

*Becoming a Sacred Flame:
Francis, Clare and John's Gospel*
Franciscan Banquet Recognition
Franciscan Federation Annual Conference
July 27-30, 2011 – Milwaukee, WI



Logo Artist: Stella DeVenuta OSF

Criteria for selecting honorees

Sisters and Brothers who:

Spark enthusiasm for the charism

- Allow their ministry to be a light to the world
- Exemplify a passion that ignites others for a cause or ministry
- Embody the spirit of their congregation's founder
- Live the love expressed in the Gospel of John
- Live as Word made Flesh, empowering others to become more
- Exhibit a passionate love of life and people

Franciscan Honorees

Mary Doris Ashcraft, FSM

Franciscan Sisters of Mary

Throughout her life Sr. Doris has beautifully given life to the Franciscan Sisters of Mary values of presence, hospitality, and compassion; she truly embodies Mother Odilia and the FSM charism "to be the presence of the loving, serving, compassionate and healing Jesus." In her 35 years at St. Francis Hospital in Blue Island, Illinois, she lovingly offered a listening ear and a caring hug to anyone who needed it, patient or staff member: "'Step into my office,'—and my office was everywhere," she would say. She made a lasting impression on all who knew her there.

Having returned to St. Louis, Sr. Doris continues to bring the loving, healing presence of Jesus to all she meets. She visits the other residents, listens to those who are lonely, and cares for those who need an encouraging word. She bakes cookies as gifts to her sisters and others, and she strives to be available to those who need her, open always to however the Spirit may call her to serve. In her quiet simplicity, compassion, and grace, she truly is a Sacred Flame, a beacon encouraging others to live as Jesus lived.

Mary Augustini, OSF

Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY

For over 50 years, Mary Augustini, OSF has exemplified Franciscan values of minority, simplicity, compassion and hospitality as she lives out the Mission of the Franciscan Sister of Allegany. For the past thirty (30) years, Mary has been in direct ministry to the poor and marginalized homeless at both The Dwelling Place of NY in New York City and at St. Francis Inn in the Kensington section of Philadelphia, PA.

Likewise, Mary's service and availability to the needs of the Congregation are outstanding, whether they are sharing her gift of music, serving on a committee or participating at various gatherings and assemblies.

Truly, Mary embodies the spirit of Francis and Clare!

Sister Ann Carmen Barone OSF
Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, Ohio

In her primary ministry as Vice President for Mission and Ministry at Lourdes College, Sr. Ann Carmen interacts with faculty, staff, students, trustees, and friends of the college. Whether it's a one-on-one contact in the hallway, addressing a group of new employees at orientation, or leading some portion of the college community in a reflection, her enthusiasm for the mission is infectious. Students light up when they see her; faculty and staff will often comment that they are touched by her ability to raise their spirits, educate and inspire them about our Franciscan identity, and express our beliefs and values in such down-to-earth and human terms. Employees and students seek her out for resources so that they themselves can lead their departments/groups in ways that reflect our Franciscan spirit. Students and employees who are looking for ways to grow on their own personal faith journey often seek her out for direction and advice.

In her ministry as Liturgist at the Motherhouse, she shares her passion for scripture and sacred music not only with our own Congregation but with our growing community of worshippers from the neighboring areas. She encourages and inspires others to share their talents in song, in music, and in creating an ambiance that is full of life and encourages reflection and worship.

Her energy has extended beyond these two ministries through her work with the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and the numerous times that she has helped at parishes and schools in the diocese by assisting with liturgy and prayer preparation, providing music, and giving presentations on these topics.

Carmen Barsody OSF
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN

Sister Carmen Barsody, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota, is a bridge-builder, truth teller, and enthusiastic lover of life. Her vision and passion are contagious, having been shaped by ministries ranging from the inner city of Chicago to the barrios of Managua, Nicaragua and beyond. Currently, Carmen companions persons on their spiritual quests, serving as Vocation Minister for our Congregation, co-minister of our Associates, and co-founder of the Faithful Fools Street Ministry in San Francisco.

Sister Karen Berry, OSF
Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet

Sr. Karen has a natural gift for sharing her love for the Gospel and Francis and Clare in her teaching, writing, photography, and her way of being with and for others. Her creativity and insight come in to play with the numerous classes she teaches at St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church and various venues in the Tucson, AZ and beyond. Her columns in religious education magazines and her books in the area of Spirituality express her love for the richness of the Scriptures and the Franciscan expression of passion for all peoples and all of earth. Travel to the roots of John's Gospel in Turkey including Ephesus and Cappadocia has deepened and enriched her involvement in inter-cultural programs.

