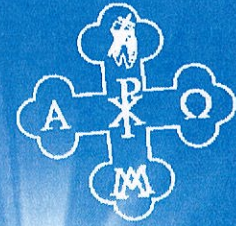


A NEW VISION

Newsletter & Chronicle



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PROVINCE

Volume 12

May 16, to July 31, 2023



2023 Jubilarians

Congratulations to Sister Mary Leonette, Sister Carolyn, and Sister Gloria Marie on celebrating their 60th Jubilee.

The Province celebration took place on June 3rd, the feast of the Blessed Trinity. The day started with the celebration of Mass in the Ascension-Resurrection Village Chapel. Many of the Residents also attended the Mass. The Sisters all renewed their vows after the homily. Pope Francis' blessing and good wishes were read at the end of the Mass.



After Mass the sisters gathered in the Terrace room and enjoyed a delicious catered dinner.

After dinner there was a slide show featuring each of the Jubilarians beginning with pictures of them as infants and small children as well as pictures of the Jubilarians throughout their religious life.



After the celebration the Jubilarians and several other Sisters took cake and gifts over to Sister Mary Leonette in Ascension Resurrection Life Center.



Thank you, Sister Jubilarians for the countless ways you have and continue to share your faith with us and with all whom you serve. You inspire us by your selfless giving and touch the lives of many other people.

Ad Multos Annos!

Still Ministering After 60 Years

Our three Jubilarians continue to serve others and to bring God's love into the lives of countless children and adults.

Sister Carolyn leaves for Misericordia at 5:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and returns home around 3 or 3:30 p.m.

About a month ago I spent a morning shadowing Sister Carolyn, and I was amazed at how she knew every worker and every child by name in the building she works in. Even though the children in the building Sister works in are not able to communicate verbally, their faces lit up and they looked directly at her and smiled when she called them by name.

The care these challenged children receive is amazing and reflects the tender love God has for these special fragile lives.

Thank you, Sister Carolyn, for bringing God's love and care into the lives of those you minister to and minister with at Misericordia.



Sister Gloria Marie spends a half a day Monday through Friday volunteering at Ascension Resurrection Medical Center. With her bright smile and cheerful greeting, she welcomes people to the Medical Center and helps direct them to their destination.

Sister Gloria’s natural love for people and her calm nature makes her a perfect guide for patients who are fearful, nervous, or feeling lost.

After Sister Gloria finishes her volunteer services at the Medical Center, she stops off at Ascension Resurrection Life Center to visit with her novice mate, Sister Mary Leonette. Sister Gloria spends time with Sister Leonette encouraging her and helping her with simple exercises.

Thank you, Sister Gloria Marie, for bringing God’s love and care into the lives of those you minister to and minister with at Ascension Resurrection Medical Center and at Ascension Resurrection Life Center.



Sister Mary Leonette, although she is currently confined to bed at Ascension Resurrection Life Center, she continues to touch the lives of all those around her.

Sister Leonette is an inspiration to others and a real model of trust in God. The nurses and care givers who work with Sister are amazed at her cheerful spirit and her constant expressions of gratitude for even the smallest of service they provide her. Her smile is just as contagious today as it was when she taught, nursed, or served as a chaplain at the Life Center.

Sister Leonette always shows an interest in the lives of others and offers her prayers for the intentions of the staff who care for her and for her Sisters in Community.

Sister Leonette cannot go out to minister to others but because of who she is others come to her to receive the gifts God showers through her.

Thank you, Sister Mary Leonette, for the way you serve as an echo of God's love to all of us. We are very proud of you.



What Is Paradise Like



Most of us have wondered from time to time, “what is Paradise like.” Poets like Dante, artists like Michael Angelo and many spiritual writers have shared their personal visions and reflections on “Paradise.” These reflections are interesting but are based mostly on human perspective. These reflections are based on what we as humans hope for, desire, and imagine.

But Paradise is God’s home so to have the most realistic and meaningful vision we need to turn to God and ask what is Paradise like for Him? Saint Alphonsus Ligouri preached emphatically that *Paradise for God is the human heart*.



