



# Franciscan Waves

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

*Ripples of Connection, Spirit, and Mission*

## **New Series: *Walking with Elizabeth Hayes***

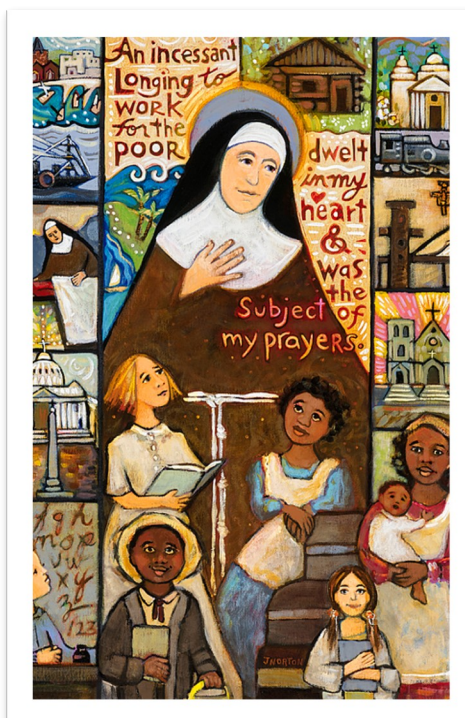
Beginning with this issue, *Franciscan Waves* debuts a series by Sr M. Francine Shaw, MFIC, PhD, bringing to life the bold vision of Elizabeth Hayes (1823–1894).

A teenager from Guernsey who became a teacher in England and a missionary across Jamaica, Europe, and the United States, Elizabeth Hayes lived the Gospel with fearless creativity. A gifted writer and foundress of the Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, she rooted her congregation in Franciscan spirituality and carried that fire across oceans.

Her life reads like a map of holy adventure: Belle Prairie, Minnesota (1872), where she laid foundations for a Franciscan institute; St. Anthony's School (1873); and, the very next year, the launch of the first English language Franciscan journal, *Annals of Our Lady of the Angels* a publication cherished by all three Franciscan Orders and general readers for a century. Whether among the poor of Glasgow, the wounded of the Franco Prussian War, or in conversation with leading religious and literary figures in Paris, Rome, and North America, she met each moment with a big heart, a broad vision, and unshakable courage.

In every installment, Sr. Francine will invite us to see what Elizabeth saw: the world as a field for Gospel hope. Her stories will connect sisters, associates, and young people across countries who, like Elizabeth, choose to follow Christ in the spirit of St Francis of Assisi.

**Coming up in this issue:** *“Big Hearted and Bold”* — Elizabeth's early years and the seeds of a missionary journalist.



## St John Henry Newman — Set to be Proclaimed a Doctor of the Church

By Pauline Robinson

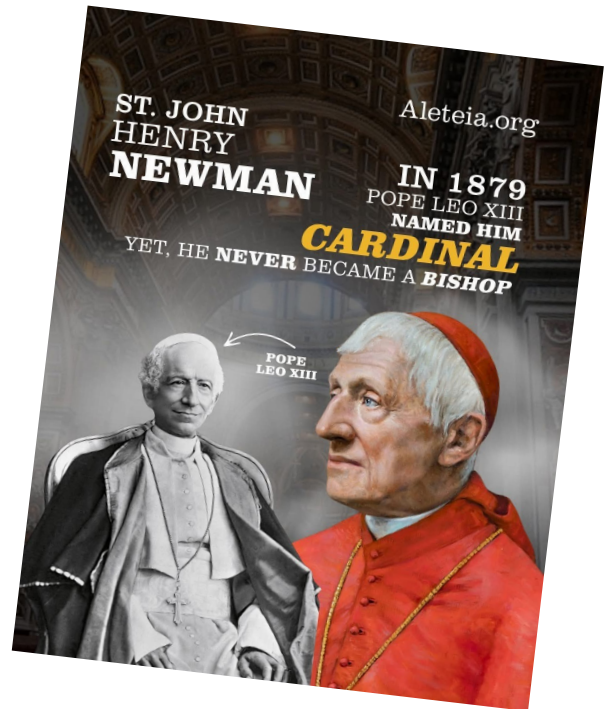
### Recognition and context

St John Henry Newman (1801–1890) is widely regarded as one of the most influential theologians of the 19th century. His journey from Anglicanism to Catholicism (received into the Church in 1845) helped shape modern Catholic thought on faith, conscience, and education. He was created Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879 and canonized by Pope Francis in 2019.

### What's new

On July 31, 2025, the Holy See announced that Pope Leo XIV had confirmed the positive judgment for Newman to be named a Doctor of the Church, with the formal proclamation to follow. We rejoice in this recognition of Newman's enduring witness to truth and holiness.

*Note:* Elizabeth Hayes, too, engaged the Oxford Movement during her Anglican years and, like Newman, “read her way” into Catholicism (see *Unless the Seed Die*, pp. 26–42).



