."

"I'll be back."



Recipe Corner:

No Mayo Waldorf Salad

Ingredients:

1/2 cup walnuts
 4 large Granny Smith apples
 2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
 1 cup chopped celery
 2 green onions chopped (including tender green parts)
 1/2 cup dried cranberries
 1/3 cup walnut oil
 3 Tbsp sherry vinegar



Directions

In a small frying pan, toast the walnuts over medium-low heat, stirring, until fragrant and starting to brown, about 5 minutes. Pour onto a plate to cool and then chop coarsely.

Halve and core the apples, cut into 1/2 -inch pieces and add to a large bowl with the lemon juice. Add the celery, green onions, cranberries, and toasted walnuts. Add the walnut oil and vinegar, toss to mix, and serve.

Enjoy!

FACEBOOK PRAYER AUTHORS

July	Sr. Marianne Saieg
October	Sr. Marianne Saieg
November	Sr. Karen Berry

Volunteers needed for the rest of 2026 to be Facebook Prayer Authors!

Contact Karen Garifo if you are willing to volunteer. Thank you!

kgarifo@jolietfranciscans.org

Reminder:

Jubilee: June 27

**Summer Gathering for Sisters
June 29 - July 1**

**Summer Gathering for Associates
July 1**

Answers to Trivia Questions-Page 14

C. Jurassic Park — Spielberg filmed them back to back for Universal Pictures in 1993.

C. ABBA — They won the 1974 Eurovision contest with "Waterloo," inspired by Napoleon's disastrous defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.

A. Live global TV broadcast — Our World was seen live in 31 countries with an estimated audience of 400 million.

B. Ra, god of the sun

Staying Connected

Published by:

Sisters of St. Francis
 of Mary Immaculate

1433 Essington Road
 Joliet, IL 60435-2873
 Phone: 815-725-8735
www.jolietfranciscans.org

Staying Connected is prepared by Renee Cipriani.

Printing deadline for each issue is one week before the issue date.

The next issue of Staying Connected will be July 9, 2026.

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