

FEBRUARY 2019

*Be still
and know that
I am God*

Psalm 46:10

REFLECTIONS
&
Connections

STORIES OF MISSION
& MINISTRY

*In gratitude to the Congregation of Sisters
of St. Agnes, our founders, sponsors, and
partners in ministry from 1939 - 2017*



CSA

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Promoting Justice, Building Community

Dear Friends,



As we enter more deeply into a new year, I pause to give thanks for all the beauty that has revealed itself amidst the orderly chaos of life in the 21st century. CSA has been celebrating 160 years of ministry and service in the mission of Jesus. Through the years there have been challenges and blessings as well as a movement into where God is calling us at the present time. Words from poet and philosopher John O'Donohue give substance to the path that we have followed in responding to the needs of our times.

Beauty isn't all about just nice loveliness... Beauty is about more rounded, substantial becoming. And I think, when we cross a new threshold, that if we cross worthily, what we do is we heal the patterns of repetition that were in us that had us caught somewhere. And in our crossing, then, we cross onto new ground, where we just don't repeat what we've been through in the last place we were. So I think beauty, in that sense, is about an emerging fullness, a greater sense of grace and elegance, a deeper sense of depth, and also a kind of homecoming for the enriched memory of your unfolding life.

We began in Barton, Wisconsin, where we responded to the needs of the times in education and parish ministry. After a move to Fond du Lac, we eventually expanded our outreach to include healthcare, social service, and hospitality along with our initial commitments to education and pastoral work. Eventually we accepted an invitation to serve in Nicaragua; we began with missionaries from the United States, accepted Nicaraguan women, and now continue the work with a majority of Nicaraguan sisters serving in the fields of education, pastoral work and healthcare. As the years continued and our traditional works in the United States began to be carried out by those we educated and mentored in our schools and hospitals, the works of our sisters became more varied. With changes in the church and in our own community, we currently serve in areas of higher education, social services, healthcare, ministry with migrants and the homeless, artistry, law, music, community outreach as well as service to one another.

Unchanging is our commitment to respond to those whose faith life or human dignity is threatened, always recognizing that we come to accompany those with whom we work. Echoing our foundress, Mother Agnes, "we, too, are among the needy and are enriched by those we serve."

In the peace and love of Christ,

Sister Jean Steffes, CSA
General Superior

Contents



- 3 School of Nursing Made a Difference
- 4 Monroe Clinic Dedicates Glass Art to CSA
- 5 Schuler and Krikau Join CSA Staff
- 6 Eating for a Sustainable Earth
- 7 In Memoriam... Walking with God
- 8 Follow CSA on Social Media

Editorial Board Members:

Sister Jeremy Quinn, Sister Jean Perry,
Sister Susan Treis, Sister Cyndi Nienhaus,
Dusty Krikau, and Suzanne Flood.

ON THE COVER:

Photograph of "Be Still" modified by Sister Doris Klein, CSA

School of Nursing Made a Difference

BY JENNY LUKOMSKI

In a time of national emergency, citizens work to make a difference any way they can. The Sisters of St. Agnes are no exception as evidenced by their efforts to train nurses during both World Wars.

St. Agnes School of Nursing opened in Fond du Lac in 1910 as the need for sister nurses increased with the opening of CSA's second hospital, St. Anthony in Hays, Kansas. When a nursing shortage occurred during the First World War as well as growing patient loads at St. Agnes and St. Anthony Hospitals, the decision was made to open St. Agnes School of Nursing to lay students in 1917.

A generation later as the United States entered World War II, CSA again stepped up and took part in the Nurse Cadet Corps program to help train nurses for the war effort. Two classes of students enrolled each year in the government-subsidized accelerated program. CSA's program was initiated by Sister Digna Desch, who served as director of the school from 1922 to 1944 and 1947 to 1951. Her successor, Sister Juliana Kohne, continued the program even as she dealt with reduced numbers of staff physicians and nurses in the hospitals, a lack of prepared teaching personnel, and skyrocketing enrollments. Despite these hardships, between 1943 and 1948, St. Agnes School of Nursing graduated 240 cadet nurses, many of whom served with distinction in the armed forces and veterans' hospitals.



