

The Whitehall FRANCISCAN

Vol. 33, No. 1
Spring 2024

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God



Caring for our Common Heart



Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, commit ourselves to the evangelical life of continuous conversion in the tradition of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis according to the example of our founding Sisters.

Called together by a good and provident God, we cultivate an intimacy with God that is nourished by Sacred Scripture, by the Eucharist, by our gift of self to others and in reverence for all creation.

Faithful to our Charism, we go to those to whom Providence sends us and conscious of our mission in the Church, we assume the commitment of evangelization and liberation, especially with the poor and oppressed. We witness to God's overflowing love by our lives and service, promoting justice, peace and reconciliation among all.

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

In This Issue

- 2 Care for our Common Heart
- 3 Welcome, Jayne!
- 4 2024 Jubilarians
- 5 Jubilarians in Brazil
- St. Jude Thaddeus Chapel
- 6 2024 Tulip Luncheon
- 7 Memories of Sister Shalome
- 8 St. Michael the Archangel School
- Sister Gloria Receives Award
- 9 Sisters Place
- 10 Franciscan Fest
- 11 Sister Shalome (cont.)
- In Prayerful Memory: Sister Hilda Rosa

The Whitehall Franciscan is a quarterly publication of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God
5802 Curry Road • Pittsburgh, PA 15236
412-882-9911
www.osfprov.org
facebook.com/osfprov

EDITORIAL BOARD

Sister Janet Gardner, OSF
Sister Althea Anne Spencer
Sister Janice Campbell
Robyn Moeller, Development Director
Proofreaders: Sister Margaret Markey, OSF
and Mimi DiGregory

Caring for our Common Heart

“Striving to love each other with the love which is in God, we seek a relationship with one another that is patient and humble, generous and joyful, sensitive and reconciling, open and sincere.”

~ Constitution of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God

Brought together by Providence, our Sisters live as a Community. We share our joys and sorrows, come together in prayer, discern our Franciscan charism, and nurture our common heart by caring for each other and supporting each Sister's unique calling to manifest the love of Christ.

A member of our General Council Leadership Team, Sister Janet Gardner serves as our USA Area Minister responsible for our

Sisters and ministries in Pittsburgh. She, along with our nurse Jayne McDonald, RN and caregiver Sister Eliana da Silva form our healthcare team that coordinates the medical, physical and personal needs of Sisters in healthcare facilities, as well as those living at home.

“Beyond the professional aspects of my ministry to our Sisters is the communal responsibility we have for one another as Sisters in this Franciscan Congregation,” said Sister Janet. “Community is a great reminder that we travel through life, not as islands, but in relation to one another. My life enhances another's, theirs enhances mine. Together we enhance the world around us.”

“I can't do as much as I used to, but I thank God for what I can do for the other Sisters – shopping, cooking dinner, visiting,” said Sister Ann Marie Lostoski. “We still have love for each other, no matter what we can do.”



Aware of each Sister's individual needs and preferences, Sister Eliana da Silva's ministry of care ensures they have healthy food, clothing and other necessities, as well as an occasional treat. A gifted seamstress, she also mends clothing and alters items for function and comfort.



Our healthcare team - Sister Eliana da Silva, Sister Janet Gardner and Jayne McDonald, RN meet regularly to serve our Sisters' health and wellness needs.

“Our homes are always open for hospitality and we share whatever we have,” said Sister Mary Ann, Sister Ann Marie's twin, who lives at Nativity Convent where Sisters often gather for holidays, as well as casual dinners and meetings.

“Gathering together to celebrate significant moments is always a joy,” said Sister Janet. “But the ordinary days of helping one another to live our life of commitment and service remind me of the importance of relationships, of self-giving and support as Francis and Clare did among their companions.”

Striving to love each other as God loves us, we care for each Sister's whole being – physical and spiritual. Supporting each Sister's unique calling to live our Franciscan charism, our Community offers spiritual and ongoing formation opportunities, faith-sharing sessions, and webinars.

