

REFLECTIONS

&
Connections

AUGUST 2021

Jubilee

2020...2021...2020...2021



Celebrating God's Love



STORIES OF MISSION
& MINISTRY



CSA

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

Dear Friends,



We first heard the words “revolution of tenderness” in a text by Pope Francis written during his first year as Holy Father. And this is a phrase that has come up again and again in his writings and presentations. In a time of world-wide crises regarding the instability of nations due to political

strife and polarization, overt climate change manifest in raging forest fires, violent hurricanes, uncontrollable flooding in one area and drought in another, and a global pandemic due to a COVID-19 virus that not only replicates but also produces numerous variants give a profound dimension to his reflection on tenderness.

“The Gospel tells us constantly to risk a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction. True faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from membership in the community, from service, from reconciliation with others. The Son of God, by becoming flesh, summoned us to the revolution of tenderness.” (EG 88) Compelling and energizing are words I would use to describe this invitation to the global community. The words are strong; we are not just invited, we are summoned to a revolution of tenderness.

Tenderness in this context cannot be equated with weakness.

It takes real strength to live a life of love as opposed to a life turned inward in a self-serving manner. Tenderness is love that becomes real and comes close. “Tenderness means to use our eyes to see the other, our ears to hear the other, to listen to the children, the poor, those who are afraid of the future. To listen also to the silent cry of our common home, of our sick and polluted earth. Tenderness means to use our hands and our heart to comfort the other, to take care of those in need.” (TED Talk 2017)

When we carry out a revolution of tenderness, we connect our “power” with humility and concrete love. This kind of power becomes a service, a force for good. In this way we help to banish “the globalization of indifference” that keeps us blind to the needs of others and of our precious planet. We recognize the importance of our commitment to those whose faith life and human dignity are threatened as well as our care for all creation. In that way, we become people of hope, leaving behind darkness and a fixation on the past, living fully in the present, and envisioning a future.

This way of living keeps us in synchronicity with our CSA Statement of Mission: “Love binds us together, and by sharing our lives and our faith in community, we support one another to live with singleness of purpose: that among us and in our world the Risen Christ be discovered and revealed.” Relationship is the face of revolution!

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

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ON THE COVER:

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. The fluid flight of the butterfly and the explosive, unfolding rose represent 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.”

Editorial Board Members:

Sister Jeremy Quinn, Sister Jean Perry,
Sister Patricia Hayes, Sister Cyndi
Nienhaus, Dusty Krikau,
and Suzanne Flood.

CSA Grounds 100% Energized *by the Sun*

On September 3, 2015, Bishop Richard Sklba, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Milwaukee, blessed the brand-new solar installation on the CSA motherhouse grounds. The 880-panel solar installation generates 247,000 KW, enough to supply 50% of the electrical needs of the motherhouse. Since that time, CSA has continued to seek out additional ways to demonstrate a corporate commitment to future generations and respond to Pope Francis' call to the church, and the world, to take seriously the threat posed to our human dignity from the effects of climate change.

With that in mind, when Alliant Energy announced the launch of its first community solar project in

Fond du Lac, CSA supported the endeavor by purchasing 568 solar panels (called "blocks") of the solar garden. This investment means that the entire St. Agnes Convent and the on-site maintenance building will be 100% powered by the sun. The Community Solar program provides an opportunity for customers, both residential and corporate, to share the benefits of solar power without having to install solar panels on their property and will be fully operational by the end of 2021.

CSA invites the public to learn more about solar energy by visiting our onsite solar installation, accessing educational materials on the CSA website, and researching to learn if solar is a good sustainable energy option for them.

For detailed information on the Fond du Lac Solar Garden, visit alliantenergy.com/communitysolar



CSA Jubilarians 2021

Each year we celebrate the anniversary of religious profession of sisters and the first commitment of associates. Individual profiles for each sister and associate celebrating Jubilee can be found at www.csasister.org/about-us/jubilarians.cfm

On June 19, 2021, CSA sisters, associates, families, and friends celebrated the 50 Jubilarians of 2020 and 2021 during a virtual ceremony attended by 140 Zoom participants and broadcast live to many more via YouTube. The bilingual event included music by CSA Sisters and a homily from Sister Patricia Hayes, CSA.

