



Franciscan Waves

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

Ripples of Connection, Spirit, and Mission

Awakening to the Quiet Light



Greccio, Italy: An ancient mural in the Sanctuary's Chapel of Nativity Scene marks the place where St Francis held his mass

Advent returns as a tender season of watchfulness, inviting us, much like St. Francis, to pause, breathe, and notice the quiet ways God is already near.

As we wait for Emmanuel, we open our hearts to God's gentle movements in the ordinary moments of our days.

This newsletter is one simple way we walk together, sharing stories that warm the spirit and remind us of our deep connection as a Franciscan family.

May this blessed season fill us with hope, companionship, and the joyful expectation of Christ being born anew among us.

Monique Tarabeh

WALKING WITH ELIZABETH HAYES

Walking with Elizabeth Hayes

By M. Francine Shaw

With the election of a Chicago born Pope, the city of Chicago has received much publicity. We MFICs have an interesting story linked to Chicago. In 1876 Elizabeth Hayes (Mother M. Ignatius) when travelling through Chicago, on her way to Montreal to gain French Canadians who would join her Belle Prairie Mission, met 33-year-old Angelica Switz Chaffee. She asked to join Elizabeth and along with 4 others received the Franciscan habit in Belle Prairie Convent in August the same year. Angelica was given the religious name of Sr. Mary of the Angels. She had worked with a Chicago printing company so besides helping Elizabeth Hayes in the printery, she often accompanied her leader on travels, was her secretary, and after Elizabeth's death succeeded her as Mother General, and editor of the *Annals of Our Lady of the Angels*.

In 2014 an American relative of Angelica, Tom Davey, found my thesis on Elizabeth Hayes on website with references to Chaffee. Tom provided a copy of a letter written by Mother Chaffee to her niece Hattie Chaffee on 24th August 1898. With the letter was a photo and on the back of it she had written, 'I find myself able to satisfy your desire for my picture. The old Sister sitting down is your aunt. The black children around me are from Egypt & Africa whom through the goodness of God I have brought over for Christian education.'



Another part of the letter which Tom scanned reads, 'I visited Egypt myself this Spring, in fact I am but only over a month returned and went to the Holy Land. We could go to Jerusalem & Bethlehem to venerate the places of Our Dear Lord's birth & Passion & Burial. We went to Emmaus ... Please God I shall return to Egypt sometime in October to the Oasis of Fayoum in the Libyan desert where we will have a missioning work.'

We shared with Tom a 17-page typed copy of the diary of his Chicago 'old Aunt Annie' written in 1881 or '82. Chaffee's diary includes first-hand details of experiences that she shared with Elizabeth Hayes, including facts about the *Annals*, and she used them when writing her 'Memories of Elizabeth Hayes', around 1912.

(If you wish to refer to Chaffee's 1898 letter, see pp. 260-61 of Elizabeth Hayes: Pioneer Franciscan Journalist.)

Ongoing Formation Videos

By Pauline Robinson – General Minister

Where Goes the Church Under New Leadership – Fr. Joseph P Chinnici, OFM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDcFpVvZOYk> (48mins)

In his opening address to the Cardinals and subsequent preaching, Pope Leo XIV has identified many of his own priorities. He aims primarily to deepen some of the major initiatives of Pope Francis. What are these initiatives and how might they challenge the Church's evangelizing efforts within a polarized American culture? Why are they important currently for a global community of faith? How might the new pope's Augustinian inheritance inform his own distinctive approach? Time will tell—but what hints do we have at this time?