“We all strive to be like St. Francis,” said Sister Mary Ann. “We work together sharing Francis' love for Creation, living a simple life style and al-



Our Sisters gathered at Nativity Convent in Pittsburgh for Thanksgiving in 2023 included Sisters Elise Mora, Francine McDonald, Ann Marie Lostoski, Hilária de Oliveira, Peg Markey, M. Edward Urban, Janet Gardner and Mary Ann Lostoski.

ways helping the poor.”

“My own spiritual journey is supported and challenged by living in Community,” said Sister Janet. “Sharing my faith journey with others, those I live with and in larger groups helps strengthen my faith and gives me the impetus to reach out in service and love to others.”

“I feel supported by my Community in having the freedom to be sharing my gifts,” said Sister Janice Campbell who serves in pastoral ministry at Our Lady of Perpetual Hope Parish. Though she lives about 45-minutes away, Sister Janice returns to the South Hills for Community events and meetings, as well as help where needed, including driving our Sisters.

Sister Ann Marie remains grateful for the support of the Community through every part of her journey. After 37 years of teaching, Providence called her to new ministries leading her to her “greatest joy” of serving as a companion for Comfort Keepers for more than a decade. Though she retired several years ago to focus on her health, she remains in contact with the families of clients.

“The Community takes care of us,” said Sister Ann Marie. “I wouldn’t change any of my 67 years as a Sister of St. Francis of the Providence of God.”

Welcome, Jayne!

When our devoted nurse of 25 years, Pat Enscoe, decided to retire in 2023, our Community was challenged to find someone with the same compassion, patience and skill to care for our Sisters in Pittsburgh. Thankfully, Providence sent us Jayne McDonald, RN.

Jayne joins us with more than 47 years’ experience in healthcare, including 32 years as a Registered Nurse (RN). A majority of her career has been spent in senior care including acute care, home health care and long-term care/skilled nursing. Her additional skills include certification in phlebotomy and infection prevention training from the CDC.

“I don’t feel like a stranger,” said Jayne adding that she always felt like she knew the Sisters from what was shared with her by her brother Dave Domo-stoy, our Maintenance Director, who has served our Sisters for more than 40 years.

“I always knew I wanted to be a nurse,” said Jayne, who began her journey at age 19 working at the former Kane Community Hospital in Pittsburgh as an aide where she took every opportunity offered to learn new skills and gain hands-on experience.

Discerning her future, Jayne worked various jobs in the medical field, but the

desire to be a nurse remained. While working in the office of a surgical practice, she received encouragement from one of the doctors and enrolled in Shadyside Hospital School of Nursing. As an RN she worked in various hospital and clinical settings from cardiac to psychiatric to labor and delivery, but she kept being called to elder care serving in home health care and assisted living and long-term care. A life-long learner often called upon to teach others, she later earned her certification as a Nurse Aid Instructor from Penn State. She did this all while raising two sons with her husband.

Jayne retired from full-time nursing in April 2021 to focus on her own health. Yet, she still felt called to nursing. When approached to apply to care for our Sisters, she eagerly said “yes.” Jayne began working for us in September 2023, which included training with Pat on the unique health needs and personalities of each Sister. She also met with Sisters and meticulously documented all details vital to their care.

“My aim is to keep each Sister



Jayne McDonald, RN with Sister Ann Marie Lostoski at our Administrative office in Pittsburgh, PA.

healthy as long as possible,” said Jayne adding that it is important to empower Sisters with information to make good decisions.

Working with our healthcare team, Jayne is a passionate advocate for our Sisters whether dealing with healthcare providers or assuring that our Sisters receive appropriate and compassionate care at assisted living facilities. Going above and beyond, she is always on call to answer Sisters health questions or respond to an emergency. We are blessed and grateful to have Jayne as part of our Franciscan family.

Celebrating Our 2024 Jubilarians!

