

Vol. 26, No. 2

The Whitehall FRANCISCAN

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God



Mission Statement

We, Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, commit ourselves to the evangelization of continuous conversion in the tradition of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis.

Called together by a good and Provident God, we cultivate an intimacy with God that is nourished by Scripture and Eucharist for reverence for all creation.

Faithful to our charism, we go to those whom Providence sends us, and conscious of our mission in the Church, we witness to the Kingdom by our lives and service.

We will be instruments of justice and peace among those in need of evangelization, healing, and reconciliation especially the poor and oppressed.

In simplicity and joy we want to be signs of hope, for we believe that Jesus Christ is with us in the power of His Resurrection.

In This Issue

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 2 | Message from our General Minister |
| 3 | Being Present for Each Other |
| 4-5 | 2017 Jubilees |
| 6 - 7 | Welcoming the Stranger:
Refugee Crisis in Syria |
| 8 - 9 | Catholic School Days |
| 9 | Being Present for Each Other (continued) |
| 10 | San Damiano Award |
| 11 | Ministries in Pittsburgh
Franciscan Child Day Care Center |
| 12 | Save the Date: Autumn Gala |

The Whitehall Franciscan is a quarterly publication of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God
3757 Library Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15234
412-882-9911
www.osfprov.org



facebook.com/osfprov

EDITORIAL BOARD

Sister Joanne Brazinski, OSF
Sister Janet Gardner, OSF
Sister Barbara Zilch, OSF
Robyn Moeller, Development Director
Contributor: Nick Rodi
Proofreaders: Sister Margaret Markey, OSF
and Mimi DiGregory

CROSSING THE BORDERS

A message from General Minister Sister Joanne Brazinski, OSF

We make many decisions every single day, sometimes not realizing their impact. Every day we choose to build walls or bridges. We choose to call another friend or enemy. We make choices around reinforcing borders or about crossing them. We nurture life-giving attitudes or those that sow negativity and mistrust. Contemplating the life of Francis of Assisi helps us not only reflect on our own choices but also benefits us in discovering the underlying reasons for them.



The meeting of Francis with the Sultan of Egypt took him beyond his own boundaries and borders, both literally and figuratively. Francis made the choice to cross that border, even if it would cost him his life. What was the foundation of such a choice? What is the foundation of our choices? In a very particular way, our world is confronted with the challenge not only to cross borders, but also to look at our motives to cross them or not.

In Francis' world of the thirteenth century, violence, mistrust, fear, and hatred existed. Perhaps they matched, if not exceeded, what our world is experiencing today. Francis ventured to cross the border, to enter into the world of another, albeit the world of one who was considered the enemy. From where did Francis get such courage? In his discourse to the friars right before leaving for Egypt, he shared these words which would later become part of the Franciscan Rule of Life: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. Our Lord Jesus Christ himself, in whose footsteps we must follow, called the man who would betray him his friend, and gave himself up of his own accord to his executioners. Therefore, our friends are those who for no reason cause us trouble and suffering, shame or injury, pain or torture, even martyrdom or death. It is these we must love, and love very much, because they give us eternal life." (*Chapter XXII of the 1221*)

There was something in Francis that realized the violence, the Crusades, the hatred, the killings were not in keeping with the Gospel message nor with the following of Jesus Christ. Because Francis kept his eyes fixed on the One who was the source of life, he perceived that some decisions were not life-giving but death-dealing; he was compelled to cross the border of mistrust, hatred and fear.

There was no guarantee that Francis would even reach the Sultan. It was possible he would be killed as he entered enemy territory, yet he travelled on. Francis' sense of Gospel living as well as his humility and his respect for the other far outweighed his fears.

Francis' visit with the Sultan was an historic event. The Crusades did not end immediately following his visit, but Francis did cross the border, built a bridge, entered the world of another, and reached out with humility and respect.

Recently, Pope Francis also journeyed to Egypt to promote peace. Crossing the borders of misunderstanding, rash judgements, fear and mistrust, continues to be a challenge today. Perhaps a question for each of us - are my life attitudes and decisions building walls or bridges? Am I choosing to close the boundaries of my heart and life or am I willing to cross the borders of mistrust, fear and hatred? Am I willing to enter the world of another? What does that mean? What is the cost? What is my response?

This issue of the Whitehall Franciscan introduces the reader to persons who are trying to cross borders and build bridges. Rejoice with us as you meet them and enjoy their stories.

