

A NEW VISION

Newsletter & Chronicle

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PROVINCE

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A Gift of Love

Seventy years ago, Sister Mary Florence Schultz pronounced her first vows as a Sister of the Resurrection. Her response to God's call

would be a daily gift of love from thereon.

Over the years Sister Florence had many outstanding accomplishments in her nursing and administrative ministry. Sister touched many lives over the years and brought hope and comfort to many patients and to their families. Sister Mary Florence started as a supervisor of a medical nursing unit, then helped develop an alcoholic rehab program, created an infectious disease program, became a licensed nursing home administrator, and served as a nurse educator, and finally served her own sisters as the superior of the Queen of the Resurrection House of Prayer. Sister Florence has always loved to take on new challenges and never said no to something because she hadn't done it before. With every challenge she has put her trust totally in God and He has never disappointed her.



Those of us who have been blessed to live with Sister Florence know her and love her as a friend. She is supportive, accepting, affirming, fun to be with, ready and willing to share her faith. She always has a smile. When she says she will pray for you, she really means it. Sister Florence loves community life and loves being with her Sisters. She always brings joy and laughter to parties and recreation.

Sister Florence’s heart is big enough to hold a special place for many people. From family members, to Sisters in Community, to co- workers, to other residents at Ascension Resurrection Village, everyone is Sister Florence’s “favorite” and she sincerely means it. She takes time to learn about and understand other people. She minimizes the weaknesses of others and celebrates their strengths and accomplishments.

But, above everything else in the past seventy years, Sister Florence has grown deeper and deeper in love with God. The Risen Jesus is central to her life, she lives for Christ, and she lives her life fully as a gift to be shared and celebrated.

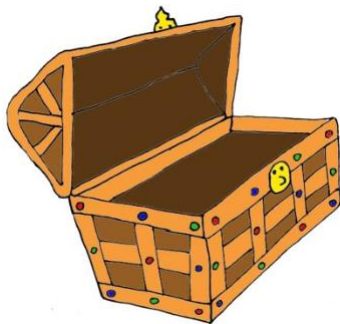
Happy Anniversary dear Sister Mary Florence. You are a gift and a blessing to many.

Sister Donna Marie, C.R.

THANK YOU TO SISTER HEDWIG KUCZYNSKI FOR PLANNING A WONDERFUL JUBILEE CELEBRATION!



FROM the ARCHIVES



Sister Anne Strzelecka, C.R., A Woman Compelled by Faith

Recently I was gathering information about Sister Anne for the Development staff at Resurrection College Prep. As I was looking through old files, I found an article about Sister Anne. The article was researched by Sister Janina Maria Ludkiewicz, C.R. I found it fascinating. It reveals the heart of a young woman determined to listen to the voice of God and follow His call in spite of hardships and challenges.

I am going to share a portion of the article in this issue of A New Vision and then I will leave copies of the article in the community rooms of both local communities.

Sister Donna Marie, C.R.

In February 1893 Sophie (Anne Strzelecka) is already in Rome. Mother Hedwig informed Mother Celine about the new candidate: "...I trust that she/Miss Strzelecka/ will become incorporated...she is quiet, reserved, somewhat careful but sincere – bored to the highest degree with life in the world and interior dissatisfaction so that the freedom and peace which permeates the atmosphere in the convent gives her happiness. She prays much, she likes to read and eagerly takes to handwork. I gave her the freedom to visit Rome before her postulancy begins; mornings are spent in galleries. And in churches..."/February 4, 1893/.

Mother Hedwig directed practically the entire time of her preparation for the total giving of herself to God. This was not an easy task. Sophie (Anne) entered the Congregation as a mature person, accustomed to independence, somewhat sensitive in disposition, which was the cause of great problems for the Directress. Mother Hedwig saw in Sister Anne the gift of a vocation and for this reason helped her to overcome the weaknesses of nature and open herself to the transforming power of grace. Already during this first phase of her religious life, one could see how God was leading her "through the cross and death...". The footsteps of her "way of the cross" we find written by the Chronicler of Kety. She writes that in the autumn of 1898, Sister Anne experienced a serious vocation crisis. Under the influence of exasperation, she removed her habit with the intention of leaving the Congregation, but she did not leave Kety. Mother Hedwig together with the Sisters prayed to the Holy Spirit. Sister Anne sensitive to the working of grace in her soul, shortly became deeply humiliated, asked for the possibility of being received again to religious life. The Chronicler writes: "Great is the working of grace in this soul; it is impossible to refuse her, but one needs time, deliberation and prayer." The Mothers, seeing the change in her disposition, gave their consent for her to begin the postulancy again. After a short while, she received the habit and white veil of a novice. On December 7, 1899, she pronounced her first vows. The sad experience left a deep positive mark on the person of Sister Anne. A confirmation of this is the decision of Mother Foundress who directed that Sister Anne begin the first mission of the Congregation in America.

