



# THE GOOD NEWS

Spring 2024



## Crossing the Threshold

### Then and Now!

*Sisters of St. Francis - USA  
Holy Name Province, Sacred Heart Community, St. Francis Province*

## A message from our Provincial Minister, Sister Jo-Anne Grabowski

Peace and all good!

For 150 years, our Sisters have served and touched the lives of people in the continental United States and beyond, including Guam, Mexico, and Tanzania to name a few.

In 1874, women of courage, Mother Aloysia Lenders, and Sisters Veronica Conradi, Felicitas Dues, and Leonarda Hannappel crossed a threshold; they crossed a stormy sea to come to America, arriving in New York on June 5th, 1874. We celebrate them and the women who came after them.

At the end of June 2024, our Sisters and Associates from across the United States, our Sisters from Mexico, and members of our General Council will gather at Stella Niagara, New York to celebrate **“Crossing the Threshold - Then and Now!”** A few of the Ministers from our International Congregation will join us, too.

The Foundation Day of our Congregation was May 10, 1835. Little could Mother Magdalen Damen, our foundress, imagine that her small community would grow and expand beyond the borders of the Netherlands and Germany to far reaching lands. With her, we trust that “It is God’s work” and “God will provide,” as we cross thresholds, walking together into the future.







Having overcome those initial challenges, the sisters continued to be open to the risks that lay ahead. What would they encounter in this new world?

Their first convent on American soil, St. Joseph Convent, was a small house on Ellicott Street in Buffalo. *“Their first winter in Buffalo was not kind to them, either. It was unusually severe, and the cold winds that blew across Lake Erie found their way through every crack and crevice...Ice was frequently visible on the walls of the attic where the sisters slept, and often blankets of snow had to be shaken from the coverlets before the sisters arose.”* The Franciscan Sisters had no need to find ways to practice poverty. Poverty found them!

Undeterred, other women chose to join them, and by December 1874, their numbers were great enough to accept the invitation from Bishop Rosecrans to staff the new St. Vincent Orphanage in Columbus, Ohio. Soon after, the Sisters were asked to teach at Sacred Heart School in Columbus, where their presence continued until the school closed its doors in 1973. Many sisters dedicated most of their life to the school and its students: Sister Callista taught there for 47 years and Sister Rose Hardy, assigned in 1877 as a young professed sister, remained for 46 years.

The time had come for Mother Aloysia to return to Europe. From afar, she used the years from 1874 to 1876 to strengthen the American Mission by sending 46 additional sisters to join the fledgling mission.

Looking back, one is inspired by the staying power of these ministries. St. Vincent Orphanage grew and adapted to meet the needs of the community. Although the Sisters of St. Francis are no longer involved, this ministry continues today as St. Vincent Family Services, providing trauma-informed pediatric behavioral health care within a learning community to change the lives of children and families.

St. Vincent became the Ohio nucleus from which the sisters expanded their ministries in the state -- teaching in elementary and secondary schools, establishing St. Ann “infant asylum” (eventually becoming St. Ann’s Hospital for Women) and founding a boarding school, St. Aloysius Academy, in New Lexington. But what of those initial seeds in Buffalo?

Without a doubt, the growth of ministries in Western New York was astounding: St. Ann School in Buffalo had grown from 600 students in 1874 to over 2,100 in the latter 1880’s; St. Michael School leveled at 600 students.

And what of the first little American Convent on Ellicott Street? It had certainly served its purpose and a new building on Washington Street was dedicated to the Sacred Heart on April 6, 1878.

*Jesus said,  
“Do not be anxious for tomorrow.”  
Trust that God will provide.*



By the end of the 1800s there were 164 professed sisters, 29 novices and 14 postulants in the American Mission. The Sisters were ready when unknown territory beckoned once again.

In early 1886, three Sisters answered the call for volunteers to work among the Sioux Indian tribes at St. Francis Mission on the Rosebud Reservation. Arriving in the Dakotas in early spring, all that was visible was frozen grass-- not a tree, nor a cabin in sight. Far on the horizon was a tiny protrusion which turned out to be the mission site: one room in which the sisters were to live, eat and sleep. As in the past, they had no need to find ways to practice poverty. Poverty found them!

In 1892, Sister Cecilia Steffen was appointed to serve as the first Mission Superior and she continued the growth of the American mission. In 1901 five sisters, accompanied by Sister Leonarda, boarded the train in Buffalo and made their first cross-country journey to Sacramento, California to begin teaching at St. Francis School where they found a warmer welcome... descending into the verdant valleys of California with its palm trees, vineyards, fruits and flowers! Now established in New York, Ohio, the Dakotas and California, from where will the next call come?

Mother Cecilia's last commitment was made to staff Sacred Heart School in Charleston, West Virginia. The Sisters received a warm welcome on August 29, 1903 and recorded an opening registration of 65 students - impressive considering the Catholic population of the capital city was around 300! By its second year, the Sisters' reputation for excellence in education attracted Catholics and non-Catholics, expanding its student roster to 122 pupils. Mother Cecilia died, March 21, 1904, happy in the knowledge that the seeds planted by Mother Aloysia Lenders and her companions had grown strong and multiplied.

This wraps up the first chapter of the Sisters' legacy in the United States. Their story, too great to condense into these few pages, will continue in our autumn newsletter, where we'll learn how a visit from the Provincial Superior of Germany and the North American Mission, Mother Seraphine, changed the perspective on the placement of the new American novitiate and motherhouse.