Cover Note: In this issue of the Whitehall Franciscan, we examine the refugee crisis in Syria (pages 6-7). The stock photo featured on our cover depicts jasmine, which is considered by many Syrians to be their national flower. Symbolizing peace and happiness, it reminds us to pray for the Syrian people and all suffering from war who are seeking God's Peace and Mercy.

Being Present for Each Other

Living in Community with our Sisters at Presbyterian SeniorCare

We have a routine,” explained Sister Mary Ann Los-toski with her twin Sister Ann Marie as they navigated the halls at Presbyterian SeniorCare – Oakmont on a sunny May 4, 2017. As they do most Thursdays, they were visiting senior Sisters along the maze-like route from assisted living residences at Westminster Place to the Willows, which provides more skilled care and rehabilitation. There is also Woodside Place that provides specialized care for persons living with severe dementia and Alzheimer’s.

Sisters Ann Marie and Mary Ann kept a brisk pace as they attempted to visit all 11 Sisters at Presbyterian SeniorCare. Delivering special treats, the Sisters entered each room with an exuberant and joyful “Hello, Sister!” and are greeted with smiles and hugs. Their first visit was to Sister Miriam Racas, to whom they also gave cards and gifts for her baptismal day, which she celebrates in lieu of her birthday.

On this visit, Sisters Mary Ann and Ann Marie were joined by Sister Elise Mora. Recently retired from St. Bonaventure University, she agreed to meet with Westminster Place’s activity director, at Sister Miriam’s request, to organize a presentation about Cinco de Mayo for the residents.

“This is a very nice place,” said Sister Miriam, who is the newest Sister to come to Westminster Place. “Whatever you’re interested in, they try to support.”

The senior Sisters at Presbyterian SeniorCare are a powerhouse of prayer – remembering all the intentions of friends, family and benefactors, as well as the needs of the Church and world. They also continue to serve God by being present for each other, staff and residents, and friends and loved ones in various ways. Sister Dolorita Butkus participates in a group who regularly prays the Rosary together, as well as attends outings with other residents. Sister Marita Dargis also enjoys planned outings, including the occasional excursion to Casey’s Restaurant for breakfast.

Sister Berenice Petruskas prefers to stay on her floor, yet enjoys the company of her neighbors during meals.

“One of the aides told me ‘I’ll put you at the good table,’” said Sister Berenice. “Truth is, they are all good tables.”

Many of the Sisters continue to remain present to friends and loved ones with written correspondences and phone calls. More tech-savvy Sisters, like Sister Lillian Yurksaitis, also utilize e-mail and Facebook to remain present, as well as engage in spiritual study online.

After almost three years, the Sisters remain grateful for Providence’s call to become part of the community at Presbyterian Senior Care in Oakmont.

“It seems like I just came here yesterday,” said Sister Rosalie Kaseta, who is celebrating her 75th year as a Sister of St. Francis of the Providence of God. “I have my family here” she added, motioning to Sisters Ann Marie, Mary Ann and Elise. “And, a great Franciscan vocation.”

“If you have to go into an assisted living, this is a wonderful place,” said Sister Lillian, who, like many Sisters noted the good food – particularly the made-to-order omelets “just like at the motherhouse.”



During a visit to our community at Presbyterian SeniorCare, Sister Ann Marie surprised Sister Rosalie with a chocolate bunny and coconut eggs.



Sisters Lillian, Miriam, Marita and Dolorita (seated) invited Sisters Ann Marie, Mary Ann and Elise to join them for lunch in the main dining room.

Continued on page 9

2017 Jubilee Celebrations

Each year, we celebrate the jubilees of our Sisters who have been shaped by God's hand into women full of grace with a clear vision and deep faith. In a Franciscan community, jubilee is important. It is a celebration that commemorates the passage of years in which a sister has lived the vowed life with faithfulness and fidelity. We hope you will be touched by their faith as many of you have been touched by their presence in your lives.

