

# FSPA welcomes Sister Michele Pettit into first profession

[fspa.org/content/s/fspa-welcomes-sister-michele-pettit-into-first-profession](https://fspa.org/content/s/fspa-welcomes-sister-michele-pettit-into-first-profession)

August 27, 2020



On Saturday, July 25, Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration celebrated the profession of Sister Michele Pettit's first vows at Viterbo University's San Damiano Chapel in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Viterbo chaplain, Father Conrad Targonski, OFM, presided at the Mass. Guests were welcomed to join in the celebration either in person, following COVID-19 safety measures, or virtually, via livestream connection.

Coming from a family of educators, Sister Michele has served as an associate professor in the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Health Education and Health Promotion Department since 2010. She joined FSPA as an associate in 2017 and was welcomed into the novitiate program a year later. As she prepared for her first vows, Sister Michele engaged in intense prayer and study and spent much of her time volunteering within both the FSPA and La Crosse-area communities.

During the ceremony, Father Conrad read from Matthew 13:44-52 and encouraged everyone to think of the people and events in their lives that excite them. "The kingdom of heaven can be translated through the ways of God, and the ways of God have to get you excited." He went on to explain that God gives us time to rejoice, and "today we rejoice in Sister Michele's profession of her first vows."

Following Father Conrad's homily, Sister Georgia Christensen shared a message with Sister Michele and her community. "Sister Michele has always reflected the ordinary in an extraordinary way," expressed Sister Georgia. "Michele came to community searching for a way to respond to the Lord she loves so dearly. She recognized that God was searching for her, as well as her searching for God."



Shortly after Sister Georgia's reflection, Sister Michele proudly professed her vows by stating "I, Sister Michele, vow to God almighty and into your hands, Sister Eileen [McKenzie], to live poverty, consecrated celibacy, and obedience in community for three years according to the Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis and the Constitutions of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration."

In the moments following, Sister Eileen placed the FSPA eight-point Maltese cross on Sister Michele and said, "In the name of the Franciscan Sisters, I present you with this medal. Wear it as a symbol of FSPA identity."



**First Vows of Sr. Michele Pettit FSPA  
July 25, 2020**

Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/GoqvgEEfLE>

# Who is my Sister?

[fspa.org/content/s/who-is-my-sister](https://fspa.org/content/s/who-is-my-sister)