## Creation Care

*World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation & Season of Creation 2025*

By Pauline Robinson

**World Day:** Monday, September 1, 2025 (many parishes will observe on Sunday, September 7).

**Season of Creation: September 1 – October 4.**

**New resources:** Parishes and communities are encouraged to use the Vatican's materials, including the Mass formulary for Creation, in their liturgies and prayer services. Please consult your diocesan office for the latest translations for episcopal conferences.

**Sky note:** The evening of September 7 coincides with a full moon (with a total lunar eclipse visible in parts of the world). A lovely moment for outdoor prayer and creation themed vigils.



## First ever Pastoral Theology Course in the RCAOR

*From Facebook*

Our five MFIC novices, together with their Novice Director, Sr. Rosemary Milur, attended the inaugural Pastoral Theology Course for women religious in the RCAOR. The nearly two week program at the Louis Coupe Center was sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy (Australia).

**Participants:** 1 FDNSC · 4 MSC · 3 FMI · 2 CSN (Bougainville) · 5 MFIC novices.

We are grateful to the Mercy Sisters of Australia for their generous leadership and for meeting this important formation need.

## Silver Jubilee of Profession

*By Julie Franchi*

For many years, sisters from Asia and Africa pursuing degrees at Boston College have resided at our house on Manet Road in Newton, very near campus. One of these residents is Comfort Ayavga from Nigeria, a member of the Sisters of Our Lady of Fatima, who is working on a PhD in Math Education.

Comfort celebrated her Silver Jubilee of profession with us on July 26. After Mass at St. Ignatius Parish, with spirited, unrehearsed singing, we continued with a joyful gathering at Manet Road. (In Nigerian custom, cutting the cake begins the celebration!)



## Jubilee Celebration — Syracuse, NY

By Debbie Driscoll

On Sunday, August 10, Sr. Lucy Flaherty celebrated 60 years of Religious Life in a simple liturgy of thanksgiving with her family, community, and parishioners of St. Cecilia's Church, Solvay, NY.

Lucy once said, "You need to pray; you need to ask God to keep telling you which way to go and giving you the strength to do it." This was evident as she responded to whatever the community requested of her teaching, school administration, ministry at the Dorothy Day House

(a women's shelter in Syracuse), and, in later years, service as director of the Human Development Office at St. Margaret's Church in Mattydale, NY.

Over the years, she also served as Associate Director for the Northern Region, including Binghamton and Syracuse. Lucy continues to reach out with spiritual support and a listening ear. Her talents have often blessed community liturgies and prayer services. Today, Lucy lives her call by being a loving presence, a light, and a beacon of hope. Thank you, Lucy, for 60 faithful years!



## Happy 90th Birthday, Carmel Brennan!

By Anne Hannon

On July 18, we joyfully celebrated Sr. Carmel Brennan's 90th birthday at Santa Sabina House, where she now enjoys retirement among us. Carmel is known to all for her warm presence and many years of dedicated service. Around the table with the cake were fellow Franciscan Sisters and one of our wonderful carers, sharing a special moment of gratitude and joy. The Dominican Sisters offered a triduum of Masses for all our Jubilarians; we also arranged two Masses as a gift to this year's celebrants.



## God's Presence — Directed Retreat in Ipswich, MA

By Julie Franchi

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur operate a Spirituality Center in Ipswich, Massachusetts (USA), where four of us, Julie Franchi, Margretta Flanagan, Jeanette Gaudet, and Rose Bill, made a directed retreat July 27 – August 3. The wonderful directors, well planned liturgies, beauty of nature, the labyrinth and marsh lookout, and delicious food all helped us experience God's presence so deeply.

Info: [ndspiritualitycenter.org](http://ndspiritualitycenter.org)



## Sister Miriam and the Round Hill

By Moya Byrne

Sister Miriam, who recently celebrated her 70th Jubilee, shared this story from her ministry with Sister Frances Crowe (RIP) among the Aboriginal people of the Kimberley in northern Western Australia.

At the news of Pope John Paul II's visit to Alice Springs, many tribes and missionaries set off. We could not leave with them, but decided to catch up by crossing the desert. Given instructions on the route and landmarks, we packed the Toyota Cruiser with fuel, ample water, food, and a medicine kit, and set off. After the bitumen ended, a dirt track marked by others guided us; distance and time faded as total concentration took over.

At last, a remembered landmark: a high, rounded hill like a giant egg rising from the ground. After some hesitation, Sr. Frances, the driver, said, "I think we go over," shifting gears accordingly. I replied, "I think they said go around!" Soon we crested the mount and, at the bottom, found several Toyota utes and small trucks, the Aboriginal owners staring open mouthed.

As we joined them, they asked, "Nun, *how you bin do that?*" Quick as a flash, Frances said, "Just saw Jesus' feet in front of me, and I followed." In their simplicity, they believed her. We reached Alice Springs, saw His Holiness and many friends, and went home the long way.