*On June 13, 1904, Sister Leonarda Hannappel became the second superior of the North American Mission.*

*Executive producer, Sister Diane Gianadda, OSF, created a short film titled, *Leonarda's Journey*. It's available for viewing on our website at [www.stellaosf.org](http://www.stellaosf.org).*



*"Surely," said Mother Seraphine, "in this large country there must be some place near a river or a lake [for the novitiate]."*



# Honor/Memorial Perpetual Listing 2023

Donations were given to the Sisters of St. Francis Development Fund to remember the following individuals in the prayers, Masses and good works of the Sisters of St. Francis. Many gifts were provided through the use of our greeting cards, which support the care of the infirm and elderly sisters and contributes to the ministry and mission efforts of the sisters.

## 2023 Honor Listing:

Elaine L. Abersold  
All of my sisters who are mothers  
Dennis Allan  
Maureen L. Allan  
Sr. Karen Allen  
Teresa N. Allen  
Andy\*  
Angela\*  
Anna\*  
Anne Marie\*  
Anthony\*  
Sr. Donna Marie Anthony  
Fr. Areli  
M. James Argy  
Mae Ashton  
Wanda L. Augustine  
Aunt Edie\*  
Franz Bach  
Mary C. Bach  
Bernadette Balliet  
Richard Balliet  
Ann Banish  
Ernest Barber  
Anna Marie Barclay  
Fr. Baretta  
Renne Barolet  
Roger Barolet  
Patsie Parker Barrett  
Joanna Barthelemy  
Joe Barthelemy  
Roseann Barthelemy  
Leah A. Bartoe's Children  
Alexander Basto  
Heidi Bates  
Tommy Bates  
Anthony Battaglia  
Rita Belzer  
Colleen M. Bens  
Raymond N. Berchou  
Rita Mahoney Berchou  
Betty\*  
Bishop McMahon High School: Class of 1973 & Teachers  
Lawrence Bisonette  
Mary Bisonette  
Bridget Black  
Thomas E. Black, Jr.  
Sr. Christa Blersch  
Erin Bloom  
Jack Bloom  
Michelle Bloom  
Ligia B. Booker  
Jaime Lyn Bower  
Rich Boyne  
Teresa Boyne  
Je'nien Bradley  
Elizabeth Brickey  
Susan Brochey  
Sr. Beth Brosmer  
Sharon DeBoy Brownrout  
Jennifer Bryant  
Bruce Buchman  
Rosalia Buczkowski  
Richard Kane Buell  
Bernice C. Burke  
William J. Burke  
Norine Busben  
Georgia Buscaglia

Jeannette Buscaglia  
Azucena Butsunturn  
Chairat Butsunturn, MD  
Kay Butterly  
John Buzenski  
Karen Buzenski  
Austin Caffery  
Hannah Guari Caffery  
Joan Camelo  
Karen Campbell  
Phillip Campbell  
Henry Canazzi  
Leonarda Canazzi  
Madeleine Cannon  
Anthea Caras  
Marilyn Cardamone  
Robert Cardamone  
Pamela A. Carlson  
Douglas Carrick  
Jean Carrick  
Daphne Carroll  
John J. Carter  
Mary Carter  
Thomas Carter  
Christopher Casey  
Mariella Ceranski  
Carol Chanowich  
Carol Chenetski  
Dennis Chenetski  
Angela Christopher  
Joseph Christopher  
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Daniel J. Cirando  
Betty E. Colella  
Christina Combe  
Concetta\*  
Gerard M. Conrad  
Margaret Conrad  
Theodore Conrad  
Gertrude Cook  
Renee J. Cook  
Patricia Cooper  
Cindy Copeland  
Steve Copeland  
Karen Coppola  
Cami Wetherdill Coraccio  
Noel Coraccio  
Philip Coraccio  
Bernadette Cosgrove  
Corinne A. Costanzo  
Joyce Miskuf Coughlan  
Bonnie Creeger  
Lloyd Creeger  
Kathi Cronin  
Julia Margaret Crowley  
Barbara J. Culcasi  
Fran Culkowski  
Ethel Curry  
Thomas Curry  
Michael D\*  
Ana D'Angelo  
Catherine Touma D'Angelo  
David D'Angelo  
Elio D'Angelo  
Kerri D'Angelo  
Michael D'Angelo  
Nicholas D'Angelo  
Therese D'Angelo  
Evelyn Darin  
Gelindo Darin  
Bernard W. Daube

Dave\*  
Kathryn Dawson  
Milton Dawson  
Sharon Dean  
John Dearlove  
Cary Deasario  
Louis Deasario  
Sharon DeBoy-Brownrout  
Silvia Del Forn  
Helen J. Del Signore  
Rachel DeLeo  
Anthony Dell'Isola  
Lisa Dell'Isola  
Kathryn Denzel  
Catherine Desmond  
Cornelius Desmond, Sr.  
Ethel M. Desmond  
Kenneth DeVole  
Nicholas Diagostino  
Mylisa "Melissa" Dick  
Josephine DiLiberti  
Mary A. DiPietro  
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Fr. Louis Dolinic  
Kathleen E. Donner  
Donnie\*  
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Dawn Dooley  
Edward Dooley, Sr.  
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Michael A. Dooley  
Thomas F. Dooley  
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Theodore Drews  
Jami Duffy  
Kevin Duffy  
Suzanne Duffy  
Alice G. Ebert  
Arthur H. Ebert  
Edward Ebert  
Elizabeth Ebert  
Edith Edgenio  
Sal Edgenio  
Edward\*  
Haana El Sayed & Family  
John Elekes  
Sr. Jolene Ellis  
Norman F. Ernst  
Evelyn\*  
Expectant Mothers  
Keith Failing  
Noelle Failing  
Edmund Fairbairn  
Jack Farley  
Fathers who have no one  
Margaret Heverin Faul  
Irene M. Felicetti  
Richard B. Felicetti  
Patricia A. Fildes  
Daniel Finucane  
Sheila Finucane  
Doreen Fischer  
Sr. Carolyn Fisher  
Piegie Hanson Fisher  
Ann Fitzgerald  
Kay Flanagan  
Mary Flanagan  
William Flynn  
Emily Fogarty