Jeanne Brolan, Associate
Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God

As an Associate of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God (SMIC), Jeanne Brolan has committed herself to our charism of living a contemplative compassionate presence to all, especially the most needy.

Her passion to make room at the table for all is alive in her work for the homeless, for the elderly and her work with college students who live with autism. Out of her personal experience of raising to adulthood, with her husband, an autistic child, she understands the gifts that those so afflicted bring to society. She carries that awareness into her work with autistic college students, helping them to grow in their social skills and confidence, while helping to bring awareness of their needs to the environment around her.

Her ability to challenge the status quo when it prevents full living by those most in need is fed by her deep commitment to Gospel living. While accompanying several young women, drug addicts, pregnant and homeless, she kept before the diocese their very public prolife stance and the need to carry that stance into providing for women who find themselves in this situation. She is a fiery, gracious woman, simple in her own needs, as a committed Franciscan heart calls her to live.

Eileen Burns OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities

Sisters Eileen Burns, OSF, has been a Sister of St. Francis for forty-nine years. She grew up within a close and loving Irish-Catholic family in Westchester County, a suburban area thirty-five miles north of New York City.

Early in Sr. Eileen's religious life she taught children in a local Catholic elementary school. Even then, Sr. Eileen was known to be a lively, creative, and effective primary school teacher. Because of her fierce devotion to the poor, she embarked on a thirty-two year commitment to inner New York City pastoral ministry.

These years involved her in serving the people of God in various capacities and educational opportunities. She served on a Community Board 3 in New York City, received a Master's of Divinity degree at Maryknoll School of Theology; and speaks Spanish while also gaining cultural experiences in the Dominican Republic and Honduras. In November 2011 Eileen will graduate from the Mastery Foundation School of Leadership. This is an international training forum for leaders from Israel, the United States, and the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

While Eileen has been a valuable pastoral presence with the people of New York City, she has also given her attention to many congregational endeavors. She has conducted retreats and has served on various committees throughout the years such as Steering Committee for Chapter, Liturgy, Formation and the Social Justice Committee. Currently she works with the Associates located in Hastings-on-Hudson.

In many ways, Eileen's steadfast commitment to the poor of New York City has ignited their passion to also become a "sacred flame" of God's love to others. Eileen has consistently worked with a diversity of cultures that embody several parish-based communities. She has empowered our Spanish-speaking Associates by encouraging them to prepare and lead prayer services, to be religious education instructors, to entertain the frail and elderly sisters of our congregation through prayer, music and dance, and by engaging the associates in current theological and spiritual discussions. Eileen has been the catalyst for many parish-wide days of retreat and celebrations throughout the regions of the South Bronx, lower East Side and Harlem. Her ability to spark hope and shed light has enabled women who have been incarcerated in correctional facilities to be more loving and less desperate given their dire circumstances.

Through her examples, she like St. Francis of Assisi, "preaches the gospel and if necessary uses words." She has modeled the Franciscan charism by her enthusiastic and warm presence in the most challenging of circumstances – comforting those dying of Aids or wounded by gunshot, helping the homeless who have been evicted through lack of funds or by fire, by searching with others for alternate solutions to poverty and helping undocumented immigrants. By Eileen's simple, yet powerful, consistent and enduring presence among the poor of New York City, she has been privy to the outrageous needs of the voiceless and powerless.

Through her presence and relationships, she has given the poor in her parishes a face that is recognizable and a voice that is eloquent. She continually passes on the sacred flame of God's love to others, thus sparking enthusiasm for mission in the Spirit of St. Francis.

**Sister Marilisa Helena da Silva OSF
Bernardine Franciscan Sisters**

Sister Marilisa Helena da Silva, OSF was born in Cadelária, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil on April 26, 1948. It was within the warmth of her family and the faith community of her beloved parish that her vocation blossomed. As a Bernardine Franciscan, she earnestly embraced the values of our foundress, Mother Veronica, as a teacher, counselor and administrator in Brazil. In a spirit of dedication, passion and enthusiasm, she shared her numerous gifts and talents as a member of the Congregational Council for twelve years.

In her role of servant leadership, she traveled the far corners of the world using the universal language of the Incarnated love to communicate the Bernardine Franciscan charism in Portuguese, Spanish and English to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Presently, she resides in Reading, PA where she ministers as Director of the Translation Office.

Although, Sister Marilisa Helena da Silva, OSF is small in stature, she is a Franciscan dynamo that radiates a sparkling and loving passion for the mission and the people of God. With much love, admiration and gratitude, The Congregational Leadership of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters are proud to nominate her as the honoree for 2011.