August 27, 2020



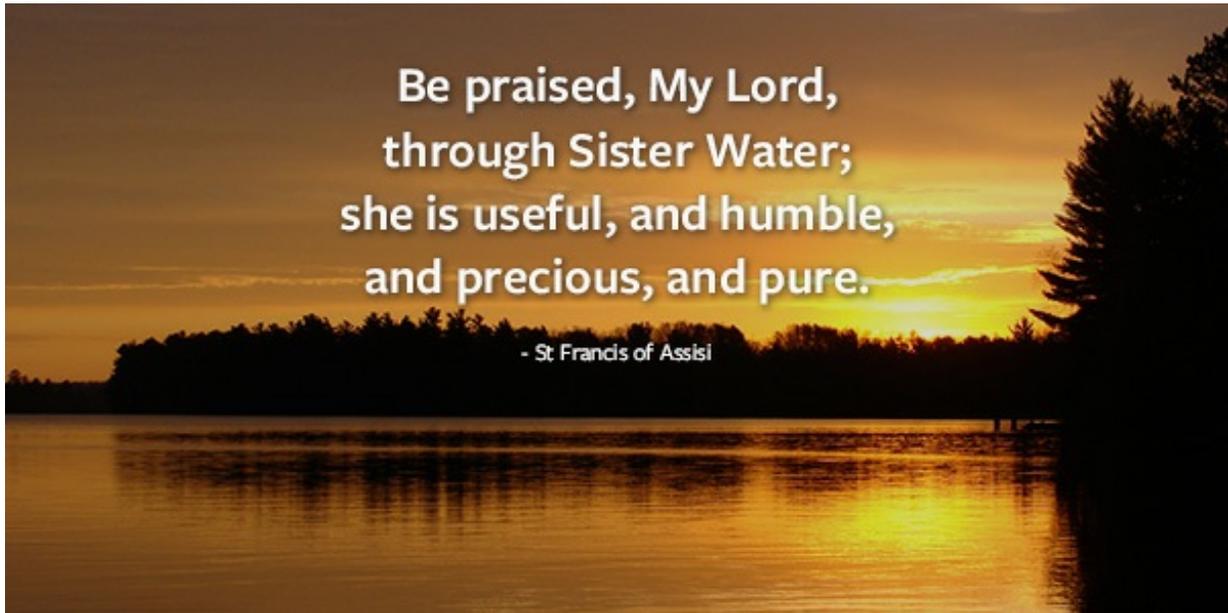
## By Sister Roselyn Heil

Which of our sisters should we ignore, use as we will and discard when we have contaminated her from her pure gift of self? This question hopefully stirs thoughts and feelings inside us, such as, “How can you say and think this way about your sister?”

Unfortunately, we treat many of our sisters and brothers in this way. In Jesus' time, people asked, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus moved the bar from cousins to all people. St. Francis of Assisi translated that very same question: “Who are my sisters and brothers?” He moved the bar from family to all Creation as sisters and brothers.

Given all of this, what is our relationship with our Sister Water?

Have you ever sat in a small boat on a lake, watching, feeling, listening and flowing with the gentle rhythm of the waves coming in to shore and back, when suddenly a power boat zooms around a bend into your cove? It zooms out again, as if it were the only one of importance, creating its own waves that crash into the cove. It throws everyone out of rhythm as each part of the cove — water, shore and boat — shifts with the invasion. After a while, you gradually return to the natural rhythm of water with land, your boat and you.



We humans, in many ways like that power boat, are oblivious to our relationship and connection with all Creation. We even use a word for the rest of Creation — nature — when referring to that Other as though we are not a part of the whole. We have forgotten that we ourselves are made of Earth (Genesis 2:7). We breathe in her Spirit and eat of our Earth brothers and sisters: flowers, plants and animals. Some we step on or swat as though it is ours to determine who lives and who doesn't. I digress. Back to Sister Water. Her gift to the Body of Christ is her fluidity and interconnection with the whole. As adults, our bodies, as well as Earth's surface, are at least 70% water; thus we already resonate with water. We too have the potential to be flexible and malleable.

When I was young, family and friends would visit and declare our water to be the best water they had ever had. She was clear and had no taste. So perfectly she receives others and takes on different tastes and fragrances — or bitterness. Water also absorbs and carries our emotions. Water, in her malleability, takes on the form of the vessel which receives her. She picks up messages and residues of gift and poison along her journey back to the sea.

David R. Brower, considered by many to be the father of the modern environmental movement in the United States, says, "We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations." When water ripples over rocks or through an area of cattails in a stream, without the continual re-feeding of poisons and toxins for even as little as 500 feet, she is able to release and purify herself. Removal of phosphorus is just the tip of the water-pollution iceberg that could be solved by cattail plant preservation. Cattails are associated with remediating sites contaminated with arsenic, pharmaceuticals and even explosives. Cattails can even help prevent excess methane emissions from degraded wetlands. Together, we have what we need to purify our blood/water stream of Earth's body.

As we turn on a faucet for water to flow down the drain or over our hands, have we become so absentminded that we have lost a sense of respect for where water has come from or where water is going?

The powerful words of Shozo Tanaka (1841 to 1913), a Japanese politician and social activist considered to be his country's first conservationist, still continues to challenge us: "The sewer is the conscience of the city. The care of rivers is not a question of rivers but of the human heart."

His sentiment flows into Ecclesiastes 1:7: "Into the sea all the rivers go, and yet the sea is never filled, and still to their goal the rivers go."

Meister Eckhart, in this translation by Matthew Fox, continues: "All creatures flow and return to their source, Creator of heaven and earth ... What is created flows out but remains within. So, when we return to our first origin ... we discover our freedom and are free."

As we recognize our kinship with all Creation, we open ourselves to flow to the sea, Our Source, as far as our creativity will take us.