A Series of 13 Videos on Religious Life Today

<https://www.thelc.global/lets-get-real>

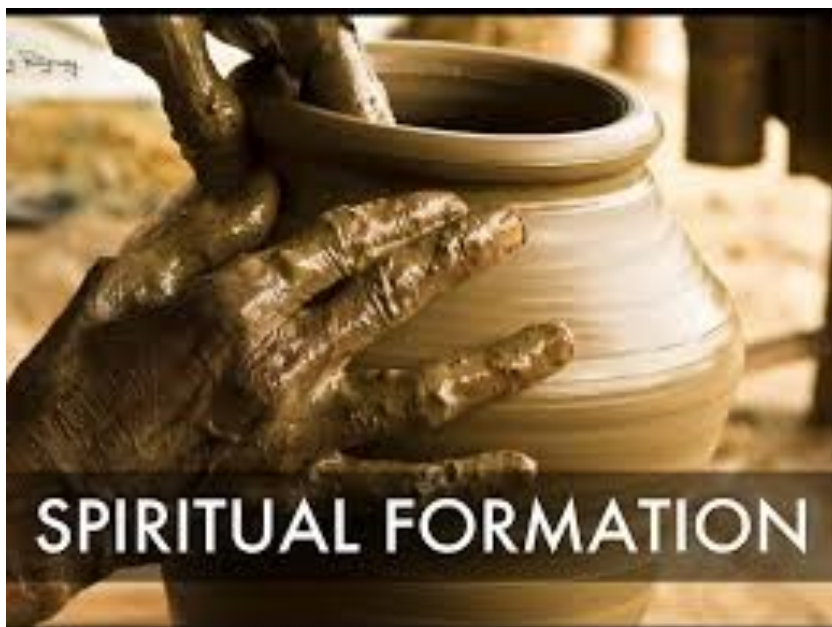
Illuminating the Role of Religious Today – Let's Get Real

from LCWR Leadership Collaborative with multiple presenters for each video.

This video series provides a collection of voices illuminating core aspects of religious life as we look at our present reality and what is emerging. There is no charge to access these videos and there is a hope that this series will be used for individual and communal reflection on religious life.

Topics: (approx. - 40 mins each video)

Foundations of Religious Life; Emerging Thought in Religious Life; Religious Life Today; Essential Elements of Religious Life; Exploring the Vows Today – Part I; Exploring the Vows Today – Part II; The Vows – Part III; Charism and Mission; Living Mission: Prophetic Edge of Community; Mission on the Margins; Initial Formation - Part I; Initial Formation - Part II.



TENAFLY RETREAT AND JUBILEE!

Tenafly: RETREAT SERIES led by Dan Shutte

By Angelie Barlisan

The sisters in Tenafly have enjoyed three Retreats by Dan Shutte during the 2025 season. The series was shown on a smart TV for all to enjoy, facilitated by Sr. Catherine Finnerty. The videos included:

From Ashes to Glory: Lent 2025

Awaken the Spirit: Post Pentecost

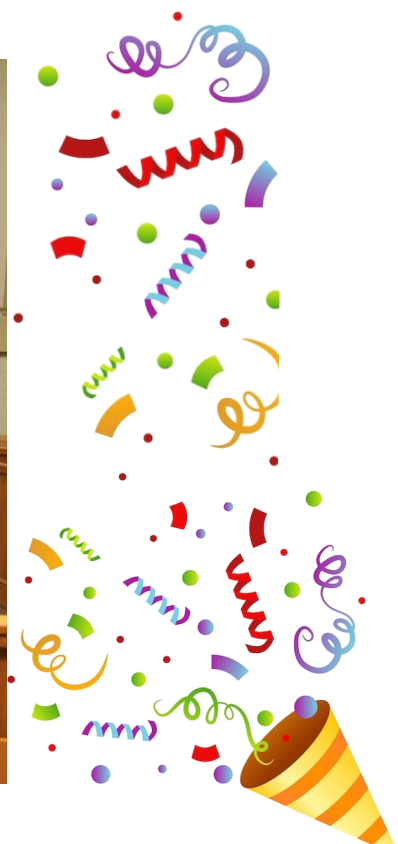
Seasoned by Grace: September-October

The presentations by Dan were very challenging and thought-provoking. The 15 or more sisters who attended shared their responses with the group. At the end of the first season everyone gave their heart-felt evaluation of Dan's spiritual insights. They felt that his topics were timely for us, inspirational and uplifting, challenging yet, hopeful, and grace-filled and meaningful for this time in our Community life and our individual journeys.

The Retreats are highly recommended by all who participated and we look forward to the Lenten 2026 series.

