

REFLECTIONS

&
Connections

AUGUST 2020



Doris Klein, CSA

STORIES OF MISSION
& MINISTRY



CSA

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

Dear Friends,



On August 1, 1870, the Sisters of St. Agnes (CSA) moved their motherhouse from Barton to Fond du Lac. At the time, Fond du Lac was Wisconsin's second largest city. The 12 city lots on East Division Street provided a home-base for the fledgling community. Now, 150 years later, we give thanks for that prescient decision. Through partnerships, planning and collaboration in Fond du Lac, St. Agnes Hospital was founded to serve the health care needs of the city and surrounding area. The Henry Boyle Catholic Home for the Aged (later St. Francis Home) provided residential care for the elderly and infirm. St. Mary's Springs Academy, begun as a female boarding school, eventually provided secondary education to girls and boys from the city and countryside. The six local Catholic elementary schools were also staffed by sisters and "lay" teachers for decades. Our CSA mission acknowledges that we are enriched by those we

serve, and that has surely been true to our relationships with many others in the city of Fond du Lac.

While getting established in Fond du Lac, the sisters also came to provide services in education, health care, social services and parish ministries across the United States with hubs in Kansas, New York, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Minnesota, and in smaller numbers throughout the United States. In the 1940s a mission was established in Nicaragua and other Latin American countries and in the 1990s in Chelyabinsk, Novosibirsk, Siberia.

Throughout the history of CSA, our mission has been dynamic, allowing for growth and change in response to the needs of the times. Today we feel blessed to live and serve with organizations and individuals committed to promoting peace and furthering human dignity in daily life while also promoting needed transformation and change. We have expanded our responses to current needs, partnering with others to find solutions, helping with local as well as global issues.

Though plans to celebrate this summer's significant anniversary have been curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the sisters continue to remain focused on revealing Christ's love wherever ministry or circumstance finds them. As Pope Francis said in his April message to the world, "This is not a time for indifference because the whole world is suffering and needs to be united in facing the pandemic. May the risen Jesus grant hope to all the poor, to those living on the peripheries, to refugees and the homeless. May these, the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters living in the cities and peripheries of every part of the world, not be abandoned." In a twist of "fate" this pandemic has provided all of us with the opportunity for a new kind of "contagion" needed now: "This is a different 'contagion,' a message transmitted from heart to heart – for every human heart awaits this Good News. It is the contagion of hope." (Pope Francis)

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

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Editorial Board Members:

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

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Bringing Life to *Laudato Si'*

Retired Sister Dolores Lytle, CSA, was inspired to action when she saw the announcement that Sister Dulce María Rodríguez López, CSA, had received her Diploma in Laudato Si' and Sustainable Development from the Universidad Centroamericana. Following Sister Dulce's example, Sister Dolores sought out the Global Catholic Climate Movement and received recognition as a "Laudato Si' Animator" in June of 2020.

Founded in January of 2015, the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) is a young non-profit that began its work six months before Pope Francis released his encyclical, Laudato Si'. In 2020, Laudato Si' and GCCM both celebrated five years of coordinated efforts to care for God's creation. During those five years, GCCM has been training people to be actively engaged in the work of Laudato Si' by offering a "Laudato Si' Animator" course among many other things.

The Latin root of the term "animate" is "anima," meaning life or soul. Laudato Si' Animators, like Sisters Dolores and Dulce, are charged with instilling life and soul into the message of Laudato Si' and inspiring renewed vigor around caring for God's creation. The Laudato Si' Animator class is open to any who want to come to a better understanding of Laudato Si'. Sister Dolores found that not only was the technology accessible and easy to navigate, but she left the experience feeling more hopeful, despite knowing that we are in the midst of a climate crisis. She believes that bringing the energy of the sacred to the acts of caring for creation is what will make climate activism sustainable. Sister Dolores hopes to help others realize that when one believes that creation is God's self-revelation, "...their connection with their own creator is going to grow... How do we worship our God by attending to God's creation? ... It is a shift that people who take this class are going to make in their society."