65th Jubilee

Sister Theresa Codispoti, OSF



A native of Pittsburgh's South Hills, Sister Theresa Codispoti entered our Congregation after graduating from St. Francis Academy in 1959. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Education from Duquesne University and served as an elementary school teacher for more than a decade at schools served by our Congregation, including Mt. St. Peter School in New Kensington, St. George School in Philadelphia and St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin in Pittsburgh. In 1972, Sister Theresa earned her Master's degree in Religious Education from Duquesne University. She served in religious education at St. Valentine's in Bethel Park, followed by more than 20 years at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Homestead in several roles where she ministered to communities experiencing economic hardships and parish reconfigurations. She also engaged in bereavement ministry helping parishioners process loss and grief. In the early 2000s, Sister Theresa served as receptionist coordinator at our Pittsburgh Motherhouse ensuring all were welcomed with Franciscan hospitality and all inquiries were directed to the appropriate office. In 2015, as our Congregation was discerning more sustainable living arrangements in Pittsburgh, Sister Theresa was one of our pioneer Sisters called to reside in local senior living communities and minister through their prayer and presence. Sister presently resides at Paramount Senior Living Community in Bethel Park, where she continues to offer an empathetic ear, spiritual guidance and prayer to residents and staff, as well as St. Francis Academy classmates, family and friends.

50th Jubilee

Sister Janice Campbell, OSF



Sister Janice Campbell says that she was called to be a Franciscan since birth. Born at St. Francis Hospital in Lawrenceville, Sister was baptized on the Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi and taught by Franciscans at Corpus Christi Grade School in Pittsburgh's East End and Mount Alvernia High School in Millvale, PA. While earning her BA in Psychology at Carlow University, she first encountered our Community when Sister Gloria invited her to a weekend retreat. Sister Janice entered our Congregation in 1974 and served 24 years in education, including James LaVelle and St. Agnes Schools in West Mifflin, PA, Mt. St. Peter School in New Kensington, PA, and our St. Francis Academy, where she taught English and served as a guidance counselor. She also served as assistant principal and guidance counselor at Mt. Alvernia High School in the 1990s. Sister was awarded the Golden Apple by the Diocese of Pittsburgh in 1995.

In the early 2000s, while serving as our Congregation's Vocation Director, Sister Janice earned her Masters in Pastoral Ministry from Duquesne University. She served 13 years as a Pastoral Associate at St. Ursula Parish, which included bereavement ministry where she organized support groups for parishioners experiencing grief and loss. Providence called Sister Janice to hospice ministry in 2016 where she offered patients and families counsel, guidance and prayer.

Presently, Sister Janice resides in Pittsburgh's North Hills where she volunteers at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish – a consolidation of St. Mary of the Assumption Church and St. Ursula Church, which includes assisting families with funeral planning and a bereavement support group. She also continues to serve our Community by driving Sisters to appointments, gatherings and outings.

Jubilarians Celebrating in Brazil!

65th Jubilee

25th Jubilee

Sister Elenice Maciel da Costa, OSF

Sister Adriana Duarte, OSF



Sister Elenice Maciel da Costa was born in Ouro Fino, Minas Gerais and entered our Congregation in 1959. Much of her ministry has been dedicated to education and pastoral services. For several years she was missioned to Bolivia, where she engaged in pastoral ministry. Sister Elenice served in leadership for many years, including eight years as a Provincial

Councilor and eight years as Provincial Minister in Brazil. Presently, at age 80, she resides at our Paz e Bem Community and ministers through her faithful presence, prayer, and however Providence calls her to extend the love of Christ.



Born in Montes Claros, Minas Gerais, Brazil, Adriana Duarte entered our Congregation in 1999, and earned her Bachelor's degree in Education and Master's degree in Educational Administration. Much of her ministry has focused on pastoral service, vocation/formation and education, including school administration. She also served in our Bolivia mission engaging in

parish and prison ministry. Presently, Sister Adriana serves as Director of Our Lady of Carmel School and as Administrative and Financial Director of Pius XII School. She also serves in leadership as our Assistant General Minister, where one of her responsibilities is acting as liaison to our Vocation Animation Committee.

St. Jude Thaddeus Chapel Dedicated



Sister Vandete and Marion outside the chapel



Sister Janet, Marion, the chapel architect, and Father Adilson.

More than two years ago, Providence brought together a small community of believers in Itinga, Minas Gerais, Brazil who had long dreamed of a chapel and Robert Mattos, an American of Portuguese heritage who felt called to build a chapel in Brazil. This past autumn, Robert's daughter Marion Nelson and her husband James traveled to Itinga with Sister Janet Gardner to join in the long-awaited dedication of the St. Jude Thaddeus chapel on October 29, 2023.