Throughout the year, our Sisters shared meaningful moments of faith and fellowship. They were uplifted by video reflections from Dan Schutte. His series included *From Ashes to Glory* (Lent 2025), *Awaken the Spirit* (after Pentecost), and *Seasoned by Grace* (September to October), offering weekly inspiration and time to pause, pray, and renew.

A special highlight was our Jubilee Celebration on October 4, 2025. We honored Sisters who have served for 65, 70, and 75 years. With the leadership team and Father Dermot Roach, SMA, we celebrated their lifelong dedication with joy and gratitude. Their faithful service continues to inspire and strengthen our Tenafly family.



ROSE GARDEN

By Patricia Morrissey

It won't make the Guinness Book of Records, as the gentleman in Ukraine did, but Sr. Rose Bill's Sunflower in our courtyard at Carmel Terrace is definitely a prizewinner!

This past spring and summer Rose was busy preparing the earth, planting watering and attending the soil and flowers.

All of us residents and staff could stroll around the garden, which was full of various flowers, blooming at different times: 5 miniature rose bushes, Gerber daisy plants, Bachelor buttons, Gladiolas, Lilies, New Guinea impatient plants, Chrysanthemum plants, Zinnias,

Cosmos, Marigold plants, Petunias, Snapdragons, Delphinium, Sunflowers, Begonia, Hydrangea bushes, and several Basil plants.

When one of our residents was on hospice there were several sunflowers around her window. One sunflower didn't face the sun, as they usually do. Instead' it faced her bedroom window where she could see it blooming. It accompanied her until after her passing into eternal life.

Now as the perennial seeds nestle into their winter beds, along with tulip bulbs and daffodils, we look forward to spring buds that will rise again to greet us!



INTEGRITY OF CREATION

My advocacy experience on Parliament Hill in Ottawa

By *Danielle Julien* - Executive Assistant – Mission, Canadian Religious Conference



The Liberal representative is Corey Hogan.

On September 25, 2025, I joined a dozen members of the Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology (BCRÉI) to participate in an advocacy activity on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. My community, the Franciscan Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception (FMIC) of Canada, is a member of the BCRÉI. And as assistant to the executive director of the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC), I was also there to express our office's solidarity with the BCRÉI's commitments.

The BCRÉI had formed two teams to meet with members of Parliament and senior officials. The core of our message focused on the urgency of the energy transition, offering three proposals: a cap on fossil fuel production, a cap on greenhouse gas emissions in Canada, and investments in renewable energy.

The BCRÉI had prepared the documents very well, which I was able to review before going to Ottawa. There were two days of preparation, including a webinar on the first day, which I was able to participate in remotely. Since I was unable to attend the preparation day on September 24, I did not have a perfect grasp of the content of our message. The most important thing for me was to pay close attention to the conversation as it unfolded and to follow my instincts, which allowed me to contribute a few examples that came to me as I listened to others. I felt that my impromptu

contribution was valued.

I liked that the tasks were divided among the members of each team. We took turns being timekeeper, secretary, or presenting one or another of the points of our advocacy. I knew we could count on each other. There was a nice diversity in each team: we were from the Atlantic region, Quebec, and Ontario; there were nuns, lay people involved with religious communities, employees, and administrators from the BCRÉI.

I appreciated the welcome and openness of the MPs and senior officials we met. I believe that bonds were created and even strengthened, which is invaluable in advocacy work that requires sustained effort over the long term. I have heard that it takes eleven meetings with an elected official to have a real impact. We must therefore continue this demanding work with courage and perseverance, not only in Ottawa but also in our own constituencies with our elected officials.

Advocacy is a fundamental aspect of the commitment to justice, peace, and integrity of creation (JPIC) that is so dear to religious congregations. It offers a way to address the causes of crises and injustices by proposing alternatives that bring about the Kingdom even in the public sphere of social life. I hope that more and more congregations will use the tools and opportunities offered by the BCRÉI to meet with elected officials in their constituencies or in Ottawa and advocate for the care of our common home!

<https://orcie.org/learning-lobbying-2025-canada-for-global-climate-justice/>



The Green Party representative is leader Elizabeth May.

