



Franciscan Waves

*Pruning for Fruitfulness...
...hope continues to bloom*

Ripples of Connection, Spirit, and Mission

Dear Sisters, Administrators and Staff,

We have much to be thankful for as we move toward our new governance structures that will empower us to continue our mission as Franciscan Women. A few days ago I was reading a section in the book 'Elizabeth Hayes – Pioneer, Franciscan Journalist' by Sr Francine Shaw. I was researching material on Pope Leo XIII who was Pope from 1878 to 1903 and with whom Elizabeth had many audiences and interactions. During this research I found these words expressing the Legacy of Elizabeth Hayes: to promote all things Franciscan: Visits to Franciscan Shrines, Third Order Franciscans, Franciscan History, Franciscan Saints, Stories of Franciscan Missionary Activities and Franciscan Devotions. Elizabeth did this through 'The Annals of Our Lady of the Angels'. We celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Annals in 2024. Let us too carry on this Legacy of our Foundress, Elizabeth Hayes.

Ref. pp. 157-179



Sisters, this is the final Institute Newsletter prepared by myself as General Minister. I sent the script and separate jpeg photos for this Newsletter to Monique Tarabeh RGS our Communications Consultant and she has done the formatting. Future Newsletters will be compiled by Monique. You will be given deadlines for contributions for news from your Circle that you wish to share with sisters and staff of the Institute. The next Newsletter will be published in September.



Welcome to Pope Leo XIV

On behalf of the Missionary Franciscan Sisters I welcome Pope Leo XIV as our new Pontiff and Bishop of Rome. Our Pope is a humble man, a learned man, a religious, a missionary. May he lead our Church and the world to unity and peace. Our Sisters in Peru, where he was Bishop have met the Pope in person. Here is a photo of Ann Walsh with the then Bishop Robert in Chulucanas for 60th Anniversary of the Diocese in 2024. Marie and I also had a meal in Rome with a friar who taught the Pope, he referred to him as Bob.



Ann Walsh in Peru and of Pope Leo XIV at Installation Mass

While in Rome....

On Monday after our arrival in Rome on May 5, we headed to Santa Maria Maggiore to pray at the tomb of Pope Francis, asking his intercession for the election of the new Pope and for our appointment on 8th May with the Dicastery. We also prayed before the Blessed Sacrament and the painting of Mary, before which Pope Francis prayed on many occasions. We then walked to St Peters to enter through the Holy Door, during this Jubilee year of the Pilgrimage of Hope. Once again, we prayed in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel interceding for all in our Institute and once again asking special blessings on our visit to the Dicastery.



Painting of Mary



Tomb of Pope Francis



St. Peters Holy Door

Visit at Santa Maria in Trastevere - May 7

Marie and I visited this church to pray to Mary. There was also a statue of St Anthony in the Church with many handwritten petitions. I took time to write a petition to St Anthony, Elizabeth's favourite saint, asking him to intercede for us before our meeting at the Dicastery. It is interesting that Elizabeth Hayes had her printing press for the 'Annals' at 40 Via Garibaldi, Trastevere.



Pauline writing petition to St Anthony



Pauline, Kelly and Marie

Visit to St Michael's Mortuary Chapel

On May 9 after our bank appointment, Katia drove us to the cemetery. We stopped to buy two pot plants to leave at St Michael's Mortuary Chapel where the Foundress, and a number of Superior Generals and many other Sisters are buried. The other plant was left at the Mortuary chapel owned by the Sisters of St Francis of Penance and Christian Charity. We were given permission to use this chapel since there was not sufficient space for 5 of the last Sisters living in Rome. (See photo of Marie and the names of the Sisters)

The two mortuary chapels were refurbished by us before we left Rome. Katia was the person who organised this and has someone employed to clean the inside of the chapels twice a year.

After the Cemetery visit Kelly and Katia accompanied us for a celebratory meal as a way of thanking both of them.



SUOR MARIE CLEMENTINA
ROSA PONTRELLI
N. 6-3-1909 - M. 1-1-1994
SUOR MARIA EUSTOCHIA
MARIA AITUORO
N. 24-5-1902 - M. 5-5-1996
SUOR MARIA OLYMPIA
CARMELA YENNOCK
N. 18-8-1893 - M. 25-5-1996
SUOR MARIA TEOFILA
BENEDETTA BINETTI
N. 2-7-1909 - M. 23-11-1998
SUOR MARIA GIUSTINA
PASQUA ROSA MINERVINI
N. 9-11-1904 - M. 25-1-2001

Appointment at the Dicastery of Institutes of Concreated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life – May 8

The day had finally arrived for our Appointment at the Dicastery. We had an appointment at 10.00am at the Vatican Bank. (see below) Marie and I stayed close to St Peter's Square waiting for 3.00pm to arrive. It was a very hot day with much activity as there was to be another vote for Pope around 5.00pm. At 2.00pm we sat on a low wall next to the doors of the Dicastery which were shut. We were afraid that the office might be closed because of the Conclave. However, we found that the office is closed from 12 noon until 3.00pm (roman siesta). An Official finally let us in out of the heat.

Thank you all for your prayers. We had a very good reception by Sr Rosemary and a lay Canon Lawyer. Our request for a 'temporary commissary' was accepted. As you are aware, PNG Leadership will in time become the Institute. I was asked to have the Aitape Bishop write a letter of support for this request. We were also asked to submit two more names for possible Commissaries. The other question was why we did not find someone in Australia, closer to PNG to be the Commissary. We explained that the structure set up to look after the day to day running of the Institute was in the United States as are our finances. This explanation was accepted. An appendix with our future structures was included with our Petition. Actually this structure is already operating to insure a smooth transfer to a Commissary. We were told that the Commissary would be appointed by the end of our present term of General Administration in November, 2026.