Form 300 **CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP**
 FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
 U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
 UNITED STATES CADET NURSE CORPS

SERIAL NO. [REDACTED]

MISS (Mrs.) Kathleen Sigl IS A MEME
 OF THE
UNITED STATES CADET NURSE CORPS
 AND IS ENROLLED AT St. Agnes
 OF Fond du Lac (am) Wisconsin

Thomas J. [Signature] DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF NURSE EDUCATION, U. S. P. H. S.
Kathleen Sigl (SIGNATURE OF CADET NURSE)
Sister M. Juliana DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF NURSING.

DATE ISSUED July 14, 1944
 (4409) THIS MEMBERSHIP CARD IS NOT TRANSFERABLE (OVE

PLEDGE

In consideration of the training, payments, and other benefits which are provided me as a member of the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps, I agree that I will be available for military or other Federal, governmental, or essential civilian services for the duration of the present war.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-38240-1

L to R: Sisters Mary Noel Brown, Leanne Sitter, Susan Stucki, Susan Seeb, Florence Magnan, Jean Steffes (General Superior), Edie Crews, Ms. Rachelle Barina (SSM Health), Sister Donna Innes, Ms. Cara Schmitt (SSM Health)



Monroe Clinic Dedicates Glass Art *to CSA*

BY SISTER MARY NOEL BROWN, CSA

Monroe Clinic's celebration of their first Heritage Week as part of SSM Health was filled with gratitude, joy, and hope for the future. Grateful for the Congregation of St. Agnes (CSA), their

founders and legacy sponsor, Monroe Clinic dedicated a commissioned piece of glass art to CSA.

Jane Monahan, vice-president of ministry and human resources, shared with members of CSA and others who gathered for the event:

We are dedicating this piece of artwork to CSA, which we entitled *Be Still*. It represents what our hearts feel. Before your transition to SSM Health, we wanted to do something to honor you. We wanted your story and legacy, which is our story and legacy, to continue.

Your spirit and ideals are rooted deeply within the culture of Monroe Clinic. You have shown us how to be Christlike to others. You have witnessed how mission is most important. You have demonstrated

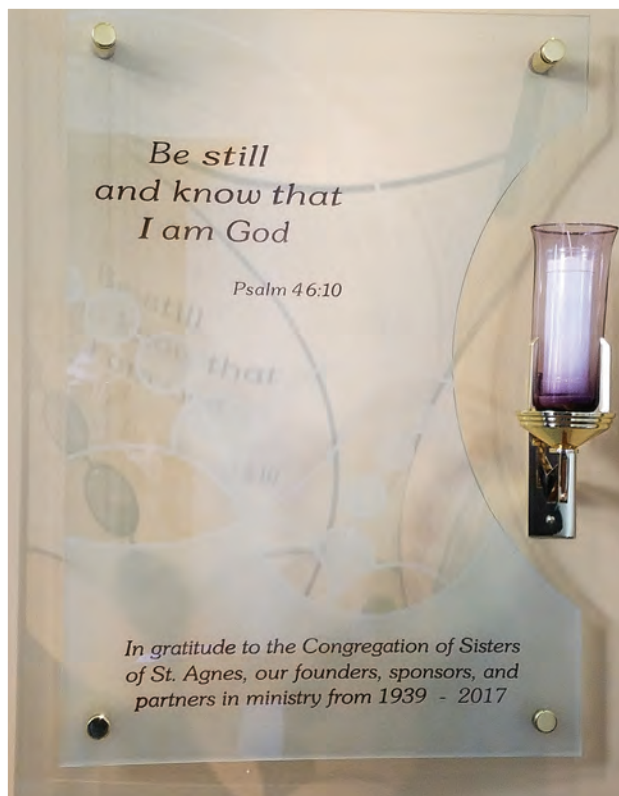


the good that comes from being faithful servants and good stewards of our resources. We have learned from you the importance of prayer and trust in God.

As we view the artwork in this chapel, we see the words, *'Be still and know that I am God.'* (Psalm 46:10) How important these words have been throughout your journey as you and your predecessors embraced hardships, adversity, and difficult decisions with faith and trust! How important these words are for us as we journey forward as part of SSM Health! How important these words are for every person who kneels before them praying for healing and comfort and waiting to be heard! *'Be still and know that I am God.'* Be still.

Linda O'Leary, chaplain, led the assembly in dedicating the artwork to CSA.

We share with you our deepest gratitude for being our founders, sponsor, and partners in ministry from 1939-2017. May God bless you as you continue to serve the people of God. May God guide us as we carry forward your legacy . . . and that of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary. We are stronger together and 'through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God'. (SSM Health Mission)



Lisa Schuler (right) and Dusty Krikau recently joined the CSA administrative staff.