We invite you to continue the celebration by watching the recorded event at www.youtube.com/user/TheCSAChannel1

SISTERS



▲
80 Years (1941):
Sister Mercedes Geib



▲
75 Years (1946)
Sister Collean Walsh



▲
70 Years (1951)

L to R: Sister Jané Remondino, Sister Loraine Pfannenstiel, Sister Mary Ellen Johnston, Sister Miriam Therese Putzer, Sister Rosa Inés Silva

60 Years (1961) ▶
L to R: Sister
Dolores Lytle,
Sister Donna Myjak



50 Years (1971) ▶
L to R: Sister Colleen
Braun, Sister Denise
Herrmann, Sister Jomarie
Zielke, Sister Lael Niblick,
Sister Susan Treis



(Left) 40 Years (1981) ▶
L to R: Sister Marie Scott,
Sister Nancy Butz



(Center) 25 Years (1996) ▶
Sister Zorelia Chavarría



(Right) 15 Years (2006) ▶
Sister Patti Robinson



ASSOCIATES

(Left) 25 Years (1996) ▶
Lucille Hanson



(Right) 15 Years (2006) ▶
L to R: Cathy Gannon,
Janice Collins, Katie Healy,
Darlene Perrizo



In Memoriam... Walking with God



Sister Elizabeth Ann Thiel, CSA

Sister Elizabeth Ann Thiel, baptized Margaret, was born in Hilbert, Wisconsin, on March 27, 1926. She entered St. Agnes Convent in 1948 and professed her vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1952. Sister Elizabeth Ann received her B.S. in Education

from Marian College, an M.S. in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, as well as certificates in Theology and Religious Education from St. Norbert's College, De Pere, Wisconsin. For 69 years, Sister faithfully ministered as an elementary school teacher, director of religious education, school principal, and pastoral minister for parishes in Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, and Arizona. After retiring in 2015 from Sherwood, Wisconsin, where she lived and volunteered among the people, Sister Elizabeth Ann moved to Nazareth Court and Center until her frail health necessitated her move to St. Francis Home, where she died peacefully on June 19, 2021.



Sister Janice Funk, CSA

Sister Janice Funk, baptized Nancy Lucille, was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, on May 14, 1934. In 1948, she entered St. Agnes Convent. She made her first profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1953, and began many fruitful years as an elementary school teacher. Sister Janice

received a B.S. in Education from Marian College of Fond du Lac and her M.S. in Education from St. Mary College, Leavenworth, Kansas. She ministered as an elementary teacher from 1953-2004 in Wisconsin, Kansas, and Illinois and then continued to serve as a volunteer tutor. After returning to Fond du Lac, Sister Janice lived for a short time at St. Agnes Convent before moving to Nazareth Court and Center. She died peacefully on June 23, 2021, at St. Francis Home. Sister Janice is survived by her sisters, Sister Jeannine Funk, CSA, and Susan LaPlante, and brother David Funk, OFM. Cap., many relatives and friends, and the Sisters of St. Agnes. Father David celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial on July 1, 2021, at St. Francis Home Chapel.



Sister Marie Wagner, CSA

Sister Marie Wagner, CSA, formerly known as Sister Nicholas, was born in the Town of Mosel, Wisconsin, on January 1, 1922. When Marie's mother died shortly after childbirth, Marie was raised by her maternal grandparents until her father remarried, and Marie gained two half-brothers. In 1940, Marie graduated from

St. Mary's Springs Academy and entered St. Agnes Convent in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. On August 15, 1943, she pronounced her vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes. Sister received a B.S. in Education from Marian College of Fond du Lac, and her M.S. in Education from St. Louis University. She served 27 years as a teacher and counselor in parish schools in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. In later years, she was a staff member at Marian

College, where she served as an educational and career counselor for Marian College students. After retirement Sister Marie began a variety of volunteer ministries: assistant in the archives at St. Agnes Convent, resident support at Nazareth Heights, Fond du Lac Senior Center, St. Agnes Hospital, and ADVOCAP Neighborhood Youth Corps counselor. After retiring she lived at Nazareth Heights for a time before moving to Nazareth Court and Center where she shared actively in the life of the community there. In the 100th year of her life, Sister Marie died at St. Francis Home on July 2, 2021.



Sister Mary Martha Karlin, CSA

Sister Mary Martha Karlin, CSA, baptized Rita, was born on March 26, 1926, in Severin, Kansas, to Leo Karlin and Martha Etzel Karlin. Rita grew up in a farm family of 10 boys and 5 girls. She entered St. Agnes Convent in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, in 1945 and made her profession of vows as a Sister of St. Agnes on August 15, 1948, as Sister Mary

Martha. Having graduated from St. Agnes School of Nursing and later earning a B.S. in Nursing from Marian College, she served in health care ministry at St. Agnes Hospital, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; St. Anthony's Hospital, Hays, Kansas; Nazareth Heights, Fond du Lac; as nursing instructor at St. Agnes School of Nursing and Director of Nursing in hospitals and nursing homes in Wisconsin and Kansas, and as chaplain at St. Anthony's Hospital in Hays. After retiring, Sister Mary Martha was a volunteer in CSA community service as pre-retirement coordinator and onsite coordinator for CSA associates; in hospice care; Community Assistance Center; and Mary Elizabeth Maternity Home. In 2004, Sister Mary Martha moved to Nazareth Court and Center in Fond du Lac where she lived in community until her death at Nazareth Center on July 6, 2021.