**Dorothy Dunbar, FSPA
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration**

Dorothy serves on the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration Membership Vocations Team. Sister Dorothy is the first contact for and walks with several women discerning religious life—specifically with a Franciscan community.

Sister Dorothy's life as a religious sister began in 1951 when she joined a religious community in Manitowoc, Wis., as a freshman in high school. She professed her first vows with that community in 1956. Her teaching ministry spanned many years and took her to places throughout the Midwest—from Ashton, Wis., where she taught third through fifth graders, to Nebraska to Woodsfield, Ohio, where she taught third and fourth graders. In all she taught at the grade school level for six years and at the high school level for 23 years—during which time she earned a master's in English from Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, Wis.

In 1980 Sister Dorothy was transferred to Chicago where she taught English at Willibrord Catholic High School—a school with an all black student population. While ministering there she earned her Master of Pastoral Studies at Chicago's Loyola University. It was during her work at Willibrord that Sister Dorothy's passion for working with the poor was ignited.

The early 1990s brought change to Sister Dorothy's ministry as well as a call to a new community. She transferred to the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in 1993. At this time she was serving as GED instructor and parent volunteer coordinator for Cabrini Green, a public housing development on Chicago's Near North Side, and Rockwell Gardens on Chicago's West Side. She also taught basic skills at Chicago's Midwest Women's Center while serving as academic adviser at Loyola University.

In 1999 she was invited by FSPA to join the Membership Vocations Team on which she continues to minister today—exemplifying her passion for religious life, sharing the FSPA charism and inviting women to follow in the footsteps of Saints Francis and Clare.

Marilyn Ellert OSF

Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart honor and celebrate **Sister Marilyn Ellert, OSF** and her exemplification of “*Becoming a Sacred Flame*” through her religious life.

Sister Marilyn is known for her:

- ❖ enthusiasm for our Franciscan way of life and our community and her deep love of God,
- ❖ openness to the needs around her and unfailing willingness to go where needed,
- ❖ living out of our charism as a sister “joyous and poor doing the works of neighborly love”,
- ❖ passion and commitment to ministry. As a teacher she was a “light” for children and adults, in her vocation ministry she companioned many in finding how best to serve God and as pastoral associate she is available and responsive to all,
- ❖ acceptance of her illness which empowers and inspires others to become more,
- ❖ trust in Divine Providence,
- ❖ positive, never-give-up attitude and joy which are an inspiration.

Janet Gardner OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God

Sister Janet Gardner, OSF, the General Minister of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, wholeheartedly supports the vision, mission and life of the congregation and is also sensitive to the needs of each of the Sisters.

Sister also has a great concern for the larger community as manifested in her leadership role in establishing a collaborative ministry to provide housing and supportive services to single mothers and their children. Sister was elected to the Council for the International Franciscan Conference of the Third Order Regular (IFC-TOR) where she works collaboratively to support and promote Franciscans and their efforts throughout the world.

Brother Kevin Goss, SA (R.I.P.)

Franciscan Friars of the Atonement

In recognition of his unwavering dedication and service to Fraternity as the Secretary General and Third Councilor of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement’s General Council since his election in June, 2009. In recognition of his extraordinary compassion in fulfilling his responsibilities as Health Care Liaison which included his untiring efforts and always ‘going the extra mile’ in overseeing, caring for the needs of and visiting with Friars in hospitals, nursing homes, etc. His sudden and unexpected passing has been deeply felt by the entire fraternity of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. May he enjoy his heavenly reward and may he rest in peace!

Maureen Harris, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity

In her role as Spiritual Care Outreach Coordinator for the Central Buffalo Cluster Parishes in Buffalo, N.Y., Sister Maureen exemplifies the criteria for this year’s honoree. When, in 2009, she first began her work for the parishes of Buffalo’s poor East Side, Maureen provided and developed spiritual care and outreach on behalf of the sick and shut-ins.

Moving forward, she has sparked interest and enthusiasm in the area of evangelization, working with and facilitating the developing relationship among area clergy, pastoral staff and other key personnel. She is involved with both the Faith Focus Committee and the Family Support Network project of the Catholic Urban Outreach Network. This Network was formed so that there could be a Catholic presence in the neighborhood where the parishes were closed.

Maureen also supports and works with residents of Gerard Place, a local LCWR-sponsored project which provides transitional housing and supportive services to homeless, single-parent families. In addition, Maureen has worked for many years with formation of our province associates. Through all her efforts, Maureen truly strives to “empower others to become more.”