Jim Fogary  
Sr. Joanne Fogarty  
Vickie Fogarty  
Marie D. Fallon  
Elizabeth Ford  
James J. Ford  
Margaret Ford  
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Sr. Maura Fortkort  
Sr. Nancy Fortkort  
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Robert P. Foster  
Agnes Fuhrman Foth  
Ellen Fox  
Larry Fox  
Paul Foye  
Frank\*  
Jean Frankenberger  
Robert Frankenberger  
Michael J. Frawley  
Lynn A. Frazey  
Bruce C. Frazier  
Miriam Frye  
Dorothy Mueller Fuest  
Agnes Fuhrman-Foth  
Adelaide Fuhrman  
Zelenski  
Wilbur Fulton  
Ida Gadd  
Aubrey Galley  
Brett Galley  
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Joan Gardner  
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Vincent Gariano, Sr.  
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Forrest Gartlin  
Gary\*  
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Gregory Gebolys  
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Mary Geraci  
Vincent Geraci  
Robert Gerbi  
Sr. Diane Gianadda  
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Louise Gilchrest  
Kalee Glaser  
Mary Ellen Glaser  
Raymond Glaser  
Ruth Gleason  
Thomas Gleason  
Rossana Godfrey  
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Donna Jean Gowdy  
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Phil Grey  
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Pamela Guari  
Sonja Guari  
Hannah Guari-Caffery  
Nadine Guggemos  
Karen Gunksaullis  
Joseph L. Guth  
Joan Hahn

Susan Haifner  
Anna Halbisen  
Eric Halbisen  
Frances Hamel  
Piegie Hanson-Fisher  
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Libbie Hard  
Darren Harder  
Dina Harder  
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Joanne Hattenberger  
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Linda Hinckley  
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Elizabeth Hochwarter  
Jude Holka  
Sr. Barbara Holtzinger  
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Otto Hopkins  
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Mary Johnson  
Michael Jolley  
Joseph\*  
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Emilie Kanski  
Misu Kanu  
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Kathleen Keefe Ryder  
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Joan Q. Kellick  
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Elisabeth Kennett  
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Sigmund Kidawski  
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Sr. Frances Kirtley  
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Edward Kisailus  
Judith Kisailus  
Rebecca Kisailus  
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Carter Kitts  
Martha Jane Kitts  
William F. Knab  
Cherly Kocay  
Leonard Kohlbecker  
Marge Kohlbecker  
Pat Koonts  
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Sigmund Kowalski  
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Frances Krehn  
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Thomas Kumalae  
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Leah\*  
Joan Leather  
Frank J. Leitch  
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Edward T. Leonard  
John C. Leonard  
William F. Leonard  
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Antonette Leone  
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Marie G. Leone  
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Dolly Lindner  
Fred Lindner  
Mildred Lindner  
Arleen M. Lipke  
Sabrina London  
Joseph Long  
Patricia Long  
Anthony Lopes  
John Lopes  
Nancy Lopes  
Lorrie\*  
Beth Luciano  
Tom Luciano  
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Jarvis Lynch, Sr.  
Michael Lysle  
Michael M\*  
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Sr. Nicholas Macoretta  
Mary Jo Macro  
Dorothy Mager  
Theodore Mager  
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James Mahoney  
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Mary Agnes Marabella  
Violet Marchal  
Marge\*  
Maria\*  
Marie\*  
Joseph Marinello, Jr.  
Mark\*  
Sr. Constance Marlowe  
D. Joe Martin  
Katie Martin  
Mary A. Martin  
Mary\*  
Maryann\*  
Nancy Maskulinski  
Judith Ann Masters  
Lolita Matamoros  
Michael Matuska  
Elizabeth Maywalt  
Frederick Maywalt  
Jane Mazzucca  
Sr. Noreen McCarrick  
Margaret McCarthy  
Ann McChesney  
Fred McChesney  
Rose McClusky  
Raymond McCollumn  
Teresa McCollumn  
Sr. Ann McDermott  
James McDonald  
Janice McDonald  
Kaitlin McHugh  
Jack McInerney  
Suzanne R. McInerney  
Mary Alice McMahan  
Anne McMillan  
Loretta Meegan  
Children & Grandchildren  
of Dorothea Merriman  
Sharon F. Mesi  
Grace Metz  
Louise Metz