[Watch Video At: https://youtu.be/pyLgCdoFhbU](https://youtu.be/pyLgCdoFhbU)



The Christian family is uniting for the annual worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home — Season of Creation — Sept. 1 to Oct. 4. The theme for Season of Creation 2020 is Jubilee for the Earth.

Take action:

Learn about the history of the celebration in “[What is the Season of Creation?](https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/what-season-creation)” at [www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/what-season-creation](https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/what-season-creation).

Mark your calendar with global participation opportunities in the month of September. Visit [seasonofcreation.org](https://seasonofcreation.org) for a schedule of events, including webinars and information about World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Sept. 27.

Join Sister Meg Earsley in “Embracing Creation,” a four-session virtual celebration, Sept. 6, 13, 20 and 27, of Jubilee of the Earth. Contact Sister Meg directly at [mearsley@fspa.org](mailto:mearsley@fspa.org).

Watch “The Healing Power of Love in Action,” which includes a reading of “Canticle of the Creatures Explained” by Sister Sarah Hennessey at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4ieeciZEU>.

# Season of Creation

2020 Prayer

## Creator of Life,

At Your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit. The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life.

The eyes of all looked to You to satisfy the needs of every living thing. And throughout time the Earth has sustained life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give creatures our food in the proper time.

In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath; a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all that you have given; a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption; a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production.

But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demands for growth, and our never-ending cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world.

The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. We have not allowed the land to observe her Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to be renewed.

During this Season of Creation, we ask you to grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**



**SEASON OF CREATION**

# How COVID-19 opened hearts

[fspa.org/content/s/how-covid-19-opened-hearts](https://fspa.org/content/s/how-covid-19-opened-hearts)

August 27, 2020



**By Pat Ruda, justice and peace promoter**

COVID-19 hit the United States and our region in Wisconsin in mid-March, changing all of our lives forever. The Coulee Region Immigration Task Force, commissioned to serve migrants and immigrants through hospitality, education and advocacy, jumped into action via Zoom. We changed course from planning People Fest, a cultural celebration of food, music and dance, held annually in the summer in La Crosse, Wisconsin, to providing emergency relief efforts for the migrant families suffering great economic hardships — job loss and lack of access to government assistance — suffered at the hands of the virus.

The first step was applying for a grant from the La Crosse Area Emergency Response Fund, rapid-response aid made available to individuals and families — like those we serve — in critical COVID-related financial need. The fund is facilitated in part by the La Crosse Community Foundation and supported by FSPA through a \$500,000 donation. CRITF was awarded a \$15,000 grant with which we disbursed money orders (as most recipients of the funds lack bank accounts, are “unbanked”) to 30 Latinx families who met the requirements for assistance. Throughout the spring and summer months, the task force applied for and received two additional grants to assist Latinx families in need: a second, with which we provided 50 families with money orders of \$750 each, and a third, which enabled us to give 30 families money orders of \$750 apiece.



Sister Eileen McKenzie said of FSPA’s gift to the COVID-19 relief fund, “The spirit of giving is contagious.” It most certainly has been. The La Crosse-area food bank WAFER was onsite for each money order disbursement event, supplying families with meat, fresh vegetables and fruits, dairy products and other staples. Couleecap Inc., an agency in La Crosse that provides housing, food and transportation assistance to marginalized members of our community, joined us to facilitate a clothing drive. We were overwhelmed with donations that led to the provision of clothing for children and adults in a four-county area. La Crosse’s Beer By Bike Brigade supported the task force’s mission by facilitating a household supply drive, which led to the distribution of items to those in need in four local counties. Women's Fund of La Crosse provided diapers and hygiene products. When we learned that Latinx residents of Trempealeau County (adjacent to La Crosse County) were in dire need, several FSPA stepped in and helped us procure money orders, food items like rice and beans, and clothing for 25 families. We’ve also received cash donations. And with every outreach opportunity, CRITF is providing resources, printed in Spanish, to educate adults about the importance of completing census forms.