75th Jubilee

Sister M. Rosalie Kasetta, OSF



Sister Rosalie Kasetta, OSF, a native of New York City, entered the community in 1942, during her senior year at the congregation's St. Francis Academy. Her initial ministry was as an elementary school teacher in Rochester, NY, followed by assignments in Detroit, MI and Homestead, PA. In 1951, she was asked to relocate to São Paulo, Brazil, where she taught at several elementary schools until her return to the U.S. in 1957. Sister Rosalie vividly recalls her return home on a cargo ship that took nearly three weeks to reach New York. Upon her return, Sister resumed her teaching ministry at St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin in Pittsburgh, PA, as well as assignments in West Mifflin, Philadelphia, Moon Run, PA and Kenosha, WI. She was also on the faculty of St. Francis Academy, serving as the school's librarian for ten years. In 1983, feeling the need for a change, Sister was assigned as a chaplain at the congregation's St. Joseph Hospital in Alton, IL. With the hospital's closing in 1986, she returned to the motherhouse assuming the duties of Liturgist as well as social justice coordinator.

Sister tells us that she became very interested in peace and social justice issues, even picketing the A&P in Caste Village on one occasion! An excellent pianist, she also took an active role in the community's San Damiano Consort. In 2001, Sister Rosalie began her tenure as the assistant campus administrator at St. John Vianney Manor, returning to the motherhouse in 2008, at age 83, to assume duties in community services and, later, as the congregation's librarian. A graduate of Duquesne University with a Bachelor's degree in Education, Sister also earned a Master's in Library Science at the university. Today, Sister Rosalie resides at Presbyterian SeniorCare in Oakmont, PA, where she is active in the Ministry of Prayer.

Remember When

Highlights from the years
our Jubilarians Entered

1942

The year Sister Rosalie entered.

- Bing Crosby records "White Christmas."
- Abbott & Costello launch a weekly radio show.
- Admiral Nimitz wins first WWII naval defeat of Japan.
- Anne Frank gets her diary as a birthday gift in Amsterdam.

1932

The year Sister Joan of Arc entered.

- Hattie Caraway elected the 1st woman U.S. senator for a full term
- Jack Benny debuts on the radio
- Amelia Earhart is the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic
- Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers star in first movie together

85th Jubilee

Sister Joan of Arc Urban



Sister Joan of Arc Urban, OSF, a native of Hartford, CT, is the first sister in the congregation's history to reach her 85th Jubilee, having entered the community in 1932 during her junior year at St. Francis Academy. Upon entering, Sister was only 10 years removed from the community's founding and the 166th woman to join the congregation. Sister began her many years in ministry as an elementary teacher at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Elizabeth, NJ, followed by teaching assignments as far west as Kenosha, WI, and as far east as Amsterdam, NY. She also served as an elementary principal in Kenosha. Sister Joan of Arc served as a catechist at Transfiguration Parish in Maspeth, NY, where in her own words, it was her most memorable assignment, "being a part of the parish and allowing me to be involved in all aspects of parish life." Sister is a graduate of Duquesne University, with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Education. Sister Joan of Arc "retired" to the motherhouse in 1990, where she remained active as the congregational postal clerk and receptionist until her 95th birthday. Presently, at 101 years of age, Sister resides at the former rectory at Nativity Parish in South Park, PA, with several other sisters. With a peaceful and quiet spirit, she continues to minister through her presence to persons she encounters, including parishioners at Nativity where she attends Mass. She also assists with packaging Sr. Francine's homemade baked goods for family and friends. This past March, Sister Joan of Arc was the oldest sister, and most likely the oldest person, participating with the Catholic Sisters of Western Pennsylvania, in Pittsburgh's St. Patrick's Day parade.

Sisters Celebrating Jubilees in Brazil

65th Jubilee



**Sister Maria da Salette
Nogueria Amazonas**

Sister Salette's early ministry included serving as a teacher at the São Miguel Archangel school, as well as Nossa Senhora do Carmo and Pio XII schools. While engaging in parish ministry in the Vila Zelina neighborhood of São Paulo, she also developed her musical gifts. Sister was one of our pioneer sisters to Porto Real do Colégio, Alagoas, where they engaged in pastoral and parish ministry. She served as treasurer for Pio XII and Nossa Senhora do Carmo schools, then served children and families in need through a ministry sponsored by Pio XII school. She also served in our Regional and Provincial libraries. Presently, Sister resides at Recanto Paz e Bem where she engages in prayer and other ministries in support of our mission.

25th Jubilee



**Sister Maria Lúcia
do Nascimento**

Sister Lúcia's early service included pastoral and vocation ministries. In 1998, she was missioned to Guajará-Mirim, Rondônia on the border of Bolivia, where she served those in need. From 2000 - 2003, she returned to São Paulo, to serve at Nossa Senhora do Carmo Colégio and the Provincial House, as well as Darci Vargas Children's Hospital. Since 2004, Sister Lúcia has been engaged in pastoral and vocation ministries at several missions, including Maceió, Alagoas; Guajará Mirim, Rondônia; and Bolivia. Presently she serves in Alagoiñas, Bahia, where she resides in our formation house.