David Meyer  
Diane Meyer  
Monica Meyer  
Ethel Miller  
Karen Miller  
Margaret Miller  
Milton Miller  
Joyce Miskuf-Coughlan  
Michael R. Missico, Jr.  
Hans Mizera  
Shirley Mizera  
Nancy Montuoro  
Paul J. Mooney  
Vicki Moore  
Joseph Moran  
Rita M. Morris  
Patricia Moscato  
Robert Moscato  
Mothers who have no one  
Mothers of my 3 adopted  
children  
Sr. Dorothy Mueller  
Dorothy Mueller-Fuest  
Paul Mueller  
Mae Donovan Mullane  
Thomas C. Mullane  
Helen Mullaney  
Theckla Mullen  
James Murphy  
Karen Murphy  
Sr. Mary Patrick Murphy  
Murray Murphy  
Thomas Murphy  
Anthony Musial  
Veronica Musial  
Nancy\*  
David Nash  
Patricia T. Nawrocki  
Keith Naylor  
Teresa Naylor  
John Paul Nebrich  
Martina A. Nebrich  
Sylvester J. Nebrich  
Mrs. Joanne A. Nelson  
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Edwin Nowak  
Sr. Geraldine Nowak  
Irene Nowak  
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Joan R. O'Brien  
John O'Brien  
Timothy O'Brien  
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Janet Sambora Orosz  
Chris Ortiz  
Eugene Overdorf  
Patsie Parker-Barrett  
Mary Schoell Parker  
Paulette\*  
Stasia S. Paulsen  
Luanne Pawlowski  
Kay Peck  
Adrienne Peer  
Dorothy Peer  
John Peer  
Matthew Peer  
Milton Peer  
Carmella Pellegrini  
Daniel Penale  
Nancy Penale  
Peter\*  
Beth Peterson  
Jacquelyn Peterson  
Stefano Petruzzella  
Sr. Barbara Pfohl  
Kathleen M. Phillips  
Phyllis\*  
Angelina Picciocca

Ann Picciocca  
John Picciocca  
Steven Picciocca  
Courtney Piniewski  
Barbara J. Pistner  
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Sr. Marygrace Polino  
Art Ponzi  
Rosalie A. Ponzi  
Douglas Porter  
Maureen B. Pratt  
Fr. Richard Prior, Jr.  
Trish Prendergast  
Vicki Price  
Stephen Pruzinsky  
Dan Pugh  
Martha Pugh  
John M. Pullano  
Thomas Pullano  
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Ellen Quinlivan  
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Mike Rakowski  
Kathryn Rautenstrauch  
Robert Rautenstrauch  
Sr. Mary Catherine  
Raymond  
Marie Reidelbach  
Schneider  
Alice Regan  
Marion Regan  
Mona Rehor  
Mary Lou Reid  
Brian Renda  
Al Reynard  
Rita Reynard  
Rhonda\*  
Kathleen Ricci Sullivan  
Elvin L. Rice  
Louisa M. Rice  
Doris Ricks  
James Ricks  
Catarina Riga  
Joseph Riga  
Donna Rimmer  
Tim Rimmer  
Ellen Heaphy Rios, RN  
Sr. Christella Ritchey  
Joseph R. Rizzo  
Andrew Rocker  
Mary Rocker  
David Roll  
Linda Roll  
Brian Roloff  
Mark Roloff  
Melissa Roloff  
Rebecca Roloff  
Ronda\*  
Rosary Hill College Sisters  
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Sr. Patricia O. Russo  
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Dennis H. Rutkowski  
Joan Rutkowski  
John Rutkowski  
Marie Rutkowski-Haim  
Veronica Rutkowski-Haim  
Kathleen Keefe-Ryder  
Katie Sabatino  
Mae Sabatino  
Mary Saiia  
St. Aloysius Academy  
Sisters

St. Ann's Hospital  
St. Leo Convent Sisters  
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Janet Sambora-Orosz  
Kathleen H. Sambora  
Martin Sambora  
Mary Sambora  
Matthew Sambora  
David Sanborn  
Stanley Sanborn  
Brenda Santantello, MD  
Steven Santantello, MD  
Lorraine Savage, OSF  
Jenny Savarese  
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Margaret Schmidt  
Richard Schmidt  
Adrienne Schneider  
Charles Schneider  
David T. Schneider  
Sr. Elaine Schneider, OSF  
James J. Schneider  
John V. Schneider  
Marie Reidelbach-  
Schneider  
Sophie Venturini Schneider  
Mary Schoell-Parker  
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Erin Schumacher  
Steve Schumacher  
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Edith Seaman  
Paul Seaman  
Sr. Mary Serbacki  
Catherine Shea  
Thomas Shea  
Kenneth Sherry  
Howard Shisler  
Ari Shocket  
David Shoup  
Judy Shoup  
Kathleen P. Simonin  
Single Parents  
Estelle Sist  
Thomas Sist, Sr.  
Sisters of St. Francis  
Anna Laura Sloan  
Ralph C. Sloan  
Walter Slon  
Coleen Smith  
D. Shaun Smith  
Douglas K. Smith  
Kenneth A. Smith  
Elizabeth Snyder  
F. Kenneth Snyder  
John Snyder  
Nellie Snyder  
Sr. Regina Snyder  
Virginia Snyder  
Jennifer Solomine  
Josephine E. Sonberg  
Sophie\*  
Lorraine Sortore  
Sr. Mary Kay Stahl  
Abby Stahl  
Sam Stahl  
Kenneth Stanek  
Sr. Lucia Stang  
Olive M. Stang  
Carrie Starner  
Jason Starner  
Bev Sternitzke  
Rick Sternitzke  
Steve\*  
Chuck Strickler  
JoJo Strickler  
Connie J. Stuhlmiller