JUSTICE, PEACE

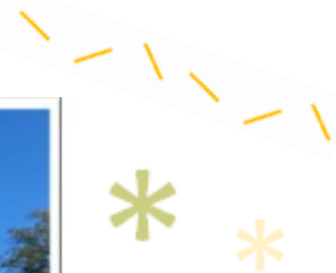
“No Kings” Rally in Newton, Massachusetts, USA.

By Julie Franchi

Despite feeling somewhat apprehensive, and thinking I was too old for demonstrations, my concern about the state of our country impelled me to go to the “No Kings” rally here in Newton, Massachusetts on October 18. Though the demonstration in Boston was huge by comparison, the Newton rally was also impressive, numbering over 2500 people. We joined with more than 7 million people across the country to say: America has no kings, and the power belongs to the people.

Much to my surprise, I was not too old for the rally. In fact, at age 78, I fit in quite well with the majority of people gathered. Senator Ed Markey (age 79) addressed the crowd and spoke passionately about the political situation in our country. The rally was a wonderful experience of solidarity with others who are as concerned as I am that our president ignores our Constitution, is taking away our rights, one by one, and has no respect for the dignity of each person.

Some signs that were especially noteworthy read “At age 101 I can still raise a fist and Resist, Resist, Resist”. Another read “Make Lying Wrong Again”. The photos tell the story. May God be with us, as we resist!



WORLD MARCH & LITTLE HANDS

World March for Women, Quebec City, October 18, 2025 – Still marching to transform the world!

By Danielle Julien



On October 18, I joined women from the Diocese of Quebec City in the large demonstration that has been held every five years since the Bread and Roses March in 1995. We celebrated 40 years of fighting for women's rights, both at home and around the world. It is good to know that the World March of Women was born out of this Bread and Roses March in Quebec. This year, the crowd was estimated at over 16,000 people.

"Together with women from here and elsewhere, we denounced violence, poverty, and economic systems that destroy our lives and our habitat." (Publication by the Quebec Coordination of the World March For Women).

<https://www.cqmmf.org/>

30th anniversary of Petites-Mains

By Danielle Julien

On October 30, 2025, Srs. Lise, Danielle, and Ms. Sylvie Talbot had the pleasure of participating in the 30th anniversary of the Petites-Mains organization. The Canadian Circle is proud to financially support this integration organization for immigrant women in Montreal.

The event was entitled "Journey to the Heart of Little Hands." It began with a warm welcome with hors d'oeuvres and sparkling wine. This was followed by participatory immersion workshops: a world map on which to mark our place of origin; photo albums to browse through history; a spicy journey around the world with recipes to explore, spices to take away, and a dish to taste; the organization's values compass; and a textile creation and sharing workshop. This was followed by an official evening event filled with creativity and a cocktail reception with dishes prepared by the Petites-Mains caterer.

All the details are on the website: <https://petitesmains.com/non-classifiee/petites-mains-a-30-ans-retour-sur-notre-celebration/>



POWER OF SILENCE

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF SILENCE

by Jeanette Gaudet



I recently went to Boston Symphony Hall for a concert honoring the 125th anniversary of its opening. The orchestra and hundred-member choir repeated the original program, Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis."

Checking the internet beforehand, I found rules for "symphony etiquette," explaining, "applause is never given until the conductor lowers his baton after the finale note." Later, I was particularly fascinated with the conductor's masterful management of his baton throughout the evening.

Fast forward to the concert's ending. A screen above the choir, translated "Agnus Dei," to "Lamb of God". While changing from the humble, "have mercy" to "grant us peace," the orchestra broke into a startling intrusion of drums and horns, a war-like fanfare, mimicking a musical attack.

The choir burst into cries of "Dona nobis pacem, Pacem, Pacem." The silent prayers of the audience seemed to pierce the atmosphere, seeking calmness for our world, at the time hovering on many chaotic fronts, near war. Music filled the hall with such tremendous energy, the walls seemed about to burst.