Sister Marilyn Herr OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross

Sister Marilyn is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross. She is in the community appointed position of Associate Director and works part-time as Chaplain in a nearby hospital. She has served the community in the past through her election to the Leadership Team. She has been involved in Catholic education as a teacher and in an administrative role in the parish and in the Diocesan Education Department.

Sister Marilyn was chosen because of her enthusiastic response to whatever ministry is asked of her. She has a love of Francis and Clare and her enthusiasm shines through in her leadership with our Lay Associates. Her passionate love of life and people is exemplified in her role as Chaplain at St. Vincent Hospital and her commitment to the Gospel empowers others to grow to their full potential.

Sister Doris Holohan OSF

Sister Martine Mayborg OSF

Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, IN

Our honorees have been a sacred, faithful flame to the people of Papua, New Guinea for 51 and 46 years. Sister Martine Mayborg was one of four members of our Congregation to leave for Papua, New Guinea in October of 1960. Sister Doris Holohan followed five years later. These two women have just returned from Papua, New Guinea. Here at the Federation they represent all 21 Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg who spread our mission and charism to the people of the Southern Highlands and beyond. They have empowered others all along the way to be the teacher, the preacher of the gospel, the person of prayer and presence, women and men of the Gospel. They nurtured the gifts of the Nationals and encouraged them to be all that they could be. Sisters Doris and Martine, in the spirit of our foundress, journeyed into the unknown, carried the message, reached out by teaching, instructing, being one-with. They shared the vision, brought new life to all the places our Sisters were sent, and new hope to all the people whose lives they touched. We are so grateful for their ministry and their willingness to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, Francis and Clare.

Margaret Jungers, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family, Dubuque, IA

The life and ministry of Margaret Jungers OSF centers around the Good News: the presence of the reign of God in our midst. After teaching high school English and religion in Cascade, IA she ministered in youth and adult education in the many parishes of the Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese; in the RENEW office of Sioux City Diocese she helped to implement this spiritual renewal process to develop community, strengthen faith and inspire authentic Christian witness; she was pastoral minister for three rural parishes in the Winona, MN Diocese. She served as President of the Dubuque Franciscans for 8 years. In 1998 Margaret served as president of the Franciscan Federation. For the past 10 years, as director of Shalom Retreat Center in Dubuque, she has brought to the area a rich variety of programs focusing on Scripture, spirituality, justice, peace, wellness, the environment – and sometimes just plain fun!

Sister Jeanne d' Arc Kilwein SCSC
Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross

Sister Jeanne d' Arc is one of the rare persons we know who fits the criteria for this honor. She is very prayerful and faithfully comes to community prayers, conferences and celebrations. She lives the model of Franciscan poverty, living simply and having only what she needs. Even though she is 93 years old, she uses the stairs and she lives on the 3rd floor.

Her ministry is meeting the need of the time. For about the last 20 years she has spent every Saturday afternoon sitting in the lobby of our corporate ministry to welcome guests and show them around the residence. She has a love of history and it shows by the way she translates our historical documents from the original German language. Her dedication and commitment is evidenced when we see her working in the provincial library five afternoons a week as well as sharing a public library cart of books in each neighborhood throughout our corporate ministry for the elderly.

She has a passion for our earth and saving the environment and she always has precious contributions to make when we discuss this topic as a community. Her wonderful sense of humor and of fun shows when she is sitting and listening to the Brewer's game on the radio while she does some type of needlework.

Sister Jeanne d' Arc is committed to what she believes and never demands anything but accepts things as they are. She is loyal, kind, generous and peaceful and tries to bring out the best in every person she meets.

Sheila Kinsey OSF
Wheaton Franciscans

Sr. Sheila Kinsey earned a doctor of ministry degree from the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois. As a Franciscan Sister, Sr. Sheila has demonstrated her talents, skills, and integrity as a teacher, principal, diocesan director of religious education, a vice president of the Wheaton Franciscan's housing ministry and a member of the Sponsor Member Board of Wheaton Franciscan Services, Inc. and director of the Wheaton Franciscan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office.

Sr. Sheila's passion is justice and peace issues. She was an advocate and counselor for victims of domestic abuse and promoted programs for church and civic groups regarding issues of domestic violence. As the coordinator of the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Office for the Wheaton Franciscans, Sr. Sheila expanded the activities and reach of the office through her involvement as a founding member of the Franciscan Action Network, as the JPIC coordinator for the Franciscan Federation, and as a member of the coordinating committee of the Non-Governmental Organization of the United Nations with Franciscans International.

