

Staying Connected

Volume 23 - Issue 1

July 9, 2026

Sisters of St. Francis
of Mary Immaculate

Jubilee – June 27, 2026
Summer Gathering 2026
June 29-July 1

Jubilee Day was a joyous celebration in which 160 guests celebrated with three Jubilarian Sisters: Sr. Lucille Krippel (75 years), Sr. Margaret Noser (60 years) and Sr. Patricia Skowronski (60 years). Our 40 year Associate Jubilarian, Sherry Bockus, was unable to join us in Joliet.

The Mass was celebrated in the Motherhouse Chapel at the University of St. Francis with the Jubilee Reflection given by Sr. Meg Guider. Following the Mass was a delicious meal in San Damiano Hall. A fantastic time was had by all!

On the Monday after Jubilee, 48 sisters (seven from Brazil) gathered in San Damiano Hall at the Motherhouse campus of the University of St. Francis for the annual community gathering. The meeting dates coincidentally fell on the hottest days of the summer! Every day was over 95 degrees with a heat index of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. The sisters were real troopers through it all! They didn't need their sweaters this year to combat the usually chilly air conditioning.

The sisters were able to reconnect with friends they haven't seen in a while and in between pertinent discussions of the time, were able to socialize and have some laughs. The days were a balanced mixture of prayer, work and play.

Twenty-one associates gathered on June 30, at the JFC office. Darcy Mason, Director of Associates, organized the day's activities for them and in the afternoon, the sisters, associates and office staff came together for the annual Missioning Ceremony. The name of each person in attendance was called, and he or she received a missioning card with their name and this year's mission focus printed on it.



Thank you to Sr. Marianne Saieg and David Dowell for capturing the Jubilee moments of time which you will see on the next few pages. We thank Sr. Marianne Saieg for the Summer Gathering photos.

Jubilee

The Jubilarians:

Sr. Patricia Skowronski, 60
Year Jubilarian

Sr. Margaret Noser,
60 Year Jubilarian

Sr. Lucille Krippel,
75 Year Jubilarian



Sr. Jeanne Bessette, Sr. Lucille Krippel, Sr. Margaret Noser,
Sr. Patricia Skowronski

Sisters from Brazil with Sr. Jeanne

Sr. Teresinha Mendonça Del'Acqua,
Sr. Débora de Castro Alves,
Sr. Izabel Lopes dos Santos, Sr. Maria
das Mercês Alves Barbosa
Sr. Beatriz de Sousa, Sr. Jeanne
Bessette, Sr. Maria Aparecida Gomes





Fr. John Regan and Sr. Maria Aparecida



Sr. Meg Guider



**Michael Poradek,
Choir Director**

Jubilee



Jubilee



Summer Gathering







From the Archives

By Elizabeth Piskorski, Archivist

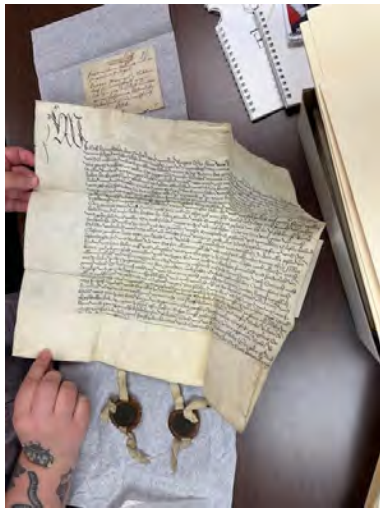
Dear Sisters and Associates,

Firstly, thank you so much to those who attended the Archives Open House. I had so much fun hearing your stories. I hope you were able to see some interesting artifacts that you have not seen before! As always, if you have any special requests or are curious about what is in the archives, please give me a call or email.

Next, an update on our German artifact saga. The German Consulate came to JFC on June 23rd to get the manuscript to ship with a courier service to Germany. From them, it will travel in a secure box to Berlin, and then the Nuremberg Archives will pick it up from there and restore it to their collection.

For some context, we believe the artifact was a deed that gifted the monastery, St. Katharine Monastery, a sum of money and land. This was likely gifted by a sister at the monastery either at the time of her passing or upon her entrance at St. Katharine's. St. Katharine's Monastery was bombed during World War II and is now an open-air concert venue in Nuremberg.

We still do not know why we had it and whether that American soldier who gave it to his relative in the congregation was telling the truth about where he found it. In the paper we have, it was indicated that it was found in the "Cornerstone of the building" where it was found – which we have confirmed was not the case. The wonderful and mystifying thing about history is that even when



the physical item is present and we have a story, we cannot always trust the story because memory is so fallible. The only way to make sure we truly remember things correctly is by closely tracking and entering data for a resource as it travels. As you can understand, this sort of document tracking might have been particularly hard during World War 2.

In any case, I am so glad we found it and were able to get it back to its home.

Please enjoy these photographs of Mr. Schulz and Ms. Devens Ortlieb during their visit. They were just as excited as I was!



Also, during the Gathering, many sisters reached out about what I might accept. As you are reflecting on your belongings, please think about what is relevant to your ministry and your story as a sister. Narrative pieces about your life are of particular interest. Thank you for sharing so much with me about your lives and continuing to entrust me with this important work.

Warmly,
Elizabeth

ARC

By Lois Prebil, OSF

By Sr. Lois Prebil



Joliet Catholic

Academy graduates, Aydan Garcia and Symone Holman, have been student representatives to the Anti-Racism Committee during the 2025-26 school year. They joined other ARC members at the end-of-year celebration at OMG Pho, a Vietnamese restaurant. Aydan will study nursing and Symone will seek a career in dentistry. Aydan advised that more students would like to be part of ARC. Symone wrote, "I am happy that I got to be a part of the ARC community while at JCA. I will continue to live out the principles we have built."