From all eternity God so loved each person that Saint Paul states in Ephesians 1:4-5, *Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will ...*



Perhaps when Jesus speaks in the Gospel of Matthew about finding the fine pearl of great worth and selling everything to obtain it, He is not only referring to our search for the Kingdom but even more so about God’s search for us.

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus shout out to us that God’s love for us is so deep that He will sacrifice everything to save us. You and I are the fine pearl that God loves deeply and passionately. The price He was willing to pay was the humiliation, rejection, and death of His only Son. Yes, to God, we are the pearl of great value and price.

If our heart is God’s paradise, then Jesus invites us to find our paradise in God’s heart: *For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart* (Matthew: 6:21).

Sister Donna Marie, C.R.

May 17 - Sister Carolyn Marie and Sister Mary Dominic joined other Ascension Living residents for a tour of the National Mexican Museum of Art. Lunch followed at the “Mexican Republic Kitchen” in Forest Park.

May 19 – Sister Mary Dominic enjoyed an outing to Lombard, Illinois with other residents from Ascension Resurrection Village. In Lombard they visited the Lombard Historical Society Museum and took a guided walk through Lilacia Park where they saw many varieties of lilacs and tulips.

May 22, 23, and 24 – Sister Donna Marie had Visitation with the Emmaus Local Community. Besides the one-on-one meetings with Sister Donna, the local community came together each evening for vespers and supper. The final day, May 24th Sister Donna had reading with the local community and gave highlights of Pope Francis’ writings on the important role of Community in Parish Life and in Religious Life.

May 20 to 27 – Sister Maria Marta and Sister Maria Goretti went for their annual retreat to the Dominican Sisters in Justice, Illinois.

May 28 – Sister Donna Marie treated the Sisters in the Saint Joseph Local Community to a shrimp dinner. Sister Paulette set her room up to host the dinner and recreation.

May 27 – The Emmaus Local Community anticipated Sister Virginia Ann’s feast day with a special breakfast. Sister Virginia Ann prepared and hosted the breakfast in her apartment.

May 29 - Memorial Day, the Sisters in the Saint Joseph Local Community had lunch together in the Activity Room. They enjoyed Subway sandwiches and closed the day with common Vespers.





May 31 – Sister Donna Marie and Sister Virginia Ann attended a fundraiser at Navy Pier for Maryville’s Crisis Nursery. The event was called “Light Up a Child’s Life.” The Sisters tried eating Sushi with chopsticks and had to go back to using forks. At the end of the evening there were beautiful fireworks over Lake Michigan. The Maryville

Crisis Nursery serves over 800 children and families per year.

June 4 – We celebrated the 60th Jubilee of Sister Carolyn Sniegowski, Sister Gloria Marie Fox, and Sister Mary Leonette Klafeta. The day began with Mass in the Resurrection Ascension Village Retirement Center. All the Sisters renewed their vows and the letter was read from Pope Francis extending his blessing to the Sisters and all attending the Mass. After Mass we had a lovely catered dinner in the Terrace Room was followed by a slide show with pictures of each Jubilarian throughout their life.

June 7 – The Province gathered for special Vespers and the Reception of the New Provincial Statutes that had been approved by Sister Dorota and her Council. After the scripture reading Sister Donna Marie shared a reflection on the importance of the Provincial Statutes in our daily life and how they are threaded through our Constitutions, General Statutes and the Gospel. Then Sister Donna Marie and Sister Barbara walked up to each Sister. Sister Donna presented each Sister with a copy of the new Provincial Statutes and as she handed the Statutes to the Sister, Sister Donna said: *May you receive these Statutes with Love and fidelity.* Then Sister Barbara gave the Sister a lit candle and said: *May your faithfulness be a light and bring encouragement to others.*

After each Sister received her new Statutes and candle, we renewed our Vows, sang the Magnificat and completed the office.

Vespers were followed by recreation and refreshments.

June 11 to 17 – Sister Kathleen, Sister Hedwig, and Sister Virginia Ann made directed retreats the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin.

June 13 – Sister Mary Dominic went to the Lincoln Park Zoo with other residents of Ascension Resurrection Village. Although it rained that was a wonderful trip and ride along the lake.