Sr. Sheila's life and work are imbued with non-violent values of creating respect, practicing honesty, promoting justice and nurturing wholesome relationships. She created a value-centered process titled "integrity of Nonviolence," to promote a nonviolence stance by providing strategies and interventions for social change within the workplace and community settings.

Sr. Sheila was instrumental in the formation of DuPage Global AIDS Action Network, an advocacy group resulting from Bono's (U2) "Heart of America Tour." Her work and values have influenced political leaders on the local and national levels in the passage of legislation including the U.S. Leadership Act against AIDS, Malaria, and T.B. of 2002, debt cancellation, Northern Ugandan Crisis Responding Act, immigration reform, ending human trafficking, protection of the environment and eradicating poverty. Elected to the congregational General Council in 2009, Sr. Sheila serves as a general councilor and as the JPIC Coordinator and Promoter of the international congregation – Franciscan Sisters Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Mary Litell, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, Redwood City

Mary Litell embodies the values we profess as Franciscans by living the Gospel with integrity, truth, conversion and a passionate hope for all God's creation. She embodies her dedication to the Gospel and her deep care for all of creation by living a life of simplicity and with gratitude for all life. God's love and the Light of Christ shine through Mary's commitment and enthusiasm for being a loving presence with whomever she encounters bringing healing, love and giving others supportive encouragement to become the fullness of God's creation. Mary's joy and passionate love of life sparkle and glow in her smile, her care-filled words, her compassionate listening and her passionate actions to bring peace and justice to all peoples and creation.

Sister Annice McClure, O.S.F.

Hospital Sisters of St. Francis

Sr. Annice is an energetic 80 plus Franciscan who shares her enthusiasm for life along with a visible witness to our traditions and heritage. Always ready to stand up, especially in her work with the poor, her words and actions bring spirit, hope, and joy to all who know her. Because of her spontaneity combined with never having met a stranger, she easily finds reasons to celebrate and share her Franciscan joy with others, no matter what the situation.

Mabel Barbara Meng, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, Denver, Colorado

Sister Mabel's mother died when she was five, but a difficult childhood seemed to open into wonderful possibilities and a call to a religious vocation when she attended St. Agnes Academy in Alliance, NE. A sister of the community for sixty-four years, she has engaged in ministries including elementary education, dietetics, nursing, and nursing education in five states She was instrumental in establishing and leading the development of the Bachelor of Science in nursing program at Minot State College (now Minot State University), Minot, North Dakota.

Sister Mabel is an encouraging and loving presence to young and old alike: children at St. Agnes Academy, high school students in the summer Higher Ground enrichment program, the poor encountered at the Collection Basket, our associates in the Alliance area for whom she is the convener, members of the RCIA process for which she is a presenter, discussion leader and sponsor, with our senior sisters with dementia with whom she does "remembering" activities, members of the local church community and sister's group with whom she studies the Bible and Franciscan titles. In all of these relationships, others are encouraged to become more and lasting friendships have grown. One of her major ministries is that of prayer ... for seventeen individual sisters in active ministries, prayers for ministries from Brazil to Vietnam, from California to New York and in Mexico. She exhibits a passionate love of life and people and great gratitude to God for all the good in her life.

Little things done in little places with those who are little in the eyes of the world ... these things done by Sr. Mabel with great love make all the difference. She greatly enjoys poetry and writes from time to time:
Little shriveled leaf clinging to the branch
You have withstood the wind, the rain, the snow and cold

You've shriveled curled together in a beauty all its own
In order to be united with your source.
May I cling to my Source like you, and
Know He loves my shriveled, aged beauty, too...
--Mabel Meng 2/3/08

Hilary Mullany OSF**Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa**

Hilary's love of the Franciscan way – one of joy and passionate embrace of peace and nonviolence – spills over into all she is and does. She is a "Sacred Flame" who sparks enthusiasm for the charism. From her teaching ministry in music and drama to her creative work with "Real to Reel" and adult education, her ongoing contributions to liturgical music and environment and her service in leadership as vice president and as a founding member of Sisters United News of the Upper Mississippi Valley, Hilary demonstrates her ongoing commitment to the spirit of Francis and Clare as she recognizes the face of God in all people, in music and art and in creation.

Her presentation of the Wolf of Gubbio story, which she wrote as a play and choreographed, engaged performers and audiences – children, university students and adults – alike. Her years of service as co-chair of the Clinton community theater demonstrate the Franciscan commitment to beauty in the world.