As you now know Pope Leo XIV was elected on 8th May. We watched it unfolding as it happened back with the Good Shepherd Sisters, in the room that they call 'Cinima Aurelia' from a projector that was screened on a very large wall. Our evening meal was brought up from the dining room so that we did not miss anything.



Sr. Rosemary, Marie, Pauline



Bank Visits with Kelly Murphy and Katia Liguori on May 8 & 9

Katia our Administrative Assistant in Rome organised these visits for us. Knowing all things roman, these appointments were accomplished, well beyond what we would be able to do. Since our Generalate was in Rome for so many years we still have accounts at the Vatican Bank and San Paolo Bank. Kelly as Chief Operating Officer for the Institute needs to be able to access these accounts to transfer monies to wherever they are needed.



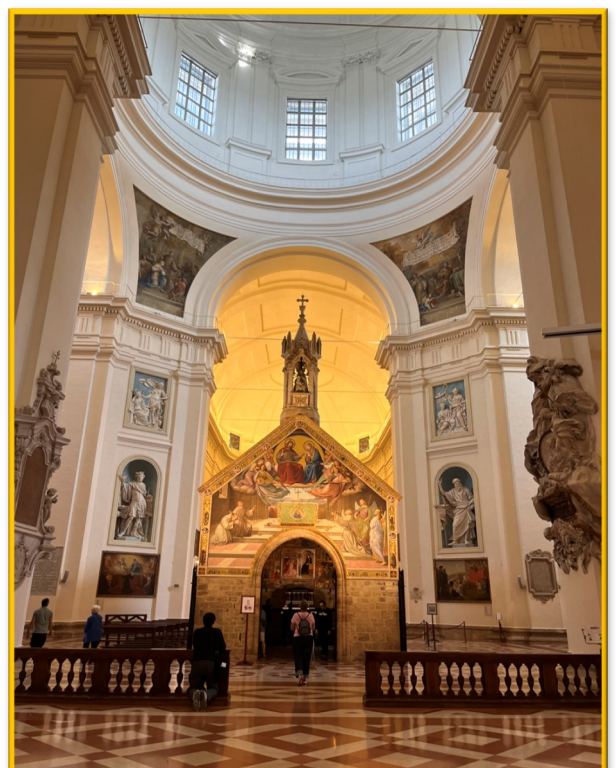
International Franciscan Conference for Third Order Religious (IFC-TOR)

Marie and I attended this Assembly from May 11 to 15 which was held at Domus Pacis, next to the basilica of St Mary of the Angels. The Theme was: *'Franciscans, Repair my World'*. There were three presentations by David B. Couturier, OFM Cap. David is the Director of the Franciscan Institute at St Bonaventure University (USA). His first topic was: Franciscans and God's Great Plan for the Repair of the World and the Renewal of Humanity. There were 5 language groups, with 33 English Speaking participants who were placed in 3 groups for sharing after each presentation and at other times. Sr Beatrice (Bea) Eichten Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls also attended the Assembly. She has asked that our two communities remain in contact. We assured her that we would do that into the future.

It was good to have met the new President and Council who were elected at the Assembly. Photos and more information is in the link below. <https://www.ifc-tor.org/en/> Link for the Press Release



Beatrice (Bea) Eichten
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls and
Restored Portiuncula Chapel





Basilica of St Francis

Reflective time in Assisi – May 15 to 18

Marie and I travelled to Assisi on May 15 at the conclusion of the IFC-TOR Assembly. This was a quiet time for us to spend at the various sanctuaries to thank God for our time at the Dicastery, in particular, and to pray for the Sisters of the Institute and our many lay helpers in our employment. We individually spent time at the Basilicas of St Francis, and St Clare. We were fortunate to attend an English language mass at the tomb of Francis and afternoon masses at the Basilica of St Clare. We also visited the tomb of Blessed Carlos Acutis.



Tombs of Francis and Clare

Canadian Sisters MFIC Legacy: The Works of Elizabeth Hayes


The Canadian Circle is happy to share with the Institute one way by which our MFIC Mission will continue into the future. Inspired by our Institute Mission Statement which invites us to create ever widening Circles of communion by including all people especially the marginalised with an accent on women and children, for several years we have supported through charitable donations a Canadian based organization called SOPAR whose mission is to assist the poorest communities in India, especially widows and children/orphans.

In recent years, the directors of SOPAR approached us with the question of how to ensure the sustainability of their projects into the future, given the uncertain economical and political contexts. We thought about it and consulted with experts, and we suggested that they create a legacy or endowment fund within their organization. We would provide the seed money to get the fund started.

SOPAR was really excited with this project! We had a proper legal agreement drawn, approved by the board of directors of the Sisters' Corporation and the board of directors of SOPAR, and finally officially signed just a few weeks ago. The seed money has now been transferred. SOPAR wanted us to name the fund, so we suggested: Les oeuvres Élisabeth Hayes (The works of Elizabeth Hayes).

Visit their website: <https://sopar.ca/> SOPAR is willing to make known who is Elizabeth Hayes. Become part of the sharing of our MFIC legacy! If you have any reading material on Elizabeth Hayes that could help them, you could get in touch with SOPAR's coordinator, Shobha Singareddy via email: shobha@sopar.ca She's the first from the left on this picture taken in June 2024.





Every blessing as we carry on the legacy of Elizabeth Hayes and live our lives as true Franciscans in humility and joy while reaching out to each other and to all of creation.

Sr. Pauline Robinson

General Minister



Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

Website: <https://mficgen.org/index.php>