The generosity we've observed and the opened hearts we've encountered, especially during this time of COVID-19, are amazing. The spirit of giving is indeed contagious.

*All images taken during the June 2020 CRIFT- and Couleecap-sponsored clothing drive at First Congregational Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin, by CRIFT member and Greater La Crosse Area Diversity Council Executive Director Arlette Rodriguez-Miller.*

# Walking, virtually, with women discerning religious life

[fspa.org/content/s/walking-virtually-with-women-discerning-religious-life](https://fspa.org/content/s/walking-virtually-with-women-discerning-religious-life)

August 27, 2020



## By Sister Amy Taylor

Accompanying women discerning religious life today requires a wide variety of communication skills, including the willingness and ability to embrace technology. Emailing, texting and calls via phone and video are my go-to practices outside of in-person visits with discerners. In March, when COVID-19 changed many ways of the world, we cancelled a scheduled in-person Come and See, and for most of us working at St. Rose Convent, we packed up and headed home to continue serving while sheltering in place. Since then, technology has become the one true lifeline to discerners as they, too, experienced the total disruption of their normal routines.

Since then we have witnessed the Holy Spirit at work, continuing to inspire discerners to make time, reach out and explore religious life. They have been encouraged to push beyond their ideals of planning road trips and stopping at different convents, traveling instead through their smartphones and laptops.

Infusing creativity into that technology, FSPA is offering virtual Come and See opportunities. We kicked off this mission when we invited several discerners to attend Sister Michele Pettit's virtual first-vow ceremony, live-streamed on July 25 from San Damiano Chapel at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin.



[Watch Video At: https://youtu.be/GoqvgEEfLE](https://youtu.be/GoqvgEEfLE)

At that time, San Damiano had just received permission to open their doors for Masses, as long as they followed the diocesan protocol for COVID-19 safety. A small group of people were able to be in the chapel, and FSPA sisters, family and friends unable to travel due to the pandemic had the opportunity to experience Sister Michele's celebration online. We reached out by phone and email to the discerners who had watched the celebration from their homes. Together, as a virtual community that includes our discerners, we all witnessed the joy of Sister Michele's "yes" to vowed life as an FSPA.

The next step into our evolution of virtual visits happened in August when we offered a full-day Come and See opportunity. Zoom was the vehicle for connection as we began the day with prayer and then a virtual tour of Mary of the Angels Chapel. We also met virtually with several small groups of sisters, each sharing different aspects of life as a vowed FSPA: prayer and perpetual adoration, mission and ministry, Franciscanism and ecology. Several sisters shared stories of themselves as new members experiencing the incorporation process. Through video and microphones, conversation flowed, a wide variety of questions were answered and new connections were made.

As we continue to pioneer new ways to meet the needs of women discerning religious life today, we believe that our foundresses would be proud of FSPA. Thank you to all of the sisters who have graciously engaged with discerners in this new modality during such an unprecedented time in our history. The future is created one step — or perhaps one click of a mouse — at a time!

# The path to racial solidarity

[fspa.org/content/s/the-path-to-racial-solidarity](https://fspa.org/content/s/the-path-to-racial-solidarity)

