

REFLECTIONS & *Connections*

AUGUST 2019



2019 CSA SISTER JUBILARIANS AND ASSOCIATES

*For names and
years of our
2019 Jubilarians,
please see page 2.*

STORIES OF MISSION
& MINISTRY



CSA

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

Dear Friends,



Sowers of Prophetic Hope was the theme of a recent assembly I attended in Rome as a member of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG). The logo for the gathering powerfully portrays what all of us – Sisters of St. Agnes, associates, partners in ministry, friends and



benefactors – are encouraged to do and be at this time. To paraphrase a verse from the book of Proverbs, where there is no hope, the people perish. Each and every one of us is invited to be a sign of hope in a world marked by division and strife, for each other and especially for those who find themselves on the margins of our society and culture.

Our reading of Scripture reveals that there are three things that will last – faith, hope and love. The three are inseparable. And it is hope that keeps us going when all else fails. Being people of hope empowers us to make vows and life-promises. It gives us the courage to plant gardens, have children, and find time for relaxation and vacation. It undergirds our pursuit of life-goals and enables us to see the best in that which surrounds us rather than to focus on what fails to satisfy.

As you see in the logo, seeds are sown by each of us as we journey through life. Some seeds will flourish, some will not. What is important is that we continue to share our seeds, our kernels of wisdom, as we travel through the years we are given, trusting that what does take hold will bring hope to the generations following.

In the peace and love of Christ,
Sister Jean Steffes, CSA
General Superior



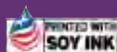
On the Cover

Back Row L to R: Associate Kate Candee (15), Sisters Monica Justinger (50), Sonia Miley (50), Peg Spindler (50) Georgeann Roudebush (60), Regina Anhalt (60), Marise Meis (60), Hertha Longo (50), Rose Clare Ehrlich (60), Marianna Frigo (60)

Front Row L to R: Sisters Carol Geels (70), Mary Dennis McMahon (70), Loretta Meidl (75), Caryl Hartjes (60)

Not pictured: Sisters Colombiere Revelant (85), Annette Herr (70), Associates Virginia Perrizo (25), Kelly Estle (15), and Therese Geraci (15)

Contents



Editorial Board Members:

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

- 3 Charism Carriers
- 4 Associate Days
- 6 CSA Celebrates Jubilarians
- 8 Color Brave Conversations During CSA Days
- 9 In Memoriam... Walking with God
- 10 From the Archives: Fifty Years of Renewal
- 11 Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes Statement Concerning the Treatment of Immigrants on the Border of the United States and Mexico
- 12 Welcome Michelle Majewski

Charism Carriers

BY DUSTY KRIKAU

There is a certain “something” that can be felt when encountering the Sisters of St. Agnes. During CSA Days 2019, Sister Teresa Maya, CCIV, spent a full day with the Sisters of St. Agnes exploring the concept of charism and the culture of CSA. “Charism” is the word used to refer to that mysterious gift of energy that touches the heart, creates a sense that one is present in a unified spiritual community, and inspires action. Upon experiencing the charism of CSA, it is easy to recognize; but when asked to put it into words, it becomes impossible to describe.

Sister Tere shared her favorite model of understanding charism, a model originally proposed by Parker Palmer and Barbara Fiand. The model is inclusive of everyone who feels called by the charism: Sisters, Associates, Alumni from Marian University, medical providers at former Agnesian healthcare sites, and anyone else who has interacted with CSA. Each group encounters the same ideals, spirit, and mission, but in different ways and each responds to the call of the charism differently. In this way, we are all charism carriers helping to care for the charism and continually clarifying it for one another.

Sister Tere explained, “Charism is the energy that holds the community of charism carriers together. The closer we lean into this energy and into this relationship the more energy is generated. I like this model of charism as energy. The more people that become charism carriers, the more energy it has.”

In 2014, Pope Francis shared the Apostolic Letter on the Year of Consecrated Life. In it he references the charism as something to be celebrated with our “entire charismatic ‘family’, so that [we] can grow and respond together to the promptings of the Spirit in society today.”

We invite you to celebrate the charism!

How do you experience and share the CSA charism? Share symbols or words that represent the CSA charism to you.

Post your comments or photos to the CSA Facebook or Instagram pages, email them to csaadm@csasisters.org, or send them by mail to the address on the back page.



Sister Tere Maya, CCVI,
at CSA Days 2019.

CSA Associates are a community of women and men called by the Spirit to embody the charism, mission, and spirituality of the Sisters of St. Agnes.