In the Chronicles of Kety dated December 13, 1899, is found a copy of an important letter of Mother Celine written to Sister Anne Strzelecka: "...The decision was made for you to go to America, Sister Anne. This is an external sign. For us who give ourselves totally to God, it does not matter whether it is here or there that we serve. And the farther away, the greater responsibility to serve Him faithfully, with a complete giving of self. It is much more important to know with what disposition we will serve the Lord. And so, I come to call you to the Mission, and I add, that the same Lord Jesus calls you, Sister Anne, as the elder of the group, that is...as the Superior among the four chosen for this Mission...". After adding a few counsels, the letter concludes: "You are truly a weak creature, on the one hand because of your misery as you already know, but God will be your strength; I will ask this grace of Him for you, blessing you from my whole soul, - Devoted in Him – Mother."

PROVINCE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES' CHRONICLES

March 2nd - John L. Halstead, the Chief Mission Integration Officer, for Ascension Illinois invited Sister Donna Marie to meet with him and Len Wilk the new President of Ascension Resurrection Medical Center.

In the evening Sister Hedwig gave a beautiful Reflection on "Lent: A Call to Conversion." Sister reviewed some of the major elements and challenges of personal conversion. Sister Hedwig's presentation was a beautiful preparation for our Lenten Journey.

March 5th - Sister Anne Day was celebrated with a lovely Vesper service prepared by Sister Christine Maria. Sister Donna Marie prepared a slide presentation highlighting the blessing Sister Anne was to the Chicago Province and the special qualities and gifts she was known for. Then Sister honored the three emeritus Provincials, Sister Stephanie, Sister Barbara, and Sister Virginia Ann for the way

each of them emulated the same virtues and qualities of Sister Anne. The goodness of Sister Anne continues to be an inspiration and ripples through the leadership in the Chicago Province. Each of the three emeritus Provincials received a two-sided plaque quoting Proverbs: *Many women do NOBLE THINGS, but you surpass them all. She is clothed with STRENGTH & DIGNITY and laughs without fear of the future.*



March 6th – The Emmaus Local Community celebrated the Birthdays and Feast – days of the Sisters celebrating any day in March. The Sisters gathered in the evening for snacks, conversation, and games. Since Sister Donna’s Feast Day is in March, Sister was also invited.

March 9th – The Province gathered in the Terrace Room for an open meeting in preparation for the Provincial Chapter.

March 10th – The emeritus provincials and the current provincial had lunch in the archives to celebrate Sister Virginia Ann’s Birthday.

March 16, 17, 18th – Thank you to Sister Carolyn Marie for preparing a beautiful triduum in preparation for the feast of Saint Joseph.

March 19th – We had a Province Lenten Day of Retreat. Sister Virginia Ann shared her reflections on the various journeys we experience in our lives and how they connect to the Lenten Journey and Christ’s Paschal Mystery. Sister spoke about the importance of preparation for journeys as well as our reflection on the journey when it is completed.

Sister Donna Marie followed with reflection on two paintings and how they can draw our hearts more deeply into the Lenten experience. The first painting was

Bartolime Murillo's *Mother of Sorrows*. Sister Donna shared her thoughts on the message the artist conveys through three focal points of the painting: Mary's hands and arms, her eyes, and her lap. The second painting was *The Tears of Saint Peter* by El Greco.

Vespers followed. The day closed with supper.

March 22, 23 24th - **Tha**n you to Sister Maria Goretti for preparing a beautiful and meaningful triduum in preparation for the feast of the Annunciation. Sister used reflections on the Sorrowful Mother's hands, eyes, and lap from the March

March 24th – The Province came together for a celebration in anticipation of Sister Donna Marie's Feast Day. There was a special Vesper Service which was followed by dinner in the Terrace Room.

March 25th – The Emmaus Local Community invited Sister Donna Marie to join them for Lauds on her Feast Day. After Lauds everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Sister Virginia Ann.