Frank B. Stuhlmiller  
Glen Stuhlmiller  
Roy Stuhlmiller  
Teresa Stuhlmiller  
Elizabeth Stump  
George J. Stump  
Dave Stuty  
Eric Stutz  
Kathleen Ricci-Sullivan  
Susan\*  
Fran Sweda-Schmitt  
Loretta S. Sypyt  
Karen Syruws  
Frank Szymanski  
Norbert Szymanski  
Mary Taaffe Whalen  
Beryl Taylor  
Roselyn Taylor  
Mary Telatnik  
Bernie Theus  
Linda Thompson  
John Thuman  
Robin Thuman  
Tina\*  
Tom\*  
Angelo Tomasso  
Josephine Tomasso  
Gail Tomlinson  
Herbert Tomlinson  
Tony\*  
Andrew P. Touma  
Jocelyn W. Touma  
Catherine M. Touma-  
D'Angelo  
Clarence Townsend  
Frank Tracey  
Gertrude Tracey  
Grace Tracey  
John Tracey  
Gerry Tracy  
Mary Tracy  
James Trimper, Sr.  
Sr. Candice Tucci  
Christopher Tytka  
Lynn Tytka  
Louise Ufer  
Mary Ufer  
Mary Jane Uminski  
Janet Underwood  
Anna Vaccaro  
Joan Valentino  
Donald Valone, Jr.  
Georgia B. Vasko  
Constance Marie Vaughan  
Sophie Venturini-Schneider  
Barb Ver Steeg  
Anthony Vinciguerra  
Mario Violante, Jr., DDS  
Michael Vitch  
Mary Ann W\*  
Frank J. Walloga, Jr.  
Jennie Walloga  
William P. Walsh, MD  
Sr. Mara Walton  
Stephen R. Wechtler  
Welch Family  
Lois Welch  
Adriana West  
Dr. Bruce West  
Sharon West  
E. Damian West  
Jason West  
Jennifer West  
Cami Wetherdill-Coraccio  
Mary Taaffe-Whalen  
Timothy Whalen  
William J. Whalen  
Francis Wier  
Mary Wier  
Michael Wier  
Richard F. Wier

Carrie Wierling  
Sr. Alberta Wilkes  
Will\*  
Dexter Wilson  
Eileen Wilson  
Henry G. Wolf  
Sr. Marguerite Wolf  
Charles Wolff  
Edward Wolff  
Ella Wolff  
Fran Wolff  
John Wolff  
Joseph Wolff  
Mark W. Wolff  
Matthew Wolff  
Thomas Wolff  
Henry Young  
Floyd A. Zaepfel  
Adelaide Fuhrman-  
Zelenski  
Joseph Stanley Zelenski  
David A. Zelonis, Jr.  
Edward Zgoda  
Wanda Zgoda  
Alice Zieniewicz  
Marie Zoladz  
Stephen Zoladz

### 2023 Memorial Listing:

"2 family members of a  
friend"  
James Abraham  
Rose Abraham  
Charles A. Agro  
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Sr. Colette Rhoney  
Michael D. Rhoney  
Patricia A. Rhoney  
Edward F. Ricci  
Ethel Ann Rice  
Herbert C. Rice  
Magdalen Kisailus  
Richards  
Joel P. Riemer  
Rose M. Rigoli  
Sebastian Rigoli  
Barbara E. Ritchey  
Clara C. Ritchey  
George Ritchey  
Mary Jean "Jean" Rizek  
Robert J. Roberts  
Colin J. Rockwood  
Dale D. Rodberg  
Mary Jane Rodberg  
Neil F. Rogers  
Julie Rohletter-Leitwein  
Alan "Al" W. Rohloff  
Mary Morinello Rolle  
William "Bill" Rolle  
Erhard W. Rollnik  
Rosary Hill College:  
Sisters & Teachers  
Roland L. Rosati  
John "Jack" G. Rospert  
Arlene F. Ross  
Franklin Plato  
Richard C. Rossel  
Robert F. Roth  
Maria S. Rotola  
Donna Rountree-McKnight  
Barbara A. Rozanski  
John Edward Ruane, Jr.  
Wanda J. Rutkowski  
Margaret "Peggy"  
A. Sabatowski  
Joseph "Joe" Sacco  
Margaret "Peggy"  
Walsh Sadowski  
Saint Brigid 55+ Seniors  
Saint Francis Catholic  
School Sisters  
St. Albans, WV, Sisters  
Saint John's Parish School  
Sisters  
Linda L. Sallett  
Johann "Hannes"  
W. Samland  
Esther "Essie" Sarik-Oakes  
Rozanne M. Scahill  
Rosemarie "Marie"  
Scaletta  
Vincent A. Scalzo  
Donald F. Schaefer  
Brian Schaeffer  
Catherine Schaeffer  
Robert Schaeffer, Sr.  
Ruth Schaeffer  
Paul W. Schiffer, Jr.  
Frances J. Schmid  
Schmidt Family  
Charles E. Schmidt  
Sr. Dolores Marie Schmidt  
Cherylyn "Cheryl"  
Paolini Schmitt  
David Schmitt  
Doreen Schmitt  
George S. Schmitt  
Harold J. Schmitt



Colleen Schneider  
 Joyce M. Schneider  
 Matthew J. Schneider  
 Paul A. Schneider  
 Richard G. Schneider  
 Mary Schoell-Parker  
 Sr. Agnes Lucille Schubert  
 Leona Schubert  
 Sr. Mary Clement Schubert  
 Sr. Mary Rosamond Schubert  
 Sr. Mary Ann Schutz  
 Geraldine K. Schwab  
 William J. Schwab, Sr.  
 Sr. Henrietta Schwagler  
 Martin C. Schwarz, Jr.  
 Schwert Family  
 Thomas "Whitey"  
 M. Scibor, Sr.  
 Scott Family  
 Robert "Bob" L. Scully  
 Carmen Segade  
 Gail "Gg" M. Seith  
 John "Jack" P. Seitz, Sr.  
 Sr. Magdalene Seitz  
 Mary Ann Seitz  
 Elizabeth S. Sepanic-  
 Graham  
 Michael A. Sepielli  
 Laverne F. Sevilla  
 Joseph "Joe" G. Sexton  
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 Sema T. Shepard  
 Kathy Sherrod  
 Maryann T. Shubbuck  
 Lawrence D. Siegrist  
 Rose Emily Winter  
 Sieracki  
 Fred Signoracci