Associate Days

BY DUSTY KRIKAU

40 Associates gathered at the CSA motherhouse on Monday and Tuesday, June 17 and 18, 2019, to strengthen the bonds of Associate Community. A spiritual retreat was held on

Monday, while Tuesday was focused on developing the vision of how to be charism carriers into the future. Monday's retreat topic was *Contemplating our Baptismal Call: Listening, Responding, Walking*. After a morning



Associates discuss photos.



Associates Polly, Kate and Ann.

of guided meditation, associates spent their afternoon praying and reflecting in the labyrinth. They also had the opportunity to explore the seven rambling springs among the 240 acres at the motherhouse on a photographic quest, noticing sensations and feelings as they took their photos. They returned to the meeting room to share the deeper meaning of their photos with one another. Associate Marie Trebec remarked on her photo of a stream: “My associate commitment is like a running stream that moves beneath my daily life. It helps me to remember that each moment is a gift and everything I do, no matter how small, is holy.”

The associates gathered on Tuesday for presentations by the six Community Action Circles, engaging



“My associate commitment is like a running stream that moves beneath my daily life. It helps me to remember that each moment is a gift and everything I do, no matter how small, is holy.”

— Associate Marie Trebec

associates in community building and fostering ways for them to further their commitment to service and mission. Together they each completed a “Spiritual Gift Inventory” to help them renew their understanding of the gifts and talents with which they had been blessed and explore how they could best be utilized.

The two-day gathering was an inspiration to Associate Lois Pflum; “I could re-focus once again on what it means to me to be an associate. Individually and in small groups, I was given

the opportunity to ponder and share appropriate, pertinent topics related to our mission as associates. This experience was much different from my ‘normal’ busy, on-the-go days. At the end of the second day, I felt refreshed and renewed, eager to share my enthusiasm with others.”



Associates pray in the Labyrinth.

CSA Celebrates Jubilarians

BY DUSTY KRIKAU

On June 23, 2019, members of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes celebrated anniversaries of their religious profession at Holy Family Church.

A total of 15 sisters were honored for their years of religious service. In addition, four associate members were recognized for their years of commitment to the congregation.

Father Ken Smits, OFM Cap., presided and Sister Georgeann Roudebush gave the reflection. Readers were Sisters Marise Meis and Hertha Longo. Sister Regina Anhalt presented the Prayer of the Faithful.



▲ **85 Years (1934)**
Sister Colombiere Revelant



▲ **75 Years (1944)**
Sister Loretta Meidl



◀ **70 Years (1949)**
L to R: Sisters Mary Dennis McMahon
and Carol Geels
Subset: Sister Annette Herr is pictured from her
Jubilee celebration in 2009



◀ **60 Years (1959)**
L to R: Sisters Marianna Frigo,
Rose Clare Ehrlich, Regina
Anhalt, Georgeann Roudebush,
Caryl Hartjes, and Marise Meis

50 Years (1969) ▶
L to R: Sisters Peg Spindler,
Sonia Miley, Monica Justinger,
and Hertha Longo



▶ **15 Years (2004)**
Associate Kate Candee



Not pictured: Associates Virginia Perrizo (25 years),
Kelly Estle (15 years), and Therese Geraci (15 years)

Individual profiles of each sister and associate celebrating
her jubilee can be found at:

www.csasisters.org/about-us/jubilarians.cfm



Color Brave

Conversations During CSA Days

The Color Brave traveling photo exhibit made its final stop at CSA Days 2019.

BY SISTER RUTH BATTAGLIA, CSA AND MS. DUSTY KRIKAU

“In the fall of 2018, I attended an exhibit at Marian University titled, Color-Brave. Around the perimeter of Stayer Dining Room were 20 photos, each with an attached, short biographical story. As I made my way around the room spending time with each photo and story, I was deeply moved, feeling a connection as if we were meeting in person,” said Sister Ruth Battaglia, Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Coordinator for CSA. When a suggestion was made that the exhibit be available during CSA Days, Sister Ruth contacted the creators and sponsors of the exhibit, Fit Oshkosh, to make arrangements.

According to Fit Oshkosh, “This project is a celebration of people of color, our choices, our lives with our own images and stories. Because the Racial Literacy of the dominant culture in Oshkosh remains low, there are several negative, common, racialized narratives about residents of color: (1) they are either from the “hoods” of Milwaukee or Chicago and (2) the most alarming of common themes is they moved here after being dismissed from one of the area prisons. This last narrative is the most prevalent and the most damaging. The goal of the exhibit is to create a new narrative about the complex reasons people move into a new community.”