June 19 to 21 – Sister Donna Marie had Visitation with the Resurrection Local Community. In addition to meeting one-on-one with the Sisters, having Vespers, Dinner and closing Spiritual Reading, Sister Donna visited the Sisters who work in Ministry. She visited Sister Maria Goretti at the Day Care, Bright Start, and Sister Carolyn at Misericordia. These visits gave Sister Donna a greater appreciation for the beautiful ministries the Sisters are involved in.

June 23 – Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Donna Marie attended the installation of the new leadership of the Sisters of the Living Word. Since fourteen of the Living Word Sisters live with us at the Village, they appreciated our presence and prayers at their installation.

June 25 to July 1- Sister Gloria Marie and Sister Carolyn Marie made directed retreats at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin.

June 25- Sister Dorota sent beautiful pictures and videos from her trip to Tanzania. So, Sister Donna Marie made them into slides and shared them with all the Sisters. It was a special blessing to be able to see the young Sisters in Tanzania profess their first vows and to see the beautiful celebration the Sisters prepared for them.

July 4 – Sister Carolyn, Sister Barbara, and Sister Hedwig prepared a delicious salad buffet for the Resurrection Local Community. It was a perfect ending to the 4th of July Holiday.

July 10, 11 and 12 Sister Donna Marie had Visitation St. Joseph Local Community. In addition to the one-on-one visits to the Sisters in Assisted Living and the Life Center, Sister had Vespers, Lunch and Spiritual Reading with the Sisters. Sister Donna also visited Sister Maria Marta at Saint Benedict's where she works part-time.



July 16 – We anticipated the 100th Anniversary of the Confirmation of our Congregation, the approval of Constitutions, and the 130th Anniversary of the beginning of the Apostles of the Resurrection. The Apostles joined us for the celebration. The celebration started with Vespers. The first reading was taken from Scripture and after it the Apostles renewed their Promises. The second reading was taken from our Constitutions, and we renewed our vows after the reading. There was also a short meditation on our commitment to Jesus using a song and slides of Jesus as Servant, Master, Healer, Suffering Redeemer, and Gloriously Risen.

After Vespers we shared a meal prepared by our own Sisters:

Salad

Sr. Carolyn S.'s Broccoli Supreme Slaw

Sr. Hedwig's Surprise Tossed Salad

Main Course

Sr. Barbara's Best in Town Potato Salad

Sr. Donna's BBQ Ribs Medley

Sr. Donna's Krispy Baked Chicken

Dessert

Sr. Virginia Ann's Minnesota Brownies

Sr. Maria Marta's Lucious Fruit Mix

Sr. Gloria Marie's Dreamy Kolacky



July

19 – Sister Mary Dominic joined other Ascension Resurrection Village residents for a trip to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin to enjoy a Lake Geneva Luncheon Lake Tour Cruise.

July 23 – Sister Maria Marta, Sister Maria Goretti, and Sister Donna Marie went to the Pickwick Theater to see the movie “The Sound of Freedom.” This is a powerful true story that awakens us to the horror of trafficking of children. “Sound of Freedom” is based on the real story of Tim Ballard, a former U.S. Department for Homeland Security agent who conducts sting operations to rescue a young brother and sister from human trafficking in Colombia. He was responsible for saving 150 children.

July 23 – The Resurrection Local Community celebrated Sister Gloria Marie’s Jubilee. The celebration started with Vespers and then a delicious dinner was served from Blossom Café. The celebration included a delicious chocolate cake from a neighboring Italian restaurant.

July 25 – Sister Mary Dominic enjoyed an outing to Navy Pier with the Ascension Resurrection Village Activities Department.

July 31 to August 4 – Sister Mary Patricia made her annual retreat at the Redemptorist Retreat Center in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

Birthday Wishes

Sister Hedwig – August 16
Sister Kathleen Ann – September 1
Sister Mary Paulette – September 10
Sister Marilyn – September 11
Sister Mary Florence – September 22



Feast Day Wishes

Sister Dominic - August 8
Sister Rosemary – August 23
Sister Dolores Stepien, NY – September 15