Michalina "Mickey"  
 M. Signoracci  
 Simon Family  
 David M. Sippel  
 Richard A. Sirianni  
 Joseph D. Skowronski  
 Larry "Slas" J. Slasinski  
 John "Jack" Slegus  
 Thomas "J. B." Sloan  
 Kathy "Kosh" M. Sloma  
 Mary D. Slon  
 Regina "Renee"  
 G. Smigielski  
 Albert "Al" F. Smith  
 Anne Smith  
 Barney Smith  
 Cindy Smith  
 Edwin Smith  
 Elizabeth "Betty" J. Smith  
 H. Edward Smith Family  
 Mary "Cindy" L. Smith  
 Patricia A. Smith  
 Rose M. Smith  
 Sr. Terence Smith  
 Wendy Rae Smith-Bissell  
 Karen L. Smyth  
 Nancy L. Snyder  
 Dawn M. Sobierajski  
 Ronald J. Sobierajski  
 Helen Sokiera  
 Craig C. Sollenberger  
 Robert "Bob" E. Soller  
 Marcia C. Songin  
 Theodore "Ted"  
 S. Sosnowski  
 Jane Clare Souza  
 Dorothy J. Sowers  
 Sr. Magdalis Spaulding  
 Rose Mary Spoth  
 Werner A. Stang  
 William Steele, Jr.  
 Steven J. Stepien

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 Mary Sharon Strait  
 Eugene Stump  
 Mary S. Suchan  
 Richard C. Suchan, Sr.  
 Doris Sullivan  
 Mary Louise Sullivan-  
 Fraser  
 Barbara Swanekamp  
 Eugene L. Swann, Jr.  
 Gerald "Jerry" S. Swanson  
 Joyce M. Swayze  
 Chester C. Syput  
 Mary A. Szatkowski  
 Otilia "Tish"  
 E. Szczepanska  
 Paul Szczerbacki  
 Frances A. Szymanski  
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 Dorothea Rennard Taboada  
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 Daniel B. Tauriello  
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 Marsha A. Then  
 Helen Thomas  
 Bruce E. Throne  
 Nicholas Tirone, Sr.  
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 Amelia "Amy" Tomaselli  
 Carmela Tombolesi  
 Olinto Tombolesi  
 Dorothy A. Tondera  
 Matthew A. Tondera  
 Shirley B. Toscano  
 Richard A. Touma  
 Florence Townsend  
 Gertrude "Marilyn"  
 M. Trombly  
 Tronolone Family

Agnes Tronolone  
 Sr. Catherine Tronolone  
 Daniel J. Tronolone, Jr.  
 Thomas G. Trosey  
 Hilary Trubilla  
 Julia Trubilla  
 Justine Trubilla  
 Steve Trubilla  
 Caesar S. Tucci  
 Maria Tucci  
 Grace V. Tucker  
 Christopher M. Tuffile  
 Clara Turner  
 Jerry E. Turner  
 Richard Stephen Turner  
 Veronica F. Turner  
 Marjorie Tydings  
 Collin E. Tytko  
 Alfred L. Ufer  
 Joseph A. Urbino  
 Lauren M. Vacanti  
 Susan Vaccaro  
 James M. Vallone, Esq.  
 Barbara Van Volkenburg  
 Carol Ann Vasko  
 William "Bill" Vasko  
 Catherine Vellon  
 Louis Vellon  
 Carlo Ventresca  
 Monica Ventresca  
 Rena H. Veronneau  
 Rita Kaiser Vigorito  
 Kurt P. Villani  
 Monica N. Villani  
 Margaret Mary Violante  
 Mario Joseph  
 Violante, Sr., DDS  
 Josephine Volpe  
 Sonia Foschio Vom Scheidt  
 Michael Wade  
 William D. Waffner  
 Marjory Wagner

Matthew X. Wagner, Jr.  
 Sr. Theophane Wagner  
 H. James Walker  
 Shirley A. Walker  
 Catherine "Kay" T. Walsh  
 James R. Walsh  
 Margaret "Peggy"  
 Walsh-Sadowski  
 Michael C. Walsh  
 Thomas J. Walsh  
 Eric M. Walter  
 Joseph Walton  
 Margaret Walton  
 Lottie S. Ward  
 Sr. Geraldine T. Warthling  
 Robert E. Watson, Sr.  
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 Timothy M. Weibel  
 Sr. Helen Welch  
 Sr. Mary Frances Welch  
 Harry Donald Wenderoth  
 George Wetzel  
 Jennifer A. Wetzel  
 Mary Powers Wetzel  
 Jodi Humphrey Whitaker  
 Alice Whitlock  
 Kathleen Wiczkowski  
 Rose Magola Wiczkowski  
 Paul R. Wieland  
 Deborah "Debbie"  
 A. Fetterman-Wiles  
 Rudolph "R.C."  
 "Rudy" Carl Wiesner  
 Howard "Bud"  
 E. Wilcox, Jr.  
 Russell E. Wilcox, Sr.  
 George L. Wilken  
 Anthony L. Wilkins  
 Doris H. Wilkosz  
 Walter E. Wilkosz  
 George J. Willard  
 Barbara R. Williams