During breaks from administrative meetings, sisters and associates took the time to read the stories, learn about the lives of the people in the photographs, and discuss their shared humanity. Attendees described the exhibit as “impressive and needed,” “inspiring,” and filled with “excellent photos and statements.”

Fit Oshkosh was established in July of 2014, to promote social transformation through Color-Brave conversations, education, advocacy, and research in order to achieve racial equity and justice within the community. While the photos feature residents of Oshkosh, their experiences mirror those of Black and Brown residents of communities throughout the country. In an effort to help the new narrative reach wider audiences, Fit Oshkosh is transforming the exhibit into something a bit easier to transport: a book. Keep an eye on www.fitoshkoshinc.org to find out when you can bring the stories into your living room and have a Color Brave conversation of your own.



Sisters Tere Maya, CCIV, and Vicki Wuolle, CSA, read one of many stories in the Color Brave exhibit.

In Memoriam... Walking with God



Sister Martina Kuhn, CSA

May 20, 2019

Sister Martina Kuhn, CSA, formerly Sister Frederick, was born in Ellis, KS, on January 2, 1924, to Fred Kuhn and Catherine Befort Kuhn. Martina entered St. Agnes Convent, Fond du Lac, from Antonino, KS, in August 1939. She made her first profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1943. For 32 years she ministered as a homemaker for the Sisters of St. Agnes at a number of their mission houses in WI and NY. Sister Martina worked for two years in the dietary kitchen at St. Clare Hospital, Monroe, WI. She was food supervisor for one year at St. John's Rest Home, Victoria, KS. In the remaining years of her active ministry, Sister Martina served as a teacher aide, school office worker, library aide and tutor. She was trained in and ministered as a pastoral minister in the Hays area. Sister Martina retired to Fond du Lac, WI, for her remaining years.



Sister Martha Kretschmer, CSA

May 28, 2019

Sister Martha Kretschmer, CSA, formerly Sister Albert Marie, was born in New Munster, WI, on October 22, 1930, to John Kretschmer and Louisa Epping Kretschmer. Martha entered St. Agnes Convent in 1945 and graduated from St. Agnes High School in 1948. She made her first profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1950. Sister Martha was a teacher for 37 years, a teacher-principal for 12 years during that time, and served as principal for 11 additional years in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. Sister Martha ministered in parish ministry, caring for the elderly in a Madison parish and then retired to Nazareth Court and Center in Fond du Lac, WI.



Sister Paul Ann Dinkel, CSA

June 1, 2019

Sister Paul Ann, CSA, formerly Agnese Dinkel, was born in Victoria, KS, on October 12, 1933, to Frank M. Dinkel and Rosa Hertel Dinkel. In 1951, Agnese entered St. Agnes Convent, Fond du Lac, WI. She made her profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1954, with the religious name Sister Paul Ann. One of

her sisters and one brother also entered religious life: Sister Francis Rose, CSA, and Father Harvey, OFM Cap. Sister was a homemaker in CSA convents for 23 years in Kansas, Indiana, Wisconsin, and New York. In her last years in Hays, KS, she offered a ministry of presence to the staff and students at TMP-Marian High School. Sister Paul Ann retired to Nazareth Court and Center, Fond du Lac, for her remaining years.



Sister Annette Herr, CSA

June 28, 2019

Sister Annette Herr, CSA, formerly Sister Mary Michael, was born in Sheboygan, WI, on January 2, 1930, to George Herr and Amalia Rammer Herr. She entered St. Agnes Convent in 1945, continued her studies, and graduated from St. Agnes High School, Fond du Lac. She made her first profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1949. Sister obtained a BS in Pharmacy from St. Louis University. She regularly updated her professional knowledge through classes and conferences related to pharmacy. In 1972 she earned her MA in Theology from St. Mary University, San Antonio, TX. Her ministry as a pharmacist continued for 42 years in hospitals in Fond du Lac, WI; Hays, KS; San Antonio, TX; and Milwaukee, WI. Sister Annette spent her final years at Nazareth Court and Center and St. Francis Home, Fond du Lac.



Sister Marie Endres, CSA

July 11, 2019

Sister Marie Endres, CSA, formerly Emma Walburga, was born in Waunakee, WI, on October 26, 1923, to Aloysius Leo Endres and Monica Schwab Endres. In 1938, she entered St. Agnes Convent, Fond du Lac, WI, and made her profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1943. Sister was a primary teacher—and in three schools a teaching principal—for 40 years in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Pennsylvania. At St. Mary's Springs High School, Fond du Lac, she was school receptionist for 10 years. In retirement, she volunteered as a tutor in the foster grandparent program. She moved to Nazareth Court and Center, Fond du Lac, in 2013.