Message from LSAP Goals 1, 4 Subcommittee



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

Creation Care Corner



"...to defend the earth and to safeguard water is to protect life."

- Pope Francis

THIS WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:

How you use water can have a significant environmental impact over time. It takes a lot of energy to pump the water to homes and to treat it to make it safe for use. Low flow shower heads, washers, and dishwashers reduce water waste and can save you money, as does turning off the water while you're brushing your teeth or shaving. Fully loading your washers and dishwashers before running also saves water. Got a leaky faucet or toilet? You might be wasting 200 gallons of water a day. Planning on outside watering? Check the forecast for rain. Also, consider drinking tap water instead of bottled water, to reduce packaging waste. The EPA sets the standards for tap water provided by public water suppliers that the FDA uses to set bottled water standards. Quality is often similar if standards are met. More water saving tips can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/watersense>



Associate Community Day- July 1st 2026

WHY AM I STILL HERE?

By Elizabeth Bach Luong, Associate

**"Blessed are those who endure in peace for by
You, Most High, they shall be crowned."**

The Canticle of the Sun

The facility was well prepared
The program was excellent as usual
Regardless of the number of attendees
Where have all the people gone?
Did they leave? Did they move away or are
they with God?
Every time when I came to Joliet
When I enter the Essington office
I know I am at home, I feel peace
I see many tears, I hear a lot of laughter
I meet with people of strong charisma
I feel the presence of God among us

God talks to me: "Be strong
Be brave for one another
Go down the mountain, take up your cross
Follow the footsteps of Jesus and the saints
Be an instrument of peace
Be a blessing to others
Live one day at a time
The future is in my hands."
What keeps my commitments alive?
What makes me coming back?
The answer is: the spirituality
Time makes changes, we can still offer to people
a new degree of joy
Of honor, of love and happiness
We are never alone
I win, you win
a higher degree of loving and trusting God
Hope is still coming
People come and go just like
The cycle of sunrise, sunset
Where ever we are; we are looking at the same
sun
There is so much beauty out there
Be not afraid to live a life of Gospel
I left Joliet on that very day with a joyful heart
and a positive commitment



July 14

Bastille Day/National Mac and Cheese Day

July 14 is a dual-celebration day honoring both *Bastille Day*, the French national holiday marking the storming of the Bastille in 1789, and National Mac and Cheese Day, which highlights the beloved, creamy comfort food. Bastille Day Also known as La Fête Nationale, this day commemorates the pivotal event that ignited the French Revolution. It symbolizes the fight for freedom, equality, and brotherhood (liberté, égalité, fraternité). History: The storming of the Bastille prison took place on July 14, 1789, marking the official beginning of the fall of the French monarchy. Traditions: It is traditionally celebrated in France with military parades (including the famous Champs-Élysées parade), festivals, and fireworks. How to Celebrate Locally: You can uncork a French wine or order a gourmet French dinner from a local restaurant.

National Mac and Cheese Day

This highly popular food holiday celebrates one of America's favorite comfort foods on the very same day. History: Pasta with cheese dates back centuries, but the dish was famously brought to America by Thomas Jefferson in the late 1700s after he encountered it in Europe. It was cemented as an American staple when Kraft introduced its boxed version during the Great Depression in 1937. Variations: While classic cheddar is traditional, popular gourmet spins include lobster mac, truffle mac and cheese, spicy jalapeño cowboy mac, and variations with BBQ or bacon. How to Celebrate Locally: Whip up your favorite homemade baked casserole, experiment with new ingredients and spices. Or treat yourself from your favorite local restaurant!



Recipe Corner:

Salmon Bowls

Ingredients:

2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger
(from a 1-inch piece)
1/4 cup honey
3 tablespoons soy sauce or tamari
2 tablespoons rice vinegar
1/3 cup plain Greek yogurt
2 tablespoons water
2 teaspoons Sriracha hot sauce
1 1/2 pounds skinless salmon fillets (thawed if frozen), patted dry and cut into 1-inch chunks
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon olive oil
3 cups cooked rice, for serving

Topping Options

Thawed shelled edamame, sliced
mini cucumbers, shredded
carrot, sliced avocado, thinly
sliced scallions, toasted sesame
seeds



Directions

Combine 2 minced garlic cloves, 1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger, 1/4 cup honey, 3 tablespoons soy sauce or tamari, and 2 tablespoons rice vinegar in a small bowl. Stir until the honey is dissolved. Place 1/3 cup plain Greek yogurt, 2 tablespoons water, and 2 teaspoons Sriracha in a second small bowl and stir to combine.

Season 1 1/2 pounds skinless salmon pieces all over with 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt and 1/4 teaspoon black pepper.

Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add the salmon in a single layer and cook undisturbed until the bottoms are golden-brown, 2 to 3 minutes. Flip and cook until the second side is golden-brown, 2 to 3 minutes more. Add the soy sauce mixture and cook, stirring and spooning it over the salmon occasionally, until slightly thickened and glossy, 2 to 3 minutes. Turn off the heat.

To serve, divide 3 cups cooked rice between 4 bowls (about 3/4 cup per bowl). Top with the salmon pieces and spoon the sauce from the pan over the top. Add the desired toppings. Drizzle with the Sriracha yogurt sauce.

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!

Please contact Karen Garifo if you are willing to volunteer.

kgarifo@jolietfranciscans.org.

Thank You!

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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 or Renée Cipriani at rcipriani@jolietfranciscans.org