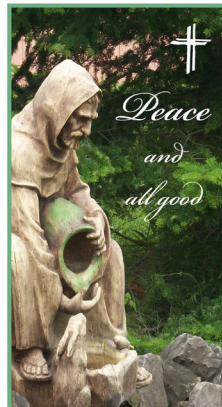
Carmon Wilson  
 Lynette C. Winchester  
 Elizabeth "Betty" Winstel  
 Rose Emily Winter-  
 Sieracki  
 Eileen H. Wolf  
 Helen T. Wolf  
 Jeanette Kobel Wolf  
 Charles R. Wolff  
 Mark W. Wolff  
 Roberta D. Wood  
 Joshua Woodham  
 Ann M. Yamonaco  
 Phyllis Yanity  
 Young Family  
 Mary Anne Young  
 Mary Anne "Nanny" Young  
 John A.  
 Zaccarella, NFPD, Ret.  
 Floyd M. Zaepfel, MD  
 Thelma Zaepfel  
 Adrienne E. Zahm  
 Paul M. Zahm  
 Derek A. Zaczewski  
 Helen Zaninovich  
 Carol Zaepfel-Keitz  
 Frances Zavatsky  
 Nicholas Zavatsky  
 John Zavitz, Sr.  
 Mildred Zavitz  
 Howard F. Zelenski  
 Eugene Zelma  
 Gertrude Zelma  
 Ziegler Family  
 David L. Zimmer  
 Jean R. Zurek  
 Jerome "Jerry"  
 R. Zurek, Sr.

\* = last name not provided

## Give the Gift of Prayer

We have a variety of prayer request cards for every occasion. Put your intentions in our care -- through prayer, our Sisters provide comfort during times of loss; hope for those who are ill or suffering; blessing and gratitude for those special occasions in life. Benefits also include a share in the Masses and good works of the Sisters of St. Francis.

Request cards online at [www.stellaosf.org/prayer](http://www.stellaosf.org/prayer)



## Probate Law 101

There's a couple of sayings to take to heart when planning your estate:

1. Where's there's a Will, there's a way.  
Where there's no Will, there's a way to make money!
2. Where there's a Will, there's a relative!

It's never too late to plan, and getting the help of an attorney and/or financial planner can help you prevent costly mistakes for your loved ones.

Bequests and planned gifts to the Sisters of St. Francis make up, on average, an astonishing 37% of the income received through the advancement office!

Legacy Society members are remembered in monthly Masses at Stella Niagara, and provide critical resources to help us provide care for our sisters in the health center and for our ministries.

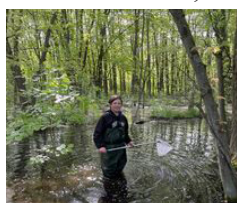
Establish your own Franciscan legacy by including the Sisters in your Will -- our legal title is "Sisters of St. Francis of Holy Name Province, Inc."

# Mission Moments

*In the spirit of ecological conversion, we commit ourselves to the sustainability of our planet especially at this time of climate crisis.* (General Chapter recommendation - Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity)

Climate change is a vital part of the curriculum at both The Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart (SHA) and Stella Niagara Education Park (SNEP), two of our sponsored schools. **Sister Mara Walton**, who has taught and served on the respective boards of both schools, says her role has given her the opportunity to see the importance of this topic within the classroom as well as in extracurricular activities. In her experience, students see climate change as a cyclic event where one action can easily impact another and that each action has its importance. Teachers at both schools continue to be an inspiration as they make environmental issues an important everyday topic.

SNEP began its Outdoor Education program in 2015 and under the direction of a coordinator and the classroom teachers, each student from Montessori 3-year-olds to 8th graders has an outdoor experience each day -- rain, snow or sun! Special projects, such as a study of the Great Lakes Watershed, can all be explored on the campus' 100+ acres. Of particular note are the vernal pools that appear each spring. These temporary wetlands source their water from precipitation (rain and snow melt) and storm water runoff, but they are more than just puddles. They are evidence of our geologic history, and are valuable ecosystems that play a critical role in the life cycles of some of our most vulnerable wildlife today, including the spotted salamander, wood frog and spring peeper.



At SHA, extended study of environmental issues is a part of the International Baccalaureate Program. Each year students travel to countries such as El Salvador to work with the people to build latrines, fix fences, work in health clinics and teach religion. This gives the students a short but real experience of living “without” so many things they take for granted. A graduate of SHA is now serving with the Young Life program in El Salvador.

Sister Mara stresses that meeting former students who are now working in the field to combat various issues related to climate change has changed her own life knowing they are living out our shared Franciscan values.

Several years ago, **Sister Christina Pecoraro** came upon a family who were looking for “the little white house.” They were referencing the little chapel at the river, now part of the Stella Niagara Preserve.

Almost two decades earlier Sisters Karen Allen and Carolyn Fisher had conceived of *Stella Niagara as Earth Center* -- envisioning possibilities for the grounds of Stella Niagara to serve as an ecological haven. They could have never guessed that at the meadow, a portion of their dream would be taken even further than they imagined. Nor did they foresee that all of this would occur as Pope Francis issued *Laudato Si'*, *Care for our Common Home*.

There, a family found moments of refuge at the Stella Niagara Preserve. Beneath their feet were footsteps of our sisters dating back to 1907. Even earlier were the footprints of soldiers who fought there during the war of 1812. Still earlier were the imprints of the indigenous Native Americans.

A Native American from the West had once said we should “love this earth as the newborn loves its mother’s heartbeat.” Nature who loves the earth in just that way, welcomes saint and sinner alike. As she reveals the face of God, she seeks to heal, to delight, to nourish and to invite our praise.