As chair of the Content Committee for the Women & Spirit Exhibit in Dubuque, Iowa, Hilary has spread Franciscan enthusiasm and joy to a wide variety of people. She is a compassionate listener, thoughtful and respectful, and her insightful questions and comments challenge, encourage and instill Franciscan hope. In her world there are no strangers: she is welcoming and supportive. She IS a beacon of Franciscan light to the world.

Nora Nash, OSF**Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia**

Sister Nora is the Director of Corporate Social Responsibility for our congregation. As such, she is a tireless advocate for justice and does not hesitate to confront the leadership of a vast array of corporate organizations to challenge their practices. At her recommendation and on our behalf she has granted monies from our Social Justice Fund to small organizations that work to improve the lot of struggling people both here and abroad. Thus, due to Nora's heart for the charism and enthusiasm for the mission, we are present in places in the world where we would never be able to go. However, the most wonderful thing about Nora is her very person. She is a person who is upbeat, has a great sense of humor, loves a good conversation about the important things in life, and can be counted on to "show up" and participate whether it's in the joy of a jubilee celebration, the sorrow of a sister's funeral, or the high intensity of a congregational chapter. Nora enfleshes in so many ways the Word of God present among us.

Sister Jeannine Marie Neumann OSF**Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

We have chosen Sister Jeannine Marie Neumann, a Franciscan Sister of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, as our 2011 Franciscan honoree. We feel she exhibits a passionate love for life and for her primary students.

Sisters exemplifies the Franciscan Spirit in bringing Christ's light to the world and being a transforming presence through her gifts of music and teaching. She and her students share their gifts of singing and playing the guitar with the retired priests at Regina Cleri and with the assisted living and nursing home residents at Cardinal Ritter Senior Services in St. Louis, Missouri, at Christmas.

Sr. Marge Novak, OSF**Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi**

We have chosen Marge Novak, a nurse practitioner, to be honored as the 2011 Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, honoree because of her deep and passionate love for the low-income people of the Southwest who are without medical insurance. Through her efforts 14 years ago, the Raphael Community Free Clinic was started in Kerrville, Texas, and is now open 10 hours per day, four days per week. The clinic personnel see an average of 130-140 clients each week from a seven-county area, and have a patient roster of about 7,000. Marge is a light shining brightly in Texas and has a myriad of helpers who have joined her in making health care possible for all.

Our foundresses and earliest sisters lived out our charism of “living in the providence of God” in countless ways. Marge, a woman of faith, stepped forward with her dreams, skills and desire, and has followed in our foundresses’ footsteps to help those in need

Sister Joyce Ann Panos, OSF

School Sisters of St. Francis

Sister Joyce Ann embodies the Sacred Flame of the Gospel love through her multi-faceted ministry to our elder sisters. She gently and safely chauffeurs sisters receiving nursing care to and from doctor’s appointments on a daily basis. She adds beauty to their lives through her artistic crafting skills and creative cards. Sister Joyce Ann is gracious, generous and humble in her living, caring and serving.

Immaculata Park, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration of Colorado Springs

Sister Immaculata Park, or “little Mac” as she is affectionately called, is the “living presence of God” for those she has ministered to and with as a Pastoral Care Minister for over 30 years. Now as a hospital volunteer she consoles and comforts those particularly struggling with the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. In her quiet, deeply prayerful way she is a source of hope and solace for patients, family members and staff alike. In addition, Sister Mac volunteers in the Pastoral Care Department at our Mount Saint Francis Nursing Center which serves as “home” to over 90 lay residents and 10 of our Sisters. Sister Mac also lovingly and generously gives of her time to take others shopping or to medical appointments. In her, you see the love of Jesus exemplified each day. In her simple, humble way she reaches out to others not only in need of physical healing, but also healing of spirit. She is a woman of compassion, a breath of fresh Franciscan spirit, and one who exemplifies Franciscan hospitality with an enthusiasm that ignites others.

Fr. Raffaele Pazzelli, T.O.R. (R. I. P.)

Franciscan Friars, Third Order Regular

Fr. Raffaele was a member of the St. Francis of Assisi Province, Assisi, Italy. He was the author of “St. Francis and the Third Order: the Franciscan and Pre-Franciscan Penitential Movement” in 1989. During the work on the T.O.R. Rule, Fr. Raffaele was a major force of education and inspiration for us. He came to the United States and conducted workshops for the Franciscan Federation and several congregations. That effort gave us the needed foundation for a truly effective approach to the retrieval of our penitential tradition. Fr. Raffaele passed away on February 16, 2011.