Welcoming the Stranger

Exploring the Refugee Crisis in Syria

"Lord make me a instrument of your Peace...Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved as to love." (Peace Prayer of St. Francis)

Variations of "do not be afraid" appear in the Gospel over 300 times. Yet, fear is ever present in our imperfect human existence, including fear of persons whom Jesus has called us to love (Mark 12:13). How do we trust God and overcome fear? As Franciscans, we seek to love others as Christ loves us. Part of this is through prayer, but we also seek to understand. In the next few issues of the Whitehall Franciscan, we will seek to understand "the stranger" and how God is calling us to love each other, as Christ loved us. We invite you to join us in using the information and resources shared to engage in contemplative prayer, seek to understand and reflect on how God is calling us to be instruments of Peace.

Every 15 seconds- by the time you reach the end of this paragraph - another person in Syria has become a refugee. Syria's civil war has created the worst humanitarian crisis of our time. Bombings are destroying crowded cities and horrific human rights violations are widespread. Basic necessities like food and medical care are sparse. Syrian children and families have borne the brunt of the conflict's disastrous consequences.

Since the civil war began in 2011, an estimated 470,000 people have been killed, including nearly 15,000 children. In that time, nearly 11 million Syrians have fled their homes since the war's outbreak. Among those escaping the conflict, the majority have sought refuge in neighboring countries or within Syria itself. According to the United Nations, nearly 5 million have fled to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq, while another 6.6 million are displaced within Syria. Meanwhile, about one million have requested asylum to Europe. Germany, with more than 300,000 applications, and Sweden with 100,000, are EU's top receiving countries.

When you consider refugees, well over half of the country's pre-war population of 22 million is in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, whether they still remain in the country or have escaped across the borders. "Syria has become the great tragedy of this century – a disgraceful humanitarian calamity with suffering and displacement unparalleled in recent history," said Antonio Guterres, the UN's high commissioner for refugees. Michael Moller, director of the UN's office in Geneva, told a news conference, "I don't understand why people are insisting this is a European problem. This is a global issue."

The dire situation prompted Guterres to conclude, "Never has there been a greater need for tolerance, compassion and solidarity with people who have lost everything."

How are Americans responding to this crisis? Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, said, "I am disturbed . . . by the calls from both federal and state officials for an end to the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the United States. These refugees are fleeing terror themselves . . . They are extremely vulnerable families, women and children who are fleeing for their lives. We cannot and should not blame them for the actions of a terrorist organization."

A number of U.S. congressmen have claimed that allowing in Syrian refugees would constitute a pipeline for terrorists. "The rhetoric has been awful," said James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute. "The difficulty of doing it is met by this Islamophobia and conflation of Syrians and Iraqis with terrorists."

Why would we think these people are to be feared as the ISIS terrorists who drove them out of their homelands in the first place? As with so many issues facing society today, the nation is divided on how we should respond to taking in "our share" of the world's refugees. More than half of our states said they will not accept any Syrian refugees. Then, there are those who propose that we accept only the Christians among them. All these strategies do is play on peoples' fears. We cannot let fear dictate our policy toward our sisters and brothers.



Photo: Nice_Media/Shutterstock.com

A Syrian mother and her son receive food and drink from relief workers at a refugee camp in Athens, Greece (April 20, 2016). UNICEF estimates that the Syrian conflict has effected 8.4 million children as refugees or victims of war. According to the U.S. State Department, 78% of Syrian refugees in the United States are women and children.

The United States can – and must – continue to protect itself against terrorist threats, but can do so while still admitting a greater number of Syrian refugees for resettlement, and processing applications more quickly than it now does. Fact is, every refugee resettled to the United States must complete a multilayered, dynamic vetting process while overseas, which often takes two or more years to complete. Syrian refugees go through additional screening. (Read more about the process on the US Dept. of State's website: www.state.gov/j/prm/ra/admissions/)

It should come as no surprise that the largest recipients and re-settlers of refugees in the U.S. are the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Charities, expanded by other religions such as Quakers and Lutherans, among others. Moreover, bishops, parishes and congregations of religious women and men across the country are responding to Pope Francis' call to support refugee families. This is not a new phenomenon. Catholic churches, schools and religious congregations have always been at the forefront of welcoming immigrants. For example, our community, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, was initially founded 95 years ago to serve the Lithuanian immigrant community in Pittsburgh, PA.