On that day, as in the days to come, Nature did what she loves to do:

*She opened the Doors of her Mercy.*

## 150th Celebrations

### - Save the Dates!

New Jersey - May 31, 2024  
New Lexington, OH - June 8, 2024  
Stella Niagara, NY - August 4, 2024  
Tribute Gala, Buffalo, NY - October 9, 2024

### - Stay tuned...we're planning!!

Charleston, WV - September 7, 2024  
Columbus, OH - autumn 2024

**Contact 716-754-2193 for information!**

# Clínica Familiar Lak Ña Clara

## SNAP SHOT OF A MEDICAL MISSION

We've all heard the phrase "it takes a village;" well, in the case of our medical mission, it takes a village and then some!

Things have certainly changed from the days when our small team would load supplies into a pick-up truck in the early morning hours and set out across rough roads to remote villages. Today, roads and transportation have improved and the establishment of our permanent clinic has made a dramatic difference in delivering health care to the indigenous population.

Despite these improvements, help is still needed and in November 2023, a team of volunteers from Western New York and central California set out to make a difference. There were 5 physicians, 3 nurses, a nurse practitioner, a midwife, 3 interpreters, and a maintenance worker. They worked alongside seven of our sisters and the permanent clinic staff comprised of 3 physicians, a psychologist, social worker, clinic director, lab technician, nurse, x-ray technician, dentist, permaculture farmer, and maintenance worker. Also stepping in to help were 6 nurses and 1 physician who volunteered from the local city of Palenque. This cooperative effort enabled them to provide care to 585 patients in just 5 days!

The services provided varied from family practice and dental services, to lab services including sonograms and x-rays, ob/gyn examinations and education, nutritional and psychological counseling, as well as pediatric care.

Dr. Peter Kowalski, our team leader from Western New York, notes that having lab services on site has made a tremendous difference to deliver appropriate care. Additionally, being able to collaborate with local clinicians and communicate with specialists back home, has enhanced services and educational opportunities for patients and providers alike.

Everyone can help. Cash donations assist with the mission's most urgent needs. Donations of supplies help us provide items not easily obtained in the region, such as: AA or AAA batteries, Contour Next diabetes meters, testing strips and lancets, Small pill baggies, Large bottles (500 pills or more) of children's vitamins, adult vitamins and prenatal vitamins (*please note: no gummies, which can be mistaken for candy*), powdered Pedialyte, and various strengths of reading glasses.

Volunteers pay their own travel expenses, but room and board is provided on the mission property. We welcome family physicians and specialists, nurse practitioners, nurses, and English/Spanish translators to contact Sister Nancy Zelma to learn more.

CLÍNICA FAMILIAR LAK ÑA CLARA  
Salud con dignidad

Del 26 de febrero  
al 1 de marzo  
del 2024  
8:00 am a 2:00 pm

JORNADA MÉDICA  
y de servicios

Con médicos de  
Estados Unidos

916 690 1153 | Clínica Familiar Lak Ña Clara | @clinica\_familiar\_lak\_ña\_clara

Prolongacion Velasco Suárez S/N, Colonia Nuevo Belen, a lado del convento de las Hermanas Franciscanas, Palenque, Chiapas.

A local advertisement provides information for the February 2024 medical mission. Below, boxes of supplies are readied by the Sisters at Stella Niagara to be sent with the team.



S. Nancy Zelma, Medical Mission Coordinator  
716-754-4312 ext. 777 nzelma@stellaosf.org

Barbara Johnson, Office of Advancement; Donations  
716-754-2193 bjohnson@stellaosf.org

4421 Lower River Road, Stella Niagara, NY 14144  
www.stellaosf.org

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The Tavola represents significant life experiences of the foundress of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity. She was baptized Catherine and professed Magdalen.

The background of her painted figure is representative of her tomb at the Kreppel, Heythuysen, Netherlands--the location of the original foundation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity.

The top three panels portray the baptismal font of her baptism, her birth home and the River Maas.

Left panels, top to bottom:

- In the sacristy before the painting of Crucifixion with St. Mary Magdalen.
- Religious profession as Third Order Franciscan with the Capuchins.
- Sheep grazing opposite her spinning wheel.
- Teaching the Children.
- Sisters join her from around the world.

Right panels, top to bottom:

- Catherine, reluctantly at a dance with her sister, Yeneke.
- Traveling to Heythuysen upon the request of Fr. Van der Zandt.



Mother Magdalen Damen: Tavola  
 Candice Tuccci, O.S.F.  
 Oil on canvas, May 10, 2019  
 Photograph by: Don Doll, SJ

- Spinning wheel opposite the grazing sheep.
- Meeting with Bishop Van Bommel, receiving approval to begin a religious congregation after previous requests. "Let her begin and carry out what God inspired her to do."
- Finding the Kreppel after having a vision of it. It is the first foundation.

Lower three panels:

- Global and cosmic images including the locations of the sisters.
- Her death and final passing with her sisters present beside her bed.
- Global and cosmic images including the locations of the sisters.

It was a challenge, a graced filled blessing and privilege to have been asked to produce this image of Mother Magdalen Damen. I had many intimate conversations with her through this creative process, and now it is your turn to do likewise as you spend time with this painting. May you, too, be nurturing waters of Gospel living in this journey of womb to tomb and rise to a new creation. May the spirit of Mother Magdalen Damen live on in your hearts.

The Good News is a publication of the Office of Advancement  
 4421 Lower River Road, Stella Niagara, New York 14144-1001  
 Phone: (716) 754-2193      www.stellaosf.org