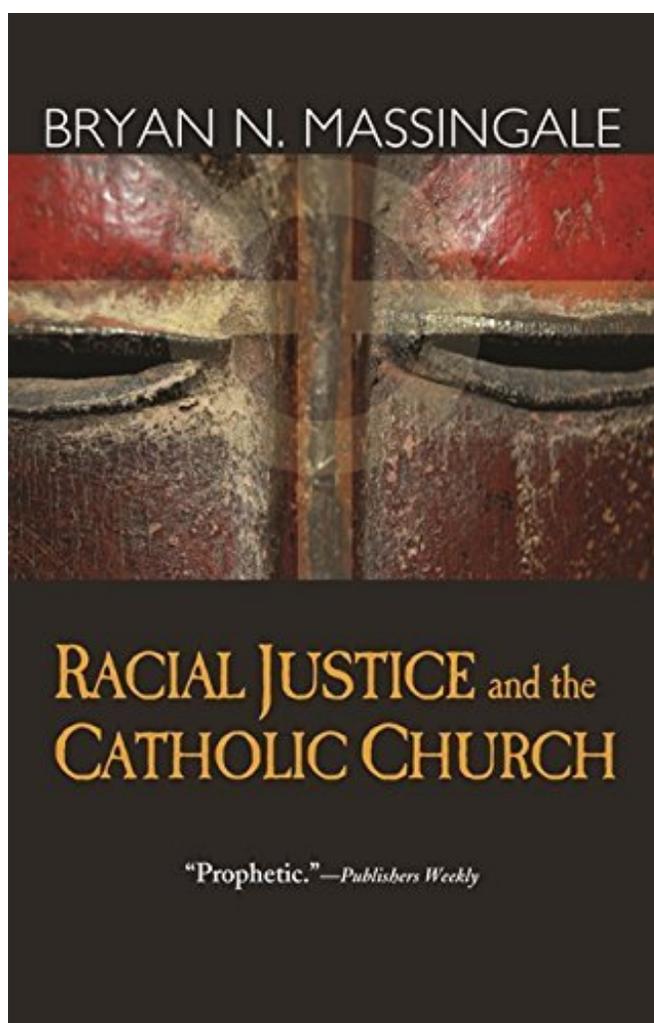
August 27, 2020

## By Beth Allen, director of affiliation

- “Every sister and affiliate needs to get a copy,” stated affiliate Mike Schnitzius.
- “Of the books I have read on white privilege, this is my favorite by far,” affirmed affiliate Mary Garves.

The book is “Racial Justice and the Catholic Church” by Bryan Massingale, an African American priest, and FSPA and affiliates were invited to participate in a virtual book study series to unpack the experience of reading it. All who joined agreed that Father Bryan’s writing is powerful and eerily relevant to the heightened racial tensions we are facing today.

Father Bryan challenges the Christian community to confront racism in our society and churches, laying out not only a historical perspective of how we got here but offering practical action steps that can take us where we need to go. Debunking the myth of a so-called “post-racial” society, he defines racism as a culture which includes the justification of systems of white privilege in America today. He further points out that culture shapes consciousness and influences our actions, or lack thereof, as laity.



I have found myself bewildered when turning on the news as of late. Who are these people shouting racist profanities? Where is this outrage and hate coming from? Father Bryan describes this dynamic with ease: the emerging multiracial and multicultural society in America is relatively new and for some causes great fear and resistance. As we are no longer a white Christian nation, many white Christians are in culture shock. That is to say,

we're operating in an entirely different social environment that causes uncertainty and anxiety. Consider how much attention was given to former president Barack Obama specific to his non-white race.

The late James H. Cone, known as the founder of Black liberation theology, once pointedly said, "It is amazing that racism could be so prevalent and violent in American life and yet so absent in white theological discourse." Father Bryan unpacks this reality further by providing an analysis of Catholic social teaching and Protestant statements on racism. "I was outraged to learn about the longstanding silence from leadership of the Catholic Church on this," admitted affiliate Joan Gerhards in our discussion.

Is the Catholic Church a "white racist institution"? Father Bryan would suggest that it is, and we all found ourselves agreeing. What makes the Church white and racist is not that the majority of its members are white (this is no longer true in many places) or because members engage in bigotry. What makes it a white, racist institution, he argues, "is the pervasive belief that European aesthetics, music, theology and persons — and only these — are standard, normative, universal and truly Catholic."

To challenge ourselves and engage in this tension, Father Bryan outlined a path to interracial reconciliation that includes recognition, responsibility, reconstruction and reparation. Examining this together, we found ourselves sharing personal experiences of racism and ways in which we heard our voices confronting it. We also spoke of leaning into our Franciscan understanding of Eucharist, inviting the most unlikely guests to our table. Can we influence our faith communities to redefine and expand what it means to be Catholic or Christian in how we worship? How do we promote racial solidarity as a community of sisters and affiliates? I admit that I do not have all the answers, but thanks to this important, reflective time together, I understand more of the story ... and my part in it.