Reaching the finale, the conductor signaled the final note. The baton was lifted high, just HELD there! The powerful silence enveloped everyone. Then with a gentle, but deliberate stroke, he lowered his baton. Magically, the room erupted; the crowd leapt up, "Bravo Bravo, BRAVO," clapping thunderously. Hearts pounded! What energy and power had been captured inside that silence.

Long ago our foundress, Elizabeth Hayes, posed the questions: What is the quality of silence in my life? Is my heart silent amid the noise and chaos of our world? Do I have an attentive, ready spirit?

Silence can surely magnify and empower the very greatest of all responses, those of the Heart! A moment of silence anywhere, can open doors to surprising transformations daily.



CIRCLES OF CONNECTION ACROSS BORDERS

The Feast of St. Francis in Montreal

By Danielle Julien

Although we are now only a small community of six FMIC sisters in Montreal, we continue to get together whenever there is a special event. To celebrate the feast of St. Francis, we had Mass in the morning in the chapel of the “*Résidence les Pionnières*” with the other communities. Afterwards, we had lunch together in the residence's dining room. Sister Marie-Ange is no longer able to join us, so we visited her in the afternoon.



From left to right: Sister Yvette, Sister Madeleine, Sister Lise, Sister Danielle, Sister Lucienne.

The Feast of St. Francis in New England



By Rose Bill

On Thursday, October 9, the Sisters, an Associate and Staff in the New England region convened for prayer and a luncheon in honor of St. Francis. It was held in the social hall of St. Ignatius Church. It was so good to be together! The event was thoughtfully organized and executed by Sr. Diane Vallerio whose efforts were greatly appreciated by all in attendance. Sr. Jeanette Gaudet welcomed all.

The highlight of the occasion was the celebration of the jubilees of Sr. Anne Marie Raftery, commemorating 65 years of profession, Sr. Lorraine Chipman, marking 60 years of profession, and in absentia, Sr. Teresa Hurley, honored for 80 years of profession. Sr. Eileen Hurley and Sheila Hurley, sisters of Teresa, were present to represent her.

The gathering concluded with the serving of a delicious cake, which was ceremoniously cut by Sr. Anne Marie and Sr. Lorraine. The event was a testament to the enduring bonds of community and faith. The spirit of unity and gratitude was evident throughout the gathering, leaving all participants with a renewed sense of fellowship



Sr. Diane Vallerio



Eileen Hurley, Sheila Hurley



Sr. Lorraine,
Sr. Anne Marie

CIRCLES OF CONNECTION ACROSS BORDERS

Tidbits from Our Lady of Knock Circle

By Anna Mary Hannon

It's hard to believe that it is mid-November already. Somehow, this year seems to have flown by. All in our Circle were engaged in various activities and duties. It was very refreshing to have Sisters from other parts pay us a visit. We are always grateful for the efforts they make to get to see us. It's not at all easy for various reasons, including our uncertain weather.

Our first visitor this year was Sr. Nuala Mulleady. It was so good to see her so well after all her health challenges. We had a couple of hours to catch up on her news and ours.



Later Sr. Ann Walsh came for Mass and lunch and the bonus was we had the Sacrament of the sick at Mass that day. Srs. Una and Christina also came that day, unplanned, so we had a great gathering of retired missionaries with Ann still on the mission fields in Sondor. There were lots of stories told and many memories shared over a lovely meal.



In late August and early September, I took a couple of weeks holidays when I was able to visit the sisters who live outside the Dublin area. I also visited our two Affiliates – Josephine Murray and Margaret Gallagher. It was wonderful to see the great work the sisters are doing in their respective areas. Sr. Mary Veronica works in the



CIRCLES OF CONNECTION ACROSS BORDERS

Parish where she lives and also oversees and works in a Charity Shop for the Missions. Besides all this she is a great friend and confidante to the Asylum Seekers who have been sent there and who are scared of being rejected. She is Auntie Mary to them and I called them her bodyguard. They are all big African men trying to better their lives and their families. I'm sure that because of Mary's presence and attitude many people have accepted them and do what they can to help.