March 26th - A Memorial Mass for Art Fox, brother of Sister Gloria Marie was celebrated at his parish in Downers Grove. Sister Christine Maria, Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Donna Marie attended the Mass with Sister Gloria.

March 27th – The Resurrection Local Community celebrated Sister Donna Marie's Feast Day with a supper in the community room (A 414).



April 1st – Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Donna Marie attended the all school rally at Resurrection College Prep High School. This rally opened the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the school. The Sisters were asked to blow out the candles on the special Birthday Cake. The history of the school song, written by Sister Mary Louise, was shared by one of the teachers. It was a lovely celebration.

April 1st - In the late afternoon the second phase of the Provincial Chapter was opened with a Eucharistic Liturgy presided over by Father Steve Bartczyszyn, C.R. Father shared a reflection on the importance of chapters and how the presence of the Holy Spirit, often in surprising ways.



After Mass, the Sisters assembled in the Terrace Room for the opening reports from the Provincial Superior and the Treasurer.

April 2nd – The second day of the Provincial Chapter consisted of discussion and voting on the Proposals and Statements to be submitted to the General Chapter.

April 3rd - The Weber Alumni sponsored a Mass and breakfast in memory of Father Rog. The Mass was held at Resurrection College Prep High School. There was a beautiful display of pictures commemorating the key events of Father Rog's life. Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Donna Marie attended.

April 5th – Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Donna Marie attended the Maryville Ed Block Scholarship Luncheon. This event is a fundraiser to help raise money to provide scholarships to residents at Maryville who desire to have a college education. A young mother who was a resident at Maryville and received one of these scholarships gave a beautiful talk about how her life was changed by Maryville and how she received a scholarship and went on to become a social worker and now is helping troubled children. Her husband and three lovely children were with her.

April 7th – The Emeritus Provincials had a soup and sandwich lunch prepared by Sister Virginia Ann to celebrate Sister Donna Marie's Birthday.

In the evening the whole Province came together to celebrate Sister Donna Marie's Birthday. The celebration started with Vespers which was followed by dessert.

April 9th – Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Donna Marie were invited to attend the “Evening at the Field”, benefiting Legacy Alexian Brothers and Presence Health Ministries of Ascension Illinois. The Sisters were the guests of John L. Halstead, Chief Mission Integration Officer.



Sisters Virginia Ann & Donna Marie with the President of Ascension Illinois, Keith Parrott

The proceeds from the event will be used to benefit people across the greater metro Chicago

Area, especially those living on the margins and with the greatest needs, who are served by Ascension Illinois legacy Alexian Brothers and Presence Health ministries.

April 14th – Sister Donna Marie was invited to attend the Leadership Retreat of Ascension Illinois in Oak Brook. Sister was asked to give a reflection on the call of Catholic Leaders to follow the example of Christ. Sister was also asked to lead a prayer and bless the hands of the President of Ascension Illinois.

In the evening before the Holy Thursday Mass, the Provincial Council and the Superiors got together for prayer and prayed for each Sister of the Province by name, thanking God for the gift the Sister is and asking God to keep her in His care.

April 17th – Easter Sunday the Resurrection Local Community prayed Lauds together before Mass and also had breakfast together. Sister Hedwig made delicious cinnamon rolls and coffee.



Later in the day we put flowers on the graves of our Sisters.

In the evening the Emmaus Local Community had a get together to celebrate Easter.

April 18th – Easter Monday, Father Steve Bartczyszyn, C.R. celebrated Mass with us at 4 p.m. and then joined us for supper in the Terrace Room. The tables were decorated with many gifts including lovely chickens with each Sister's name. These were a gift from the staff and children at Mocarzewa.



April 20th – The staff at Ascension Living Resurrection Village celebrated Volunteer Appreciation by hosting a brunch for all the volunteers. Sister Kathryn, Sister Hedwig, Sister Mary Patricia, Sister Donna Marie, Sister Virginia Ann, Sister Dominic, Sister Kathleen, and Sister Carolyn Marie were among those honored.

April 24th – Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Donna Marie attend a Mass at Madonna Della Strada Chapel at Loyola University and a luncheon. This event was a thank you to all those who make scholarship donations. We have made one for students attending the school of nursing and one for minority students who attend Arupe Junior College and want to go on for a degree in nursing. The Mass was beautiful and so is the Chapel. The Chapel has been renovated and has a beautiful pipe organ. At the luncheon several students gave thank you speeches which were very inspiring.



Both local communities had celebrations in April for the Sisters celebrating Birthdays and Feast days.