Presided over by Bishop Esmeraldo Barreto de Farias, the celebration included over 400 parishioners and neighbors. Sister Amélia Corsina de Oliveira, who serves the Itinga community, began the ceremony by sharing the chapel's story and thanking the many people involved in making it a reality, including benefactors Mr. Mattos, Ms. Nelson, and Trudy Comba. Sisters Vandete Barbosa de Oliveira, Antonia Maria A. Silva, Lucia do Nascimento, and candidate Anna Claudia conducted a mission week in the parish and also joined the celebration.



Procession of parishioners carrying a statue of St. Jude Thaddeus.



Sister Amélia with Bishop Barreto de Farias and Father Adilson.

The Biggest Ciscan Party of the Year!

With joyful hearts and a can-do spirit, Ciscans get stuff done! The St. Francis Academy Alumnae Association continues to bring alumnae, teachers and friends together to serve as a community of support for one another. Their dedicated Board is hard at work preparing for one of the biggest Ciscan gatherings of the year – the 23rd annual Tulip Luncheon.

On Sunday, April 21, Alumnae, Sisters and friends from near and far will gather to celebrate their friendships and remember their time at the Academy. After several years in Southpoint, this year's event returns to the South Hills Country Club which offers delicious food, cozy spaces to catch up, and enough room for all the prizes to be won by those participating in the cash raffle, duck pond, hand-made quilt raffle, 50/50 drawing, and Ciscan raffle featuring 50 high-quality baskets, plus gift cards to restaurants



Joann Binek '55 and Lori Husak Lukich '85 with a Steelers theme basket that will be one of the prizes at this year's Tulip Luncheon.

and shopping, passes to cultural attractions, and the popular basket-of-cheer. New for this year, the Board is planning a wine pull where each participant is guaranteed to walk away with a bottle valued at \$15 or more.

"The key to the Tulip Luncheon's success is mostly the support of our generous alumnae and their families. Everyone really looks forward to this event," said SFA

Alumnae Association Vice-President Maria Ammon '82. "The countless hours of work on this event all year long by our core group to make the day special for everyone in attendance."

In addition to being a celebration of friendship, proceeds from the Tulip Luncheon go to support Alumnae activities, outreach and charitable endeavors, which include generous gifts to the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God and charities that embrace Franciscan values of the Academy, like Sisters Place, Church of the Advent and Seton-LaSalle High School via the SFA Legacy Scholarship. Since 2008 the SFA Alumnae Association has awarded 31 merit-based scholarships of \$1,000 a year to assist with tuition, with each recipient receiving a total benefit of \$4,000. Scholars attend the Tulip luncheon and make connections with Alumnae and guests.

All this is possible because of the



Tulip Luncheon planning meeting. Pictured are (left to right) Chris Ringling '85, Lori Husak Lukich '85, Angela Zinger Walker '85, Wendy Hines Hayes '76, Kathy Teitz Hornyak '78, Clare Horne Rex '67, Joann Binek '55 and DeDe Kobosky Metro '69.

efforts of the dedicated SFA Alumnae Association Board, who also publishes a biannual newsletter, manages memberships and organizes other events that include an annual Alumnae bus trip and the SFA Alumnae Memorial Mass in October. Events are open to all Alumnae and friends.

SFA Alumnae Association Board members past and present also share their expertise and serve on the planning committee for the Sisters' Franciscan Fest (formerly our Autumn Gala) where they donate prizes, wrap baskets, run raffles, bake cookies, decorate, clean up and so much more with a cheerful and encouraging Ciscan attitude.

For more information about the Tulip Luncheon or other SFA Alumnae events, please visit saintfrancisacademy-alumnaeandsisters.com or contact SFA Alumnae Association President Wendy Hines Hays at 412-443-1880.