Learn More About Becoming
an Animator by visiting
catholicclimatemovement.global

CSA Jubilarians 2020

Annually, the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes celebrates the anniversaries of the religious profession of sisters and the first commitment of associates.

This year, 18 sisters were honored for their years of religious service. In addition, nine associate members were recognized for their years of relationship with the congregation.

Individual profiles of each sister and associate celebrating jubilee can be found at www.csasisters.org/about-us/jubilarians.cfm



Celebration of Love

Jubilarian Artwork by
Doris Klein

"We are daily blessed by the spacious and gracious Presence of God that companions each of us on this journey of life, love, and faithfulness. This unfolding

rose represents the ever evolving Mystery of the Graced Presence of God's Love over the lifetimes of those celebrating Jubilee. We burst forth in celebration of them and the multiple ways they have nurtured so many with their service, inspiration, and encouragement. With gratitude, we celebrate the wonderful, colorful beauty of their wisdom and presence in our world today."



▲
80 Years (1940)
Sister Dolores Taddy



▲
70 Years (1950)
Sister Helen Sander



▲
60 Years (1960)

L to R: Sisters Julia Wiegerling, Kathleen Ries, Margaret Lorimer, Deborah Golias, Mary Lou Schroeder, and Beatrice Lindsay.

50 Years (1970) ▶

L to R: (Back row) Sisters Doris Klein, Deborah Walter, Anabel Torres, Patricia Bogenschuetz. (Front row) Sisters Jean Andrewjeski, Joann Sambs, Nancy Chow, and Ruth Battaglia



(Left) 25 Years (1995) ▶

Sister Cynthia Nienhaus



(Right) 15 Years (2005) ▶

Sister Celia Fernández



15 Years (2005) ▶

L to R: (Back row) Associates Mary Gorske, Susan Schaefer; (Middle row) Associates Harriet Weisenberger, Jerry Dettlaff, and Rose Mary Dettlaff; (Front row) Associates Carol McIlree, Carol Braun, Barb Brown, and Agnes Breitzman



How Do We

Vote.?

AN ELECTION REFLECTION BY SISTER JULIE ANN KRAHL, CSA

“If indeed, ‘the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics’ the Church ‘cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.’”

— Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

“Voting is a core means of political expression on the part of citizens.... People of faith and conscience demand free and honest elections to determine the will of the people.”

— Network Lobby, *Faithful Democracy: Restoring the Voters Covenant*

How do we vote?

Given the current polarizing dynamics in our country, this question is hard. But, it is a question that dedication to our faith, our longing for social justice, and our consciousness of the right and responsibility to vote, compels each to respond,

“I’ll figure it out and I will vote.”

How do we vote?

Choosing for whom and what to vote requires addressing multiple perspectives beyond a single issue.

Our world is complex, but the Common Good is inclusive. Catholic social justice presents core guidelines: care for the earth, preferential option for the poor, the right to health, dignified work, solidarity, respect for life, and adequate housing. Anchoring in one cannot mean ignoring the others. This is hard, especially when searching for truth challenges our confidence in our vote.

“I’ll consider all aspects of social justice and I will vote.”

How do we vote?

The COVID crisis and political environment are impacting the 2020 elections, but neither can be a cause to negate voting.

We wonder about the safety of voting in person and the reliability of mail-in voting. Yet, absentee ballots appear appropriate to ensure safe, valid voting for all eligible voters. Wide-spread, intentional efforts to suppress voting threaten the right to vote: restricting access for particular groups; convoluted, vague, or omitted directions; minimal or inaccessible voting places and times; prohibitive qualifications; created confusion, fear, and intimidation; assuming something wrong can’t be fixed. This is hard if we believe voting processes must encourage every citizen and must provide an honest accounting of the vote of the people.

“Yes, this is hard. I’ll need to pay attention. I may need to get active before Election Day. I must pray for the election process. This election could be a huge physical, mental, and emotional challenge, but I’ll figure it out and I will vote.”

Join CSA by praying each Tuesday for Peaceful and Just Elections. To request email reminders, send an email to Sister Marilyn Bever at marilynbever@gmail.com.