# 2020 Jubilarians

## Class of 1945 — celebrating 75 years as a Catholic sister



### Sister Rita Marie Bechel

I gratefully remember God's special blessings living in the family of Matthias A. (Matt) Bechel and Emma Dettling on the farm in Plum City, Wisconsin, with seven brothers and six sisters. I benefited by being taught by FSPA at St. John the Baptist grade school through eighth grade. Entering St. Rose Convent as an aspirant in 1939 for four years of high school instruction, I had more excellent teachers. I missioned as a teacher of grades one through five for 37 and one-half years in Wisconsin and Iowa. I especially recall teaching music and Latin words to prepare students to sing Requiem Mass. In 1982, I began my 25 years at Villa St. Joseph as a sacristan, a receptionist and feeding elderly sisters until retiring in 2015.

Online on Palm Sunday, Sister Gertrude Daugherty and I watched novices Sisters Michele Pettit and Meg Earsley with Sisters Corrina Thomas, Helen Elsbernd and Julia Walsh at our FSPA Novitiate House in Chicago. They celebrated Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with their own communities. We can all be inspired by their devotion to the Lord, which stirs my hope for our FSPA future!

## Class of 1950 — celebrating 70 years as Catholic sisters



### Sister Rosalia Bauer

As a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, my life is deeply grounded via daily Mass and Perpetual Adoration. Energized with this "soul food," I have been blessed serving people from the womb to the tomb ministering as a RN and a FNP. Ministry in our five sponsored hospitals,

Kimberly-Clark's first Health Promotion Program, migrants in Virginia, Cambodian refugees camped in Thailand and on ... "All praise and all Thanksgiving be every moment Thine."



### Sister Luanne Durst

Over the years, in all the places I've served, I've continued to be utterly grateful to my family for my early years, the Manitowoc sisters for my middle years, and my La Crosse sisters for these "later" years. No ministry or life experience would have been possible without the generous support of

all these remarkable people who've crossed my path and supported my life. I pray for them daily.



### Sister Kathleen Kenkel (RIP)

It is with a grateful heart that I reflect on my 70 years as part of FSPA. It has been a time of great joy and many blessings. May God continue to bless the FSPA community, my family and my friends always. Editor's note: Sister Kathleen passed away shortly after writing this reflection. May she rest in peace.



### Sister Marcella Steffes

In high school, I hoped to become a music instructor. With Sister Dolorette's help at St. Angela Academy in Carroll, I received an excellent background for my future preparation to enter St. Rose Convent to praise the Lord working in a music ministry, teaching Suzuki cello and violin to children.

I am filled with gratitude for all the blessings received these past 70 years.



**Sister Shirley Wagner**

I thank God, my parents and my religious community for all the wonderful opportunities I was given to be involved in so many lives through music, pastoral ministry and art. All of these were pure gifts for which I am grateful.



**Sister Donna Weber**

Mystery accompanies all of life. Walking willingly in faith allows the heart some surprises. THAT is jubilee. Reflecting on having lived as an FSPA fills me with deep gratitude for the gifts and uncountable blessings from my Franciscan community.

How incredible the call to journey with Christ whose plans often seemed so “unplanned”! JUBILEE celebrates the mysteries that unfolded with meaning, purpose and deep relationships.

**Class of 1960 — celebrating 60 years as Catholic sisters**



**Sister Gloria Aguon**

O Divine Master, thank you for my opportunity to serve You 60 years in consecrated life.

I treasure:

*Truth engraved in heart and whole being  
Heaven destined since eternity  
Always with me  
New brothers and sisters to serve  
Kindled light in perpetual adoration for family, friends,  
relatives and the whole world  
Yes, to Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration  
One complete heart  
Union with You, Lord, and all creation.  
I love you very much, my Lord.*



**Sister Rosemary Desmond**

It is with deep gratitude I review my 60 years as an FSPA. The blessings and opportunities afforded me for education, travel and ministry have enabled me to serve others as together we joyfully made the presence of God visible in countless ways. I am grateful for the love and support of my community,

my family and my friends.