ST. FRANCIS ACADEMY ALUMNAE EVENTS

23RD ANNUAL TULIP LUNCHEON

April 21, 2024 at South Hills Country Club (RSVP by April 1)

ALUMNAE FALL BUS TRIP

October 5, 2024

33RD ANNUAL ALUMNAE MASS

September 22, 2024 at South Hills Country Club (RSVP by Sept. 9)

For more information, visit saintfrancisacademyalumnaeandsisters.com or contact Wendy Hayes at 412-443-1880

Blessed Memories of Sister Shalome

By Sister Janice Campbell

Providence has a way of guiding the creation of each "Whitehall Franciscan". In her ministry for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Pittsburgh's North Hills, Sister Janice Campbell met Patty Kawka who shared some memories of driving Sister Shalome. This inspired Sister Janice to look deeper into Sister Shalome's life and ministry and talk with others who knew her well for this article.

SISTER M. SHALOME ZALAPUKES
DECEMBER 22, 1913 – MAY 18, 2008

When we look at someone's gravestone we see their date of birth and then their date of death. It is said that the most important thing about the person, besides their name, is the dash in between.

Sister Shalome Zalapukes was born Teresa Salome in Elizabeth, NJ to Joseph and Salome Zalapukes on December 22, 1913 joining her siblings Mary, John and Veronica. Sister Shalom began her religious life when she entered on June 6, 1930 in the midst of the depression years. Almost immediately, she began her education ministry at the age of 17, teaching first graders at Saint George school in Philadelphia, PA. After her initial formation, which was just one year at the time, she continued teaching, in earnest, both elementary school and high school students in schools served by our Community in and around Pittsburgh: Saint Gabriel, Saint Casimir, St. Vincent de Paul and our Saint Francis Academy. Her travels also took her to Coopersville and Detroit MI, Amsterdam, NY, Cleveland, OH, and Hartford, CT, as well as one year at her home parish of Saints Peter and Paul in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Sister was certainly an "influencer" throughout her years of ministry. While teaching in Cleveland Ohio in 1950 – she taught Isabel (Lostoski) Blaha in fourth grade. She saw Isabel's talent in art and encouraged her to go to the art museum on Saturday mornings to participate in a program for young artists, which she continued to attend for seven years with scholarships. Isabel attended Notre Dame college in Ohio, graduated and then started her family and had seven children. She taught art to adults in four different boroughs in Ohio and when her children were grown became a full-time grade school art teacher. Isabel also won recognition for her artwork featured in various art shows.

After devoting more than 40 years to serving as an educator, in 1974 Provi-

dence called Sister Shalome to train in Pastoral Services and receive her chaplain certification. After Vatican II there was a tongue in cheek joke in the Community at the time that the younger Sisters were "doing their own thing" — Sister Shalome was 61. Her pastoral ministry as a chaplain sent her to many places, including Alton and Mount Vernon, IL where our Sisters served and administered at St. Joseph and Good Samaritan Hospitals. Fort Myers, FL brought a slight change from hospital chaplaincy when Sister became the Director of Pastoral Ministry followed by Director of Religious Education in Panama City, Florida.

Another saying in our Community is that "Sisters never retire!" At age 78, Sister came back to Pittsburgh to serve in pastoral ministry at two local hospitals, and then took on the responsibility of being the Food Bank Coordinator at Damien Ministries in Washington, DC in 1991 until 1994, which she considered one of her most blessed and fulfilling endeavors. Sister Shalome prepared herself for the ministry serving persons with HIV/AIDS through, of course, her training in pastoral care and volunteering at Corpus Christi, East End Residence for AIDS patients, which gave her direct contact with persons dealing with HIV/AIDS. During this time, Sister met Patty Kawka, a parishioner at Saint Mary of the Assumption Church (now part of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish) in Pittsburgh's North Hills.

"Sister and I connected right away, she made you feel like you were a good friend and she had a way about her. Then if she asked you to do something you couldn't say no," said Patty. "Well, she asked me to take her to a convent in East End area. The convent had been transformed into a home for AIDS patients. At that time, AIDS was still a new disease. I was a little timid about going, but not her – she would meet them in the hall on the first floor, and they knew her and



(Continued on page 11)

St. Michael the Archangel School Prepares Students to be Global Citizens

A leader in educational excellence, our St. Michael the Archangel School in São Paulo, Brazil empowers students to achieve their goals and dreams after high school. The school's Internationalization Center offers middle and high school students a bilingual program with opportunities to learn several languages and develop professional skills.