What the World Needs Now: From I to We to *One*

"... so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

— Romans 12:5

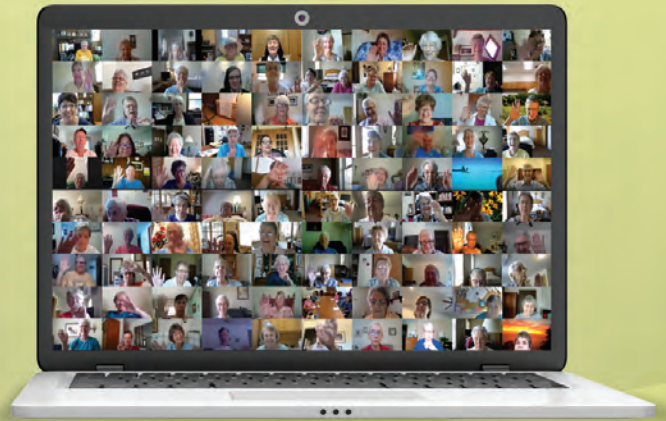
Each summer, every sister who is able makes her way to Marian University in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, to gather for the annual gathering of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes. In addition to providing updates on congregational business, this annual meeting also provides sisters with a chance to reconnect spiritually and see one another in person. Like so many things, the June gathering in 2020 required flexibility and modification to ensure the health and safety of everyone involved. It also required sisters to take on a new technological challenge: learning Zoom.

This historic gathering of 144 sisters was the first of its kind for CSA and ensured that the voices of many sisters were heard regardless of location, language, or technical abilities. With a median age of 79, it could have easily been overwhelming for anyone involved, but the sisters are always interested in responding to the needs of the times and this is what needed to be done.

In the month leading up to the meetings, the theme of the gathering, "What the World Needs Now: From I to We To One," manifested in their learning. Sisters began with a focus on their own individual needs, "from I," by attending educational sessions to learn the technology. After learning the basics, they shifted their focus to those around them, "to We," by learning how to host meetings and helping one another by running several small practice meetings for anyone struggling. They were never hesitant to ask each other for help and were able to come together as "One" via personal computers, phones, or by watching the event on closed circuit TV at Nazareth Court and Center.

As always, the courage of Mother Agnes Hazotte was apparent, as the sisters overcame the virtual barriers and used technology to gather together despite being apart.

Visit www.csasisters.org/about-us to watch a short video recap of CSA Days 2020



144 sisters were able to attend CSA Days 2020 despite not being together in person.

In Memoriam... Walking with God



Sister Colombiere Revelant, CSA

June 12, 2020

Sister Colombiere Revelant, 105, baptized Stephania, was born in West Milwaukee, Wisconsin on December 21, 1914, the first in a family of six children. She entered the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes in August 1931 and made her first profession of vows on August 15, 1934, with the religious name Sister Colombiere. After receiving a BS in Education from Loyola University Chicago, Sister ministered in elementary and secondary education as teacher and principal in Wisconsin, Indiana, and New York. Upon retiring from teaching she spent 16 happy years at her home parish, St. Florian's in Milwaukee, where she tutored students; visited the sick; phoned the elderly; joined the senior parishioners in their activities; and ministered as lector and Eucharistic Minister. She retired in 2003 to Nazareth Court and Center in Fond du Lac and died peacefully at St. Francis Home on June 12, 2020.

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



CSA

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Promoting Justice, Building Community

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subscription preferences at
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Or email us at csaadm@csasisters.org

Or call 920-907-2300

Celebrating 150 Years

Please join the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes as we celebrate 150 years since our arrival in Fond du Lac.

The Sisters of St. Agnes feel blessed to live and minister in a community with organizations and individuals committed to promoting peace and furthering human dignity in daily life and in systemic ways.

The traveling exhibit features the stories of our past, present, and future in Fond du Lac and will be on display throughout the community in 2020.*

September 1-September 30: Exhibit
at Fond du Lac Public Library

**Please note the change of exhibit access. The May issue of Reflections and Connections included some dates and locations which will no longer be accessible to the public based on COVID-19 restrictions.*

Visit the exhibit virtually at
www.csasisters.org/about-us/history.cfm