Sr. Grace Miriam Pleiman SFP

Franciscan Sisters of the Poor

Sr. Grace Miriam has always had a passion for working with God’s marginalized people, especially the homeless and street people. She is a psychiatric nurse and therapist and has a real knack for making the people she is working with feel comfortable and at peace. In 2010 the United States Area started conversations about providing a service to the prostitutes in Over-the-Rhine area of Cincinnati. Sr. Grace Miriam was the first to volunteer to do the research, get it organized and get the ministry started. She is now the Director of Tamar’s Place, a place of hospitality and friendship for “women working the streets”. Tamar’s Place also offers counseling and referrals for treatment to other services for women desiring to change their lifestyle.

Sr. Grace Miriam has been involved in several ministries that embody our foundress, Blessed Frances Schervier's care and love for the poor. After working some 15 years with the homeless in New York City, Sr. Grace Miriam founded and directed the Inniss Franciscan House for over 10 years – a transitional residence for homeless men in recovery from addiction to drugs and alcohol. She also volunteered to be a member of the Christian Peacemakers Teams for several years and served in Palestine to promote peace and protect human rights of people who lived under the Israeli Occupation.

In her spare time Sr. Grace Miriam volunteer's at Grace Place, A Catholic Worker House of Hospitality on the west side of Cincinnati, and at Our Lady of the Woods, a Senior Independent Living Community for low-income elderly.

Sister M. Andrea Puchalski, OSF

Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Sister M. Andrea Puchalski, OSF, is an exemplary member of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago who sparks enthusiasm for the charism of their foundress, Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik, in her love for the poor and needy. Early in Sr. Andrea's ministry she inspired the youngsters in Boys Town to become more than orphans who rely on the charity of others, to become contributors to society and to the Church.

Later, in her many years as a licensed practical nurse in South Dakota and the Midwest, she often had night duty and calmed the fears of patients as well as families with her prayerful presence and ready smile. For them she was a light in the darkness, an embodiment of the healing presence of Jesus. Currently the energetic 90 year old Sr. Andrea continues to exhibit her passionate love of life and people in the ministry of hospitality and welcome in her work as manager of the Motherhouse gift shop where her selections of whimsical seasonal items charms another generation of people with the Franciscan joy that has always welled up in the her dedicated heart.

Sister Bertina Rapnicki, FSSJ

Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph

Throughout her life, Sister Bertina Rapnicki, FSSJ, has *allowed her ministry to be a light for the world*. Sister's dedication and commitment to Catholic education as a teacher and as a principal for over fifty years at Most Holy Rosary School in Kenosha, Wisconsin, led her to create a school climate where staff and students were given the opportunity to be their best and to do their best, thus *empowering them to become more*.

Sister Bertina was often seen as *a light* by families who suffered financial hardships, as she advocated and sought assistance for them, so that their children had the opportunity to receive a Catholic school education. In addition to her education ministry, Sister was also an integral part of the lives of the parish and school communities. She brought comfort to those who were ill, those who were dying, and those who were grieving.

Today, Sister Bertina continues to be *a light* through her compassionate ministry for the elderly and homebound of Most Holy Rosary Parish. In addition to nourishing their souls through prayer and the reception of Holy Communion, Sister also nourishes the spirits and hearts, of those she visits, by offering them a listening ear and a listening heart. Thank you, Sister Bertina, for being a faithful daughter of Francis of Assisi and Colette Hilbert!

Sister Mary Joselle Ratka, CSSF

Felician Franciscan Sisters

Sister Joselle has been involved as principal of an inner city school, St. Anthony Passaic Catholic in Passaic, NJ for 25 years. She has been an advocate for the poor people who wish their children to have a Catholic education by helping families obtain the monies they need when she could through government

programs and grants. She has gone before state representatives, the Bishop and the superintendent of schools to intercede for the poor children who can't afford Catholic education. She has asked/begged rich and famous people like Bill Gates and Oprah Winfrey for help. She has been the voice of the poor and for Catholic education in the Paterson diocese in trying to get the Opportunities Scholarship Act passed which would allow more money for the poor to afford a Catholic education or any education they would desire. Our foundress, Blessed Angela Truszkowska would be very proud of her Felician daughter. Every day in school, she prays with the faculty, staff and students through the intercession of Blessed Angela for the multiple needs of many people. She has truly burned with a desire to bring the Gospel to the school community and consequently has been a light to many!

Catherine Ryan FSP
Franciscan Sisters of the Poor

Sister Catherine Ryan has been the gentle voice of Franciscan peace working in the Archdiocese of New York for the past thirty-five years. Her love of her ministry and the people she serves radiates from her as she generously shares her knowledge with those who seek her assistance. Her enthusiasm and undying commitment to the Church of New York is inspiring.