Still, many Americans are afraid of taking refugees into our communities, and how to respond to the crisis is a huge test of our faith. The U.S. has long been a sanctuary for the world's refugees, and our Franciscan congregation's members have, and continue to pray, for their acceptance.

Prayer for Peace in Syria

**God of Compassion,
Hear the cries of the people of Syria,
Bring healing to those
suffering from the violence,
Bring comfort to those mourning the dead,
Strengthen Syria's neighbors in their care
and welcome for refugees,
convert the hearts of those
who have taken up arms,
and protect those committed to peace.**

**God of Hope,
Inspire leaders to choose peace over violence
and to seek reconciliation with enemies.
Inspire the Church around the world
with compassion for the people of Syria,
and give us hope for a future
of peace built on justice for all.**

**We ask this through Jesus Christ,
Prince of Peace and Light of the World,**

Amen

Prayer from Catholic Relief Services: www.crs.org/resource-center/prayer-peace-syria

How You Can Join Our Mission

Each of us can do at least one thing - PRAY. From there, God may call us to act - such as giving to a relief organization, contacting elected officials or simply being a peaceful presence to refugees within our communities. If you would like to do something to help alleviate refugees' suffering, we recommend you begin by reaching out to Catholic Relief Services or Catholic Charities.

LEARN MORE

Catholic Relief Services - www.crs.org
Catholic Charities - www.catholiccharitiesusa.org
World Relief - www.worldrelief.org
We Welcome Refugees - www.wewelcomerefugees.com

Catholic School Memories

Recess, Lenten Banks, Snow Forts & More

When invited to recall their Catholic school years, both as students and as teachers, several of our sisters responded with their most vivid memories.

Writing, reading and library visits are among the cherished remembrances. Everyone enjoyed diagramming sentences, and learning English grammar as well. There are also fond memories of the Palmer Method of writing, with its miles of slanted lines and oval exercises.

Of course, religion played a major role in the curriculum. Emphasis was on the *Baltimore Catechism*, and the questions became more complex as students advanced in grades. Answers had to be memorized and recited, and had to be word perfect!

Everyone recalls that music was also a major part of Catholic school life. Many sang in the children's choir. In those days before Vatican II, daily Mass was usually a Requiem Mass, where the celebrant wore black garments, and it was said in Latin.

Of course, there were some other shared memories such as staying after school to clean blackboards, clap erasers or simply help the teacher. When Sister Barbara Zilch mentions the end of the school year traditions, she fondly recalls how first and second graders took their desks outside to give them a thorough scrubbing, while the classrooms were being cleaned at the same time. She also remembers when at one particular school, the primary grades were to receive new carpeting at year's end. "To save on costs, before school closed for the summer, the children all came in play clothes to help with the removal of the old carpeting. We could never do that today!"

No one could forget the sleigh like desks, bolted to long runners on the floor. The top of the desk opened to store books, no lockers needed! There was a place for pencils on the desk top and a space reserved for an ink well, long unused. The front of the classroom had a huge blackboard and, in some schools, two door openings on either side to the cloak room. Lunch was 25 cents a day – you paid \$1.25 in advance. Oh, and milk in little cartons.

Special events were securely fixed in some memories. Most of our sisters recall May altars in the classrooms, often with processions and crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven. This particular celebration evoked memories of other traditional classroom celebrations, such as Valentine boxes, school plays, and Christmas pageants.

During Lent, students were given "Lenten banks" that were small tin cans, with a slot in the top. Students were expected to fill their banks with coins and return them just before Easter.

Of course, everyone had recollections of gym class. Sister Althea Anne Spencer calls to mind, as a student at St. Michael's School in Coopersville, MI, where they played basketball in the old church. "On one occasion, we were playing and one of my classmates gave the basketball the 'heave ho' to the other end of the gym. Just at that moment, Sister Leonida walked in. The ball clipped the top of her veil and both it and the ball went flying. In an instant, there was absolute silence. Sister calmly picked up her veil and left the gym without a word!"