Schuler and Krikau Join CSA Staff

BY DUSTY KRIKAU

The motherhouse recently welcomed two new faces to the administrative staff; Lisa Schuler, Health Advocate and Wellness RN, was hired in mid-November and Dusty Krikau, Director of Mission Advancement, came on board in early December.

Schuler earned a BSN from Marian College in 1987 and has experience as a clinician in a variety of healthcare settings, including acute care along with home care and hospice. In her current role she will serve in both an advisory and consultative approach for the Sisters on mission and will develop several wellness programs for the Sisters, such as virtual journeys to visit CSA missions and Health and Wellness games.

"I am very excited and grateful to be working with the Sisters in this capacity and look forward to advocating for them along with promoting health and wellness," said Schuler.

Krikau's role was created as a way to blend and unify messaging for the internal and external communication tasks, including web content, social media content, development appeals, press releases, and print publications, such as *Reflections & Connections*. She has a BS in Communication from UW-Eau Claire and a Masters in Education from James Madison University to support her experiences with marketing, communication, and event planning on various campuses and communities.

"I've been spending most of my time reading and listening and am looking forward to helping share the many stories that have already inspired me," said Krikau.



Eating for a Sustainable Earth

BY SISTER RUTH BATTAGLIA, CSA

Current methods of producing, distributing and consuming food are simply not environmentally sustainable. They are damaging our planet and making it less hospitable for human existence. *The Washington Post* summed it up this way: “Global warming has typically been linked to the burning of fossil fuels, but food production is a huge and underappreciated factor.” A report published in the journal, *Nature*, argues that a sustainable food system that doesn’t ravage the environment is going to require a radical change in the way we eat. A huge reduction in meat consumption will be needed to fulfill the food demands of the 2 billion additional people expected to inhabit the planet by 2050.

Currently half of the planet’s ice-free land surface is devoted to livestock or the growing of feed for animals. That is the size of North and South America combined. Not only is the production of meat an environmentally inefficient way to generate calories for human consumption, but some animals, such as cows, produce large amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Kelly Robe, CSA associate from Green Bay, affirmed in her recent presentation: *Care of Creation: Sustainable Nutrition*, the necessity of making dietary changes. She noted that raising cattle threatens clean water both by the amount of water required to raise the animals as well as the pollution due to harmful manure run-off into rivers, streams, lakes and wells. Moreover, Bovine Growth Hormone and animal runoff containing antibiotics and hormones are in our food and water. These hormones are known endocrine disruptors contributing to our nation’s health care crisis. Red meat in the standard American diet creates an increased risk for heart disease. The alternative to meat is a diet built around plant-based proteins, fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes. Such a diet, well known to produce health benefits, would eliminate the harmful effects of producing large amounts of meat. A member of the congregation’s *Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation* committee, Kelly challenged the audience to be good stewards of the environment by examining the impact of their eating habits.

What will you do?

In Memoriam...Walking with God



Sister Teresita Inés Argüello, CSA
September 20, 2018

Sister Teresita Inés Argüello, Victoria Argüello Hernández, was born in Bluefields, Nicaragua, on December 23, 1925. Victoria was one of the first two Nicaraguan women

to join the pioneer community of Sisters of St. Agnes at Waspam in June 1948 and made profession of vows in CSA on August 15, 1951. In Nicaragua, Sister taught primary students in Managua, Puerto Cabezas, Rosita, and Waspam and focused upon catechetics in her later years.



Sister Mary Lee Spielbauer, CSA
September 30, 2018

Sister Mary Lee Spielbauer, baptized Catherine Audrey Spielbauer, was born in Cudahy, WI, on September 4, 1923. After graduating from high school, Catherine worked in a factory, joined the Cadet

Nursing Corps, and in 1944 entered St. Agnes School of Nursing, Fond du Lac. Catherine entered St. Agnes Convent in 1956 and made her first profession of vows in the Congregation as Sister Mary Lee on August 15, 1958. She ministered as a nurse in Fond du Lac and Monroe, Wisconsin and Colby, Kansas.



Sister Mary Jane Wipperfurth, CSA
October 10, 2018

Sister Mary Jane Wipperfurth, CSA, formerly Sister Anthony, was born in Waunakee, WI on August 30, 1927. Mary Jane made her first profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes

on August 15, 1946. Sister ministered for 40 years as a housekeeper and dietician in Wisconsin, Indiana, New York, and Illinois. She enjoyed embroidering, visiting the sick, and spending precious time caring for the numerous plants all over Nazareth Court and Center.