# COMMUNITY LIFE

## Golden Hours in Tenafly — Spring to Summer Days Filled with Sunshine and Smiles!

By Angelie Barlisan, on behalf of the Tenafly Team: Jane Loreto, Christine Barlisan, John Lang, Glecya Catral, and Chereilyn Badar



### Trip to Dunkin'

**Donuts:** We kicked off the season with coffee, donuts, and great company. It was the perfect way to fuel up for sunny days and maybe enjoy a few extra treats.



Sr. Nora Brick  
Happy 96 birthday!



**Delicious Day at TPR:** Good food, great friends, and plenty of laughter made it a feast to remember.



**Bingo Fun:** Friendly competition and excitement. Special congratulations to Sr. Jeanette Gaudet on her first Bingo win!



**Blessing Ceremony:** We blessed our new tractor and accessible van with hope and gratitude. Ready for many adventures ahead.



**Ice Cream Social:** Sweet treats and good company to cool off and catch up.

## Visit to Piura and Sónдор, Peru

By Elise Gorman

Sister Marie Puleo and I visited our sisters and their ministries in Piura and Sónдор, Peru, in July. We were warmly welcomed by Sisters Clorinda and Gustina at Casa San Damian. Sisters Ann Walsh and Helena Harney came to Piura during our stay. Marie translated beautifully, helping me “get the picture.”

Our visits with Carmen Minga, Juana Palacois, and Maruja, three of our former sisters, were inspiring. Throughout their time with us, they learned the MFIC missionary spirit and the desire to continue ministries that better the lives of people in their pueblos. On October 4, they, along with Karina and Mariza (two other former sisters), celebrated the feast of St Francis together.

Clorinda continues to lead the therapy clinic at the Pastoral Center and serves at Fatima Parish. Gustina now teaches at two schools and supports parish ministry. Helene and Ann also shared about ministry in Bolivia and Sónдор during our time together.

On the feast of St Bonaventure, we toured downtown Piura and its beautiful cathedral. The next day, we traveled with Ann to her mission in Sónдор. The bus ride up the Andes was like no other. After I overcame my fear of the ribbon thin trail, I could enjoy the spectacular scenery and feel God’s presence among the mountains and the people who live there. We arrived at Convento Santa Clara and spent the next days visiting the people Ann ministers to and prays with her extended family, who love her.

I am delighted to have been given this opportunity (thanks to Marie’s encouragement) to visit this part of the world where God surely dwells, and to see our MFIC mission growing. This is our legacy.



## Influenza, COVID, and the Fine Penmanship!



By Jeanette Gaudet

The original Home for Italian Children in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, opened as an orphanage in the wake of the 1918 influenza epidemic. Sr. Valentina Battaiolla and six MFICs were asked by Cardinal O'Connell of Boston to staff the facility, which still operates today as the Italian Home for Children.

A century later, we survived not another influenza epidemic but the COVID 19 pandemic (2020). Its isolation accelerated our dependence on cell phones, text messaging, and typing on computers and tablets. The result? Cursive writing and even printing by hand has diminished. Signing one's name is becoming a lost art!

Among our archival materials, we discovered a worn but readable certificate presented to Sr. Valentina in 1910, prior to her assignment at the Italian Home: an award signed by A. N. Palmer himself, originator of the cursive method used in classrooms for decades. It reads:

*"The Palmer Method of Business Certificate of Proficiency. This certificate certifies that Sister M. Valentina has completed the prescribed course on The Palmer Method of Muscular Movement Business Writing and is therefore entitled to this Award. We recommend her as well qualified to teach successfully this system of Business Penmanship. Given at New York City March 10, 1910."*

While the Italian Home's school cannot currently teach penmanship due to curricular limits, we happily report that Mount Alvernia Academy teaches handwriting in the early grades and encourages older students to handwrite some assignments, thus following in Sr. Valentina's tradition after more than 115 years!



**“You Ask About Aging”**

*Shared by Margretta Flanagan;  
poem by **Mark Nepo***



Everything in nature erodes gracefully.  
The tree leans and cracks.  
The mountain rounds for decades in the wind.  
The banks of the river bend  
to where the river wants to go.

But we,  
so afraid of not being here,  
fear the slightest change.  
My elbow is sore.  
Your heart is slowing down.  
And just yesterday,  
an old friend flew away  
like a bird with a broken wing.  
Still, for all I have learned,  
for all I am learning,

I don't want to go.  
Though like the tree on the ridge  
that has grown sideways  
toward the daily twist of light,  
I see no greater destiny  
or simplicity  
than to be stripped  
of all pretense and want --  
until all that's left is  
a branch of being  
waiting for its wind.

— *Mark Nepo*



*Have news, photos, or story ideas for December issue?*  
**Email Monique Tarabeh @ [mtarabeh@gspmna.org](mailto:mtarabeh@gspmna.org)**  
and include captions, dates, and permissions for any images  
by November 12, 2025.



**Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception**

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