Sister Althea Anne also has fond memories of her teaching days at St. Francis Academy. "I recall one student/faculty volleyball game. The volleyball team was quite good and they challenged the teachers. Knowing we were at a disadvantage, we had two male teachers dress in the girls' uniforms. The faculty won, mostly because the students couldn't stop laughing!"

More than one sister had fond memories of recess. Some schools had large playgrounds which allowed for outdoor exercise. Sister Althea Anne recalls the 80 acres of land at St. Michael's. "In the winter, we would build snow forts, skate on the flooded, frozen fields and then come back to the classroom with wet uniforms."

As a principal at St. Michael's, Sister Mary Ann Lostoski, a sports "junkie," would go out with her students during recess and organize baseball games with any student who wanted to play, no matter the grade. In the winter, she would make a hockey rink so they could play hockey every day. She recalls one particularly snowy winter where there were only five days of school in January.



Sister Mary Ann Lostoski at recess with students from St. Michael School in Coopersville, MI during the 1962-63 school year.

Continued on page 9

"When we did return, we again went outside for recess every day, building a huge multi-room snow fort. You see, you couldn't keep our students inside for recess, they all wore snowmobile suits!"

Sister Mary Ann's twin sister, Sister Ann Marie, recalls recess at St. Valentine's School in Bethel Park where she had her first graders outside for every noon recess, no matter the weather. "My policy was that they had to bring their boots or they couldn't go outside. People coming by my classroom remarked why the hallway was lined with boots, even if there was little or no snow."

Each child we've been blessed to teach has left an indelible impression upon our hearts. What memories are you grateful for from your Catholic School days?

**Share your memories with us at
info@osfprov.org
or facebook.com/osfprov**



Sister Alverna with students from St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin in Pittsburgh, PA in the 1960s.

Being Present for Each Other (continued from page 3)



Sisters Ann Marie and Mary Ann (standing) visiting with Sisters Sylvia, Therese and Irene.

Zikreta Kristo, NA attend to the Sisters' medical needs three days a week and supplement the care given by the Presbyterian SeniorCare staff.

"Sisters have not forgotten us. They visit, bring things and take care of our needs." said Sister Rosalie. "Oakmont has become the new motherhouse."

During their visit, Sister Mary Ann and Ann Marie's routine ended in Sister Irene Pacekonis' room, where they were able to sit and recharge before beginning the long trek back to Westminster Place for lunch.

"The twins! They are so kind," said Sister Irene, who added that her family living in Connecticut and North Carolina are rarely able to visit, but Sisters Mary Ann and Ann Marie "always come."

**Thank
You!**

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God are grateful to all who have joined us in being present for our senior Sisters. Thank you to those who have sent cards and notes, visited our Sisters or given of your time. We are also grateful for those who give to our Sarah Fund – which helps provide for the needs of our senior Sisters, including quality care, assisted living services and equipment not covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or insurance.

*For more information about how you can be present to our Sisters,
please visit www.osfprov.org – or contact us at (412) 885-7232 or info@osfprov.org.*

San Damiano Award

2017 Honorees Announced

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God are pleased to announce that the co-recipients of their San Damiano Award for 2017 are Rosemary Corsetti and Edwin “Bud” Ellis, Jr.

This award, presented annually at the congregation’s Autumn Gala, is given to an individual or organization that has demonstrated a long time commitment to the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, their mission and their ministry. Both Rosemary and Bud are long-time supporters of the congregation.



Rosemary with her husband, Vincent DeChellis and Sister J. Lora Dambroski at the luncheon after Sister Joanne Brazinski's 50th Jubilee.

ers, Seton Hill presented Rosemary with its highest honor, the Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal.

Edwin “Bud” Ellis has also been a long-time supporter of the congregation, employing his skills as a financial consultant to assist the sisters in both short and long-term financial planning. Bud’s background includes 44 years’ experience providing financial consulting to various healthcare entities, primarily hospitals, as well as religious communities. This involves time spent as CFO and COO for assorted hospitals and health systems that were experiencing financial distress prior to his engagement. He has also participated in healthcare financing of public and private debt offerings in the aggregate exceeding \$1 billion, as well as taking part in 21 healthcare corporate restructurings, from sole community to metropolitan tertiary hospitals. Bud has also assisted with the structure and negotiations of 47 merger, consolidation or acquisition transactions involving more than 70 hospitals or healthcare systems.

Bud’s additional experience includes 35 years as a member of various non-profit Boards of Trustees, including Executive, Investment, Finance, and Audit Committees.