“Through these programs, students learn in English, Spanish, and Mandarin, employing active methodologies and approaches like CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning). They engage in projects, doing, creating, presenting, playing, and having fun, developing skills while being protagonists in the learning process,” said Fábio Rogério Soga, Coordinator of the Internationalization Center.

Students are also given the opportunity to simultaneously earn a high school diploma from Brazil and United States.

“The High School Diploma Program is an official American school offered to our students in partnership with HSE, Brigham Young University, and James Madison High School.” Said Mr. Soga. “It enables students to simultaneously pursue Brazilian and American curricula, achieving high proficiency in English and obtaining dual certification for High School. This program, complementing the Brazilian curriculum, provides English immersion with a native teacher, expanding students' pedagogical and cultural repertoire to assist them in choosing future careers.”

Instilled with our Franciscan values at St. Michael the Archangel School, graduates of the Internationalization Center go into the world empowered to live as global citizens dedicated to caring for our common home and our common heart.

“Students gain global knowledge and a diverse repertoire, allowing them to choose where to work, live, and study,” said Mr. Soga. “For us, it is a great pride to know that our students are excelling in the job market, making a difference wherever they go and contributing to making the world a better, more humane, and just place.”



Sister Selma Maria dos Santos addresses St. Michael the Archangel graduates. Sisters Joanice Conceição dos Santos, Odete Pereira da Silva, Isabel Rosa also serve the school community and are seated at the ceremony.

Sister Glória de Souza Honored as a Prominent Figure in Education



Sister Glória de Souza received the OAB Santo Amaro Distinguished Award in Education, which recognizes her more than 50 years serving in education in Brazil.

“Education and the good of others have always been essential parts of my life story. For me, both are precious keys to the evolution of humanity and our planet,” said Sister Gloria during her acceptance speech where she also thanked all who have served St. Pius XII School, past and present.

Much of Sister Glória's ministry has focused on St. Pius XII School, which celebrates its 70th anniversary in 2024. In addition to teaching, Sister served 25 years as school administrator and subsequent years in administrative and finance positions. In 1996, Sister was elected to leadership and served on the General Council, whose offices were in the United States. This was the first time that a Brazilian-born Sister was elected to general leadership. Upon returning to Brazil, Sister Glória resumed her ministry at Pius XII School, where she continues to serve as an advisor.

Building a Village of Hope and Support

Sisters Place Empowers Hilltop Community

Housing instability is rising in the United States. According to a recent study the Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies, from January 2022 to January 2023 the number of people experiencing homelessness increased by nearly 71,000 to an all-time high of 653,100 people - the largest single-year increase on record.

"Over the last two decades, housing unaffordability has been climbing the income ladder and is increasingly affecting middle-income households," Sophia Wedeen, a research analyst at the center, told Realtor.com. "For people with lower incomes, housing unaffordability is a fact of life."

For many single-parent families experiencing poverty and homelessness in western Pennsylvania, Sisters Place is a beacon of hope that is just as essential today as when founded more than 30 years ago by 14 Communities of Catholic Sisters – including the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God. Our Sisters are blessed to continue to support and serve Sisters Place. Sister Janet Gardner presently serves as Chair of the Member Board comprised of representatives from the founding communities.

Striving to help others overcome the barriers of poverty and homelessness, Sisters Place staff, volunteers and supporters embrace the core values of opportunity, empathy and diversity. Beyond providing safe and secure housing, the organization provides programs and services that focus on advancement and wellness that empowers individuals and families. Counselors serve as advocates to ensure every person receives benefits to which they are entitled. Life skills coaching, adult education, GED preparation and job readiness training programs empower parents to succeed in the workforce. If applicable, residents must also adhere to recovery contract, CYF directives or probation/parole mandates. Child development specialists work closely with both parents and children. Services include a men-



Photo courtesy of Sisters Place; Credit: Lynette Vybiral

toring program, a learning center, homework assistance, computer and library access, field trips, guest speakers and a summer camp. Opportunities to learn, to explore and to discover talents are integral to the program's developmental and educational curriculum.

Sister Place's approach has proven successful. Over 90 percent of Sisters Place families transition safely into independent housing. More than 60 percent attend workforce development or post-secondary education. Over a third of parents find full or part-time work, and over half increase their household income.