Sister Mary Albert Flynn, CSA
October 16, 2018

Sister Mary Albert, baptized Patricia Flynn, was born in Yonkers, NY on October 22, 1933, to Albert and Mary Terry Flynn. Patricia entered St. Agnes Convent in 1951 following her graduation from Sacred

Heart High School in Yonkers. She made her profession of vows as Sister Mary Albert in the Congregation of Sisters of

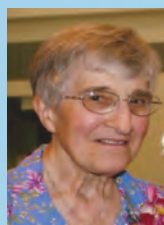
St. Agnes on August 15, 1954. Sister Mary Albert ministered her whole life in the field of education in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and New York. She retired to Fond du Lac in 2005, living at St. Agnes Convent and volunteering until she moved to assisted living at Nazareth Court and Center.



Sister Michaela O'Brien, CSA
October 17, 2018

Sister Michaela O'Brien, CSA, formerly Mary Ellen O'Brien, was born in Eden, WI on January 15, 1920, to James H. O'Brien and Estelle Stack O'Brien. In 1941 she received a BS in Physical Education and Social Studies

from UW-LaCrosse. In 1943, Mary Ellen entered St. Agnes Convent. She made her profession of vows as Sister Michaela in CSA on August 15, 1946. She taught at St. Mary's Springs, Fond du Lac and Beloit Catholic High in Beloit, WI. Sister Michaela served in a variety of congregational ministries. Her last thirty years were focused upon ministries at St. Mary's Springs.



Sister Kathleen Schmitz, CSA
November 22, 2018

Sister Kathleen Schmitz, CSA, formerly known as Sister David Gerard, was born in Brothertown, WI, on August 4, 1936, to Ambrose Schmitz and Esther Andrew Schmitz. In 1955, Kathleen entered St. Agnes

Convent and on August 15, 1958, she made first profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes as Sister David Gerard. Sister Kathleen ministered as a homemaker for 28 years with the sisters living in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and New York. She also worked in the dietary department at Mary Hill Retirement Home in Milwaukee, WI, for six years and for 14 years in Food Service at The Leo House, New York City.



Sister Barbara Rose Miskelly, CSA
November 29, 2018

Sister Barbara Rose Miskelly, CSA, baptized Kathleen Mary, was born in Evanston, IL, on October 23, 1933. Kathleen entered St. Agnes Convent in 1947. Sister Barbara Rose made her first profession of vows in

the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1952. Sister Barbara Rose ministered in education in Yonkers, NY; Two Rivers, Fond du Lac, Wauwatosa, and North Fond du Lac, WI; and in Bensenville, IL.

For full obituaries go to www.csasisters.org. Memorials can be sent to the CSA Development Office or through the website.



CSA

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Promoting Justice, Building Community

320 County Road K
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Ways to connect with CSA:

CSA web site:

www.csasisters.org

Adelante Mujer/Advance Woman

www.womanadvance.com

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation

justicepeacecsa.blogspot.com

Streams 'N Stirrings

csa-vocations.blogspot.com



www.facebook.com/csasisters



www.youtube.com/TheCSAChannel1

Follow CSA on Social Media

BY CHELSEA KOENIGS

Connect with the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes through social media for news, events, photos, and other up-to-the-minute information. Use our usernames for each site to find and follow us.



Facebook – Congregation of Sisters of St Agnes

Receive notifications when blog posts are made, read articles on religious life or the Catholic

Church, and add upcoming special events to your calendar by following us on Facebook. In 2018, the congregation celebrated its 160th anniversary. Each week, using photos provided by the CSA archivist, a particular decade was highlighted by creating a photo album posted to the Facebook page.



Instagram – sistersofcsa

Instagram features photos or videos of special moments and memories of the congregation's past and present: women in formation, seasonal changes at the motherhouse grounds, as well as biographies of individual sisters or their ministries.



LinkedIn – Congregation of Sisters of St Agnes

LinkedIn provides a view of the congregation from a vocational perspective. Here you will find articles pertaining to religious life, the work being done at missions throughout the country, and updates on the Church.



YouTube - TheCSAChannel1

Find current and historic videos of Sisters in action and special events, plus educational videos and videos designed to assist you with reflection.



Twitter - @RuthBattaglia5

Sister Ruth Battaglia, Director of the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Office, provides current information on how you can take action to impact our environmental, social, economic and political systems in positive ways.