A graduate of Penn State University with a B.S. in Accounting, Bud was a 3-year starter in the defensive backfield for the Nittany Lions football team.

Thank you and congratulations, Rosemary and Bud!

As noted on the Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney website, Rosemary Corsetti’s clients know they can trust her because they know how committed she is to their “cause.” Rosemary possesses extensive legal experience and knowledge, especially in the long term care and religiously affiliated sectors, and her philosophy of listening more than speaking provides unlimited value to those clients. Throughout her career, she has used her legal skills to help religious congregations, health care systems, social service groups, foundations, colleges and universities navigate the changing tides of society, allowing them to operate more efficiently and to continue their vital roles in society. She has also served as in-house counsel to three national long term care chains.

Active with several local non-profits, Rosemary has provided pro bono legal services for organizations such as Sisters Place and has served on the board of the Holy Family Institute since the 1980s.

A 1974 graduate of Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA, Rosemary earned her J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Law. In recognition of her service to others, Seton Hill presented Rosemary with the Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal.



Bud and Sherry Ellis with Sister Barbara Zilch at our 2015 Autumn Gala

This year's Autumn Gala is October 12, 2017 at the South Hills Country Club in Pittsburgh, PA. For more information, please contact us at 412-885-7232 or info@osfprov.org.

Ministries in Pittsburgh

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

Therapeutic massage offers physical, emotional and spiritual benefits. Sister Althea Anne Spencer, OSF, is a licensed massage therapist, a member of the American Massage Therapy Association and NCBTM Board certified with over 20 years experience as a massage therapist. Through massage therapy, she will assist you in finding your balance of body-mind-soul.

Sister Althea Anne's massage therapy office is located at

St. Sylvester Parish
3754 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15227

Sister Althea Anne Spencer, OSF
412-885-7233 or saaspencer@osfprov.org

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Through Spiritual Direction, Sisters accompany persons on a spiritual journey, helping them to reverence their sacred story. The purpose of direction emphasizes growing closer to God. It is not psychotherapy, counseling or life planning. Spiritual Direction is specific to your spiritual journey and encourages you to explore the movement of God within your life.

Our Spiritual Directors are also experienced in group facilitation, and are available to facilitate group meetings or retreats.

Sister J. Lora Dambroski, OSF
412-559-1866 or sjldambroski@osfprov.org

Sister Althea Anne Spencer, OSF
412-708-3470 or saaspencer@osfprov.org



www.franciscanchilddaycare.org
fcdcc@osfprov.org 412-882-5085

Childcare is in our Hearts and Children are the Heart of our Center!

The **Franciscan Child Day Care Center** has provided a child-centered environment for 35 years. Our secure center in Pittsburgh's South Hills is a **Keystone STARS™** facility. We care for **infants, toddlers and preschoolers**, as well as provide care for **school age children** in our **Before and After Care Program** and **Summer Program**.



*Come Grow with Us!
Full and part time care plans are available.*

**UNITED WAY CODE:
3485**



Sisters of Saint Francis of the Providence of God
Confidently, Joyfully, We Go Forward!

3757 Library Road • Pittsburgh, PA 15234

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 2544

Save the Date!

13th Annual Autumn Gala

Thursday, October 12, 2017

at the South Hills Country Club

Reception at 6:00 PM • Dinner at 7:00 PM

Gourmet meal includes entrée choice of Asiago Chicken, French Cut Pork Chops or English Style Alaskan Cod with sides, wine and dessert, as well as a hospitality reception with light appetizers, basket raffle and 50/50 drawing.

\$75 a person
\$275 for a 1/2 table (4 persons)
\$525 for a table of 8

For Reservations and Other Ways You Can Join Us:
(412) 885-7232 or info@osfprov.org

All proceeds benefit the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God



OCTOBER CA\$H RAFFLE

Drawing Based on the
3 Digit Evening PA Lottery

\$10 per Chance

\$70 Winners Every Day
in October EXCEPT:

\$500 AUTUMN GALA GRAND PRIZE
on Thursday, October 12

\$200 Every Sunday in October
and

\$100 Every Saturday in October

DAILY BONUS
\$20 paid to Number Before,
Number After and Reverse

Example:
If 243 was drawn on a weekday,
243 would win \$70 and
242, 244 and 342 would each win \$20.

More Information, please contact us at
(412) 885-7232 or info@osfprov.org