In 2021, Sisters Place relocated its housing and programs from Clariton, PA to the Hilltop area of Pittsburgh. In this location residents have greater access to amenities and resources like public transportation, healthcare, employment opportunities, grocery stores, and numerous colleges, universities and trade schools in the city. Providentially, the new location has given Sisters Place the opportunity expand efforts to serve and empower all members of the community.

As part of their Safe Spaces at Sisters Place initiative, the organization opens its doors to the general public a few hours each weekday where staff listen to each individual's needs, assist when possible and connect them to appropriate social service resources in the greater Pittsburgh area, including those provided by an extensive network of collaborative organizations. Free Coffee Fridays invites neighbors, business owners and leaders to gather, share needs, learn from each other and address challenges and opportunities to better serve their community.

Members of the public are also welcome to participate in Sisters Place support groups and classes on various topics including wellness and essential life skills. One day a week, the Pittsburgh Financial Empowerment Center offers free financial counseling at the Sisters Place offices. It is open to anyone in the community and all that is required is registering for an appointment time.

For more information about Sisters Place, please visit www.sistersplace.org.



Sisters Mary Ann Lostoski, Janet Gardner, Althea Anne Spencer and Ann Marie Lostoski attended Sisters Place's Setting a Place to Call Home fundraiser on October 13, 2023, where our Community served as a sponsor. In addition, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God gives a yearly gift to support Sisters Place's services and programs.

A Celebration of Our Franciscan Eras

We're in our Franciscan Fest Era! In 2023 we changed the name of our Autumn Gala fundraiser to Franciscan Fest, along with a few small modifications to better embrace our Franciscan identity, simplicity and joy. Providence never leads us in the wrong direction.

Our Franciscan Fest on October 15, 2023 at St. Thomas More Church (part of Resurrection Parish) was a success. Our Sisters were joined by more than 100 guests for an afternoon of friendship, delicious food, and Franciscan fun that included a photo booth with Pope Francis, a Pittsburgh cookie table, and raffles with prizes such as a basket of chocolate, hockey tickets, a basket of cheer, cash and various other theme baskets and prizes. The event also raised over \$26,000 for our ministries, outreach and care of our senior Sisters in the United States.

We are grateful to our dedicated Franciscan Fest planning committee, generous sponsors and guests, Resurrection Parish, St. Thomas More Family Center staff, and the many who offered support from afar through prayers, donations, and participation in our raffles. Confidently, joyfully, we go forward together into our next Franciscan era called to care for our common home and common heart.



Franciscan Fest planning committee members and volunteers at our "Photos with Pope Francis" feature at Franciscan Fest 2023. Pictured are (left to right) Doreen Nelson, Pat White, Dave Domostoy, Mimi Di-Gregory, Sister Althea Anne Spencer, Sister Joanne Brazinski, Robyn Moeller (kneeling), Sister Eliana da Silva, Linda Cline, John Baltrus, Sister Mary Ann Lostoski, Wendy Hines Hayes and Sister Janet Gardner.

Franciscan Fest 2024

Save the date for Franciscan Fest 2024 on October 13 at St. Thomas More Church in Pittsburgh (more information on back cover.) As our Sisters and committee plan this year's event, we need assistance with our basket raffle, which helps us raise support for our ministries, outreach and care of our senior Sisters. We would greatly appreciate donations of empty baskets and prizes such as gift cards and items for the following basket themes: kitchen, reflection, seasonal/holiday, food/drink, health/wellness, family activities, and movie night. For more information, please contact Robyn Moeller at rmoeller@osfprov.org or 412-885-7232.

THANK YOU, FRANCISCAN FEST SPONSORS!

KATHY L. HESS & ASSOCIATES

LINDA & WILLIAM KLINE



St. Francis
Academy
Alumnae
Association

Sister Shalome (continued from page 7)



Sister Shalome in Washington, D.C. in the 1990s (top) and in the early 2000s at our Pittsburgh Motherhouse.

welcomed her with smiles. She would pray with them on the spot, and then go upstairs to pray with others. I would wait on the first floor for her, and when she was finished, I would take her to the bus stop, which was her choice. I was a new driver and did not drive to the South Hills. I was impressed that every time she would get into the car she would always say, ‘Our Lady of the Highways, pray for us’.”