Sister Beata Reiser, CSA

Sister Beata Reiser, CSA, baptized Patricia Rita, was born in Lomira, Wisconsin, on December 17, 1937. The daughter of George Nicholas Reiser and Genevieve Johannah Seiler Reiser, she entered St. Agnes Convent in 1951, graduated from St. Agnes High School in 1954, and made her profession of vows in the Congregation of

the Sisters of St. Agnes as Sister Beata on August 15, 1956. Sister Beata graduated from St. Agnes School of Nursing and received a B.S. in Nursing from Marian College, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. She practiced nursing at St. Agnes Hospital, The Fond du Lac Community Health Center, and Nazareth Heights Infirmery, all in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and at St. Clare Hospital, Monroe, Wisconsin. Always a devoted nurse with a special heart for the poor, the elderly, and the dying, Sister spent the last 21 years as a nurse providing hospice care in several rural Mississippi communities near Jackson, Mississippi. In 2012, Sister Beata returned to Fond du Lac where she lived at St. Agnes Convent and Nazareth Court and Center, until frail health necessitated her move to St. Francis Home where she was cared for until her death on July 7, 2021.

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



Sister Diane Bauknecht, CSA,
and CSA Associate
Karen Heuberger

A Time of Transition for *One Sister's Ministry*

“*F*or everything there is a season and a time under Heaven.” Though Holy Scripture does not mention “a time to retire,” Sister Diane Bauknecht, CSA, believes it could have been listed. And she is just as convinced that now is the time for her to retire ... a third time. After 43 years as a teacher and principal in elementary education, then 11 years of service in regional and general leadership roles for CSA, and now, following seven-plus years of ministry within Adelante Mujer, “the time” has come to hand the baton of Executive Director to another mission-hearted leader.

While Adelante Mujer, Inc., is not a sponsored ministry of the congregation, it was founded by CSA Sister Ann McKean in 2009 and many sisters and associates of the congregation have been part of its ongoing success. That relationship will continue to stay strong as CSA Associate Karen Heuberger becomes the Executive Director of Adelante Mujer, managing the international organization with its mission to provide financial assistance to women medical students in northeast Nicaragua, Central America. Karen felt called to the mission, “In September, I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. ... One of the

gentlest, kindest nurse’s aides shared that she wanted to become a nurse, but it was so expensive. I was very moved by her story and felt a desire to be able to help people like her. I knew God would let me know if that was what I was meant to do. A few days later, I found out about the opening at Adelante Mujer. I knew God was leading me.”

She continued, “Adelante Mujer has a great impact on the women who are supported during their time of study. But the impact moves far beyond the women to all those who receive quality and compassionate care from these women.” Having previously traveled to Nicaragua, she looks forward to meeting the current 45 medical students and some of the 61 doctors who have all benefited from Adelante Mujer funding.

Further information about Adelante Mujer, which translates to “Advance Woman,” is available at www.womanadvance.com



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Or call 920-907-2300

Welcome New Staff

CSA is pleased to welcome Tracy Abler as Coordinator of the Justice, Peace, & Integrity of Creation Office and Chuck Gallert as Food Service Director for the CSA motherhouse.

Tracy became an Associate in April of 2020 and has longstanding connections with the congregation, Marian University, and the local Fond du Lac community. She and her husband, Mike, are kept busy with six daughters and four grandchildren. She has been particularly involved in efforts toward racial justice and educating herself, and others, on the history of racism. As recent Past President of the nonprofit United for Diversity, her gifts of collaboration and



Tracy Abler

administration have served the community well in its efforts to celebrate, educate, and advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion. As a live kidney donor, Tracy is also an advocate for organ donation.

Chuck has been working in the food service industry for 34 years, the last 15 years at Marian University as a chef manager. Chuck said, "I am excited and thankful to CSA sisters for giving me this opportunity and look forward to creating some new and exciting meals for the sisters." When Chuck is not in the kitchen, he enjoys getting together with family and friends and also spending time outside on his family's hunting land.



Chuck Gallert