Sr. Catherine has fostered a love of the faith and the church through the formation of catechists within the Archdiocese. She ignites a love of God, the Church and our faith through the variety of programs that she has provided. She has demonstrated a passion for our faith that she has tirelessly passed on to a multitude of catechists in Manhattan, the East Bronx and Harlem. Her love, as expressed in the Gospel of St. John, inspires others to have that same desire to share their faith through the ministry of Catechetics.

Sister Catherine exhibits a joy-filled Christ –like presence to everyone. Her quiet Franciscan joy and servant leadership exemplifies a passion that ignites parish catechetical ministers to the “more” in the arduous and often unheralded ministry of parish catechetics.

Sister M. Annette Shircel, ssfc
School Sisters of St. Francis of Christ the King

Sister Annette Shircel is a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis of Christ the King who will be honored by the Federation this year. Over the years, Sister's ministries have included primary school teaching, work with youth in crisis in our group home, and care of our Sisters.

She embodies the charism of Mother Margareta Pucher, our Foundress, whose gentle spirit and concern for those most in need characterized our beginnings. Sister Annette is known for her ability to help children and their parents take ownership of behaviors and grow into better understandings of how best to live as responsible Christian people.

Sister Alice Thraen
Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, MN

Sister Alice sparks enthusiasm by her passion for life, for justice and reverence for all of creation. Her specific reverence for creation is demonstrated toward bees by serving as a beekeeper, educating others on how important bees are for health, and generating bee products for sale--honey, honey lip balm, candles... Alice can be found in the summer out gardening, appreciating the bees' pollination activity for providing good produce for humankind.

Throughout her years of ministry beginning as an elementary education teacher, then as a principal, and serving on staff for the Assisi Community Center up until the current ministry in the congregational Benefactors Relation office, Alice has consistently been available for all types of service to others. Visitors from around the world who arrive in Rochester to go to Mayo clinic come to Assisi Heights for tours led by Sr. Alice. Her inspiring input on the Franciscan art and history offers them healing blessings

on their journey. Her many forms of giving seem to rejuvenate her and this witness speaks to her inner life as a woman of the Word.

Sister Regina Wachowski SSJ-TOSF

Sisters of St Joseph – Third Order of St. Francis

Sr. Regina Wachowski has not just given time or money to peacemaking, she has given her whole self to – as the Federation has themed – “Becoming a Sacred Flame”, to continue on the path set by Francis, Clare and what is written in John’s Gospel.

In Brazil, she has worked in the health care field in Santarem, with prostitutes and marginalized women in Sao Paulo, and in pastoral ministry in Itacoatiara. Her work has been done fearlessly, with a willingness to reach those in mountainous, hard to reach areas. She has an extraordinary way of being present within the Congregation and to those she works with. She exemplifies love leadership and is an incredible example of the Franciscan Federation’s criteria for peacemaker.

Sister Nancy Westmeyer

Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio

The Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Charity of Tiffin, Ohio are proud to name Sister Nancy Westmeyer for the 2011 Franciscan Peacemaker Award. Sister Nancy is the Executive Director of the Servant Leadership Center located in Toledo, Ohio.

As co-founder of the Servant Leadership Center in Toledo, Ohio, Sister Nancy Westmeyer prepares and supports individuals and organizations as servant leaders so that ordinary people, through individual, collective, and systemic efforts, can achieve extraordinary things to create a better world. In her words, the Servant Leadership Center is: *a community called by the Spirit to utilize our unique gifts to transform our world peacefully. In response to the cries of the poor we offer direct assistance and we confront the powers that oppress. We invite others to join us on our journey even if they are unable to pay for the classes.*

Our process contributes to the broader community by nurturing within our participants, a spirit of service. Our graduates participate both through direct service and in efforts to transform systemic injustice. Through our process individuals identify or confirm their passion to make a difference and determine the ways they can act on that passion to benefit the community, especially people who are poor and marginalized.

We, the staff at the Servant Leadership Center, also contribute to the growing consciousness with our participants of our interconnectedness with all of creation as well as our complicity in unjust systems. This awareness helps participants to realize the impact of their day to day choices on the most vulnerable. This increased awareness and the actions that result are part of the transformation that occurs throughout the ten months process (of classes) and beyond.

Sister Nancy is presently accompanying four women on their journey to become Associates of the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio. As their sponsor she introduced them to the congregation’s history, charism, and lived experience. She is now guiding them as they enter into a discernment process.

Sister Nancy definitely sparks enthusiasm for spreading the Tiffin Franciscan Charism, ignites others to make the world a better place, and lives life passionately.