“She was always able to coerce someone into bringing her to Millvale from her Franciscan convent,” said Patty. “Like I said, she had a way about her, and she would tell me that whoever brought her was always happy to oblige. I’m sure that she made a deal with the Lord - ‘you get me a ride, Lord, and I’ll care for your people’.”

In 1989-90 Father Joseph Beck was the chaplain at Saint Francis Convent in Pittsburgh when he became acquainted with Sisters Rosemarie and Shalome. In 1995, Sister Shalome, as was her way, invited Father Joe to join them on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He was happy to oblige and for him, it became a joy and blessing to have celebrated Mass at the place of the Holy Sepulcher. One of his fondest memories of Sister Shalome was how she deemed so many things “Byu-ti-ful.” Father Joe said that he “will wait till he happily sees her again in heaven.”

Sister Shalome continued to visit at Corpus Christi residence as well as volunteer at Allegheny General Hospital until 2000 when she began her prayer ministry in the Assisi Hall residence at our Pittsburgh Motherhouse. Sister Shalome entered the kingdom of the Lord in the year 2008. The dash between Sister Shalome’s year of birth and the year of her death spanned 94 years of memorable moments serving others and witnessing to the love of Christ through her presence and loving smile.



Patty Kawka at Saint Mary of the Assumption Church (part of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.)

In Prayerful Memory Sister M. Hilda Rosa



Sister Hilda with elementary students at St. Pius XII School.

Sister M. Hilda Rosa died at the age of 98 on January 14, 2024 at our Paz e Bem residence in Brazil. Remembered for her faith, compassion and intellect, Sister Hilda served in education, pastoral ministry and leadership throughout her 73 years as a Sister of St. Francis of the Providence of God. After joining the Congregation in 1950, she served as an educator at St. Michael the Archangel and Pius XII schools, where she also served as director.

A voracious reader of news, theology, literature, science and other topics, Sister Hilda embraced several opportunities to further her education and was well prepared for the various leadership and advisory roles Providence called her to embrace. She served as Director of the Center for Franciscan and Pastoral Studies for Latin America (CEFEPAL) in the 1970s. She was elected Regional Superior in 1984 - the first Brazilian Sister to serve in leadership of the Congregation in Brazil. During her time in leadership, she oversaw the integral move of our Brazil headquarters from the Vila Zelina neighborhood to the Jardim Leonor neighborhood. She was also active in the Conference of Brazilian Religious in São Paulo, and presented at retreats for religious women and men.

From 1994 to 2012, Sister Hilda served in various administrative roles at St. Pius XII school and as an advisor to our Congregations sponsored ministries, including Dr. Eugênio Gomes de Carvalho Maternity Hospital, St. Michael the Archangel School and Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. She also helped guide our Sisters in formation by teaching classes on our Franciscan spirituality and way of life. In 2012, she entered into a ministry of presence and prayer at our Paz e Bem Community. We give thanks to God for Sister’s life, her loving, spirit, and her unique way of manifesting the love of Christ.



Sisters of Saint Francis of the Providence of God

5802 Curry Road ♦ Pittsburgh, PA 15236

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

SAVE THE DATE

FRANCISCAN FUN

FRIENDSHIP

BUFFET LUNCHEON

BASKET RAFFLE

COOKIE TABLE

CASH RAFFLE



benefitting the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God

Sunday, October 13, 2024

St. Thomas More Church Family Life Center
126 Fort Couch Road ♦ Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Festivities Begin @ 1:00 PM

(Doors open at conclusion of 11:30 Mass, which all are welcome to attend)

RSVP or Questions: 412-885-7232 or info@osfprov.org

OCTOBER CASH RAFFLE

*Drawing Based on the
3 Digit Evening PA Lottery*

\$10 per Chance

\$70 Winners Every Day in October
EXCEPT:

\$500 ST. FRANCIS DAY GRAND PRIZE
on October 4, 2024

\$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.

**Tickets or more info:
Sister Mary Ann at 412-477-4321**