It was lovely to spend time with Josephine Murray, my classmate of old. She has had several health issues but seems to be in better form than previously. Margaret Gallagher was at her sister's home waiting to be admitted to a Nursing Home which has finally happened! She is suffering from Parkinsons so speaking etc. is a challenge. She is more accessible to us now that she has moved to Portumna which is in County Galway. If any of you would like to write to her this is her address :
Portumna Retirement Village, St. Brendan's Road, Portumna, Co. Galway H53 TF88

May these darker days not darken our spirits but rather sharpen our view.



Nuala and Josephine

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARMEL TERRACE

Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of Carmel Terrace,

By Julie Franchi

Since the sale of our property at 790 Centre Street, Newton, in 2023, six of our sisters moved to Carmel Terrace, an assisted living residence in Framingham, Massachusetts, sponsored by the Carmelite Sisters of the Sick Poor.

On October 24, Carmel Terrace celebrated its 30th anniversary. Each resident was allowed to invite one guest, and Sr. Jeanette and I were delighted to accept the invitation and attend.

During the program I became aware and was impressed by the foresight of the sisters in establishing an “assisted living” facility long before it was a commonly recognized need in society. Everything about the event was perfect! The food was delicious and beautifully presented, and there was such a positive, friendly spirit!

But, by far, what impressed me most was the way each of our sisters has so beautifully brought her unique living of our Franciscan charism to Carmel Terrace and is so loved and respected there. Moving from what had been our community home for almost 60 years was very difficult, but, with God’s grace, our sisters rose to the occasion and have become an integral part of life at Carmel Terrace. I left feeling very proud of our community! The photos show our sisters along with their invited guests.



CELEBRATING 80TH JUBILEE

Celebrating 80 Years of Faithful Service: Sister Teresa Hurley's Jubilee

By Rose Bill

On August 25th, the spirit of joy and gratitude filled St. Patrick's Manor in Framingham, MA, as Sister Teresa Hurley celebrated her 80th Jubilee, a profound milestone in a life devoted to faith, education, and the Franciscan mission.

Sister Teresa began her sacred journey in 1942, entering the Novitiate in Bloomfield, Mullingar, Ireland. From those humble beginnings, she answered the call to serve, eventually dedicating many years to the teaching ministry across various dioceses throughout the United States. Her wisdom, compassion, and unwavering commitment shaped countless lives and hearts along the way.

To honor this extraordinary occasion, all our Franciscan Sisters from Carmel Terrace gathered in celebration surrounding Sister Teresa with love, laughter, and deep appreciation for her decades of service. Her legacy continues to inspire us, reminding us of the power of a life lived with purpose and grace.

Besides her Franciscan Sisters, Teresa was fortunate to have her own sister, Sheila Hurley, who also lives at Carmel Terrace, present to congratulate her. We wish Sister Teresa joy, peace, and good health in her remaining years. May her days be filled with the same love and light she has so generously shared with others.



CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

A STROLL DOWN MEMORY LANE

By Suzanne Fondini

On November 9th 2025, Una McMahon, a former member of the MFIC Community, celebrated her 80th birthday with family, friends, and some Community members. It certainly took us down memory lane as we shared and recounted our community experiences with Una and one another. It was a wonderful gathering, enjoyed by all, especially Una.



Sr. Julie Franchi, Gina Kelley (former member), Una McMahon, Sr. Jeanette Gaudet, Sr. Janet Roddy, and Sr. Suzanne Fondini

Shared by Margretta Flanagan



This song was written by Donovan for the movie, "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" based on the life of St. Francis of Assisi.

*If you want your dream to be,
build it slow and surely. Small
beginnings, greater ends,
heartfelt work grows purely.*

*If you want to live life free,
take your time, go slowly. Do
few things but do them well,
simple joys are holy.*

*Day by day, stone by stone,
build your secret slowly. Day
by day, you'll grow too, you'll
know heaven's glory.*

*If you want your dream to be,
build it slow and surely. Small
beginnings, greater ends,
heartfelt work grows purely. If
you want to live life free, take
your time go slowly.*



Have news, photos, or story ideas for March issue?
Email Monique Tarabeh @ mtarabeh@gspmna.org
and include captions, dates, and permissions for any images
by February 12, 2026.



Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

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