May 3rd – Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Donna Marie attended a special breakfast at Resurrection College Prep High School at which students and parents joined scholarship donors. It was an opportunity for the students to meet and thank then donors who help make it possible for them to attend Resurrection. Our Blessed Celine, Mother Hedwig, and Sister Anne Scholarships help over twenty-five young women. It is beautiful to know that we can still help young women with a Catholic Education in the spirit of the Resurrection!



After breakfast we attended the all school Mass and May Crowning. Sister Donna Marie was asked to read a page from the Resurrection Pedagogy she had written for the staff and students. The reading was about the call of young women to follow Mary's roll as a disciple of Christ. It was good to see that the school is blending the Christian Brothers' and Resurrection Sisters' charism.

May 4th – Sister Hedwig and Sister Donna Marie attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new emergency department at Ascension Resurrection Medical Center. Sister Donna Marie was asked to give a reflection on the beginning of the Hospital, its role in the community and the importance of emergency service to the people of the area. The new emergency department will be in the front of the hospital so that it is easier to enter and will have its own radiology and CT department.

May 7th – The day before Good Shepherd Sunday, the Provincial Council got together to celebrate and pray. Recognizing our role as Leadership to pray for our Sisters both living and deceased, we have designated Good Shepherd Sunday as a special day of pray. We went to the cemetery, took a plant for our Sisters graves and prayed for our Sisters.

May 9th - Len Wilk, the new President of Ascension Resurrection Medical Center, and three other staff members visited with the Provincial Council. They gave an

update on all the projects that will be happening over the next two years. In addition to a new emergency department, major remodeling is planned for surgery, recovery room, and endoscopy labs.

May 13th – Sister Hedwig’s Uncle, Walter Kozuchowski’s funeral was at Saint Constance Church. About ten priests concelebrated the Mass which was a beautiful tribute to him. Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Donna Marie also attended the funeral.

May 19th – Sister Virginia Ann, who is a member of the Board of Directors at Resurrection College Prep High School, attended the Graduation of the 2022 class at Holy Name Cathedral.

May 22nd - Sister Marta, Sister Virginia Ann, and Sister Donna Marie attended the annual Mass and Reception sponsored by Cardinal Cupich as a thank you to individuals and organizations that support Lumen Cordium Program that provides financial support to local, national, and international organizations that aid the poor and suffering. The Mass was at Saint John Brebeuf Church.

May 30th – The holiday was celebrated with Vespers, May Crowning and a picnic style dinner. Sister Mary Florence, as this year’s Jubilarian, presented the flowers to Mary.

May 31st – The Emeritus and current Provincials celebrated Sister Virginia Ann’s Feast Day with a brunch prepared by Sister Donna Marie in her office.

Both local communities had celebrations in May for the Sisters celebrating Birthdays and Feast days.



CONGRATULATIONS to SISTER CAROLYN SNIEGOWSKI



Recently Misericordia honored Sister Carolyn for her thirty years of employment and service. Sister started working at the Misericordia facility on the southside of Chicago and then transferred to the northside. Sister worked giving direct patient care for years and then transferred into the office.

Sister Carolyn, congratulations, we are very proud of you and of all the wonderful work you do. You have and continue to touch so many lives bringing them the love, peace, and joy of the Risen Lord.

THANK YOU, SISTER MARY PAULETTE PIETA

Thank you, to Sister Paulette, for her outstanding years of service as the Superior of the Emmaus Local Community. Thank you, for your attentiveness to the needs of the Sisters, for encouraging and affirming your Sisters, and for building a local community truly modelled after Gospel values.



SISTER STEPHANIE BLASZCZYNSKI, OUR SUPPORT AND PRAYERS

Thank you, Sister Stephanie, for accepting the role of Acting Superior of the Emmaus Local Community. Please know that you have the prayerful support of the Sisters not only of your local community but of the entire Province.



FEAST DAYS

Belated: April 29th Sister Kathryn
Sister Kathleen
May 31st Sister Virginia Ann

June

20th Sister Mary Florence
24th Sister Christine Maria
29th Sister Mary Paulette

July

5th Sister Maria Goretti
29th Sister Maria Marta

BIRTHDAYS

Belated: May 4th Sister Mary Leonette
May 18th Sister Maria Goretti
May 31st Sister Laura

June

13th Sister Gloria Marie
15th Sister Rosemary
16th Sister Mary Dominic
30th Sister Kathryn