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



From the Archives:

Fifty Years of Renewal

BY JENNY LUKOMSKI, ARCHIVIST

Modification to the habit allowed sisters more personal choice.

In June 1969, delegate sisters gathered for a general chapter that would be like no other. This would be the first chapter since the Second Vatican Council issued its decrees for the renewal of religious life. In addition to calling for a return to the original charism of the founders, the conciliar documents instructed congregations to adapt their ministries, government structure, formation procedures, and customs based on the needs of the time and place.

Governing principles of subsidiarity and collegiality were introduced requiring the delegation of decision-making and more input from all sisters. The role of apostolic councilor was created to address both the personal and professional well-being of the sisters. Sisters were encouraged to voice their opinions about their personal preferences for ministry.

Recognizing that religious formation was a lifelong endeavor, the congregation initiated programs for midlife and retired sisters. The formation of candidates and novices was also modified because of the societal changes experienced by women entering religious life at the time.

Other changes to religious life allowed more freedom for personal choices regarding daily

prayer forms, vacations and home visits, and the sisters' personal budgets. Most visible and symbolic, however, was the modification of the habit, which caused much angst among the sisters and laity.

The congregation spent years educating and listening to sisters as these changes were implemented, allowing each sister to make the changes as she felt ready. This process of renewal continues today as sisters read the signs of the times and adapt as necessary while still remaining true to their mission of living the Gospel.



50 years ago, the habit design discussion was big news in the community.

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes Statement Concerning the Treatment of Immigrants on the Border of the United States and Mexico

Issued July 3, 2019

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Agnes stands with those whose faith life and human dignity are threatened, and we denounce in the strongest possible terms the unconscionable mistreatment of Immigrants, especially children, on the U.S.-Mexico border while in U.S. custody, and call on our elected leaders to take all measures necessary to provide them with adequate food, shelter, and healthcare, and in the case of these children, to reunite them with their families.

That these persons, but especially children – infants, toddlers, youngsters – reportedly have been subject to horrific overcrowding, hunger, lice infestations, sleeping on concrete floors, and other unhygienic and inhumane conditions is an assault on our human decency and fundamental moral values.

All people, regardless of their country of origin or legal status, are made in the image of God and should be treated with dignity and respect. We can and must remain a country that provides refuge for children and families fleeing violence, persecution, and acute poverty.

As Members of Congress take steps to address the urgent humanitarian crisis on the border created by this Administration's cruel approach to immigration, the top priority must be to ensure the welfare and wellbeing of these vulnerable people especially the children now and into the future.

The Leadership Team of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Agnes,

Sister Jean Steffes, General Superior

Sister Rhea Emmer, General Vicar

Sister Susan Seeby, General Councilor

Sister Cyndi Nienhaus, General Councilor

Further Reading:

Find all the CSA Corporate Statements and Corporate Stances on the "About Us" page at www.csasisters.org



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Ways to connect with CSA:

CSA web site:

www.csasisters.org

Adelante Mujer/Advance Woman

www.womanadvance.com

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation

www.csasisters.org/integrity-of-creation

Streams 'N Stirrings

csavocations.blogspot.com



www.facebook.com/csasisters

www.facebook.com/AssociatesofCSA



www.youtube.com/TheCSAChannel1

Update your contact information by emailing us at csadm@csasisters.org or calling 920-907-2300.

Welcome: Michelle Majewski

BY DUSTY KRIKAU

The CSA Leadership Team is happy to welcome Michelle Majewski, Psy.D., to the position of Sponsorship Advisor. In the newly restructured ministry of Sponsorship, Dr. Majewski will serve on the boards of Marian University and Hazotte Ministries as a representative of CSA. She will also act as an advisor to the CSA Corporate Ministry Members. A Professor Emerita of Marian University, Dr. Majewski comes to the role with a deep background in Catholic Higher Education and a long history of service to Marian University, most recently as the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

Reflecting on her new role, Majewski remarked, "I feel especially privileged to serve in the role of Sponsorship Advisor. The opportunity to focus on the mission of CSA ministries, the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church and to support the work of the sisters of CSA is exciting and rewarding."

Majewski joined the administrative staff in early May and had the opportunity to meet and gather insights from many sisters during CSA Days in June. Dr. Majewski is married to Dr.

Larry Reynolds, resides in Fond du Lac, and has a son and daughter-in-law in Milwaukee. In her free time, she enjoys traveling with her husband, gardening, reading, knitting, watercolor painting, and cooking.



Dr. Michelle Majewski recently joined the CSA staff.