**Sister Joann Gehling**

Léon Bloy wrote, “Joy is the echo of God’s life within us.” From this deep place within, I was drawn to religious life by the example of an FSPA teacher who treated each student with love and respect regardless of status or academic ability. This call to religious life continues morning after morning with

privileged time for prayer, new ministerial challenges and numerous friendships made possible by belonging to a community of Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Jubilee is indeed a time of heart-felt gratitude and celebration!



**Sister Diane Boehm**

I look back on these 60 years as an FSPA with joy and with a grateful heart for all the blessings that have come my way. Thank you to all who have been a part of my FSPA years, especially our loving God, my family, our FSPA community, my friends and all those I have had the privilege of ministering to and serving with!



**Sister Mary Ann Gschwind**

Through these 60 years, I feel blessed to be an FSPA. I love the community and have loved being of service in various ministries. I am grateful to everyone whose paths have crossed mine and enriched my life.



**Sister Betty Bradley**

What a blessing it has been to be called by God to be an FSPA! I love the Franciscan call to live a life of peace and inclusiveness. My experiences have been many and varied. With the love and support of my family, my FSPA family and friends, I have been able to love life and be of service to others. God is

good! I thank God and all for these blessings as I celebrate 60 years of vowed life.



**Sister Virdean Meyer**

I have been blessed! My journey to and with FSPA could not have happened without those who have walked with me. All who have touched my life — FSPA community, family, friends and co-workers — have gifted me with the support to accept the challenges and graces of my life and ministry. My life

and ministry have been filled with experiences in which I have received much more than I could possibly give. I am so grateful.



**Sister Mary Morrissey**

No words will do justice to express my gratitude to my family, FSPA community, friends and all who have touched my life. Opportunities and challenges enriched my life. Thanksgiving to God for calling me forth and giving me the support and love in my journey. May I continue to be open to God's continual call.



**Sister Ione Nieland**

The call to be a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration has been a tremendous blessing in my life. I have been given many blessings and have had great opportunities. God has graced me with wonderful persons to live and work with.



**Sister Irene Nieland**

As I reflect on the journey of these 60 years, I feel humbled and grateful for all that FSPA, my family and the people of all the communities with whom I lived and ministered have given me. When I answered the call to religious life and FSPA, the community gave me the opportunity to study nursing. This gave me a ministry in which I realized a childhood dream of serving others as a nurse, be it clinical nursing, nursing education or administration. The world I encountered in these ministries was much larger than the one I could ever have imagined as a child. With encouragement and support from my sisters in community, I moved from Iowa to the surrounding states and beyond. I lived and served also in Idaho, Colorado, the Micronesian Islands in the Pacific and, for a short time, Cameroon, Africa. Truly, I have had a graced life. The ministry gave me purpose, challenge and relationships. The lifestyle gave me an enjoyment of the riches of the earth and the peace of the contemplative call. So I celebrate. I say thank you.



**Sister Grace Ann Schiffer**

I have always loved hearing the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and the phrase "their hearts were burning within them." These words take me back to fifth grade when I began to hear the call to religious life. Ever since then, this call has deepened and "burned" within me, for which I am most grateful. Being an FSPA has given me many opportunities to serve — as primary teacher, group mother for adolescent girls at St. Michael's, in pastoral care, and 32 years as massage therapist through A Touch of Grace. I am forever grateful to family, friends and FSPA. I continue on with joy and a grateful heart.



**Sister Jo Ann Serwas**

"What return can I make to the Lord for the blessings He has given me ... my vows to the Lord I will pay in the presence of His people." (Psalm 116). As an OSF in Manitowoc and, in even greater abundance, as an FSPA in La Crosse, I have enjoyed a twofold blessing. Thank you Jesus!

**Class of 1970 — celebrating 50 years as Catholic sisters**



**Sister Carolyn Heil**

The thought of this jubilee time fills me with joyous gratitude for all the blessings gifted me by our Beloved through my sisters, family, friends and all those whose lives have graced me over these years. Thank you for supporting me, allowing me to walk with you in our life journeys.

I am greatly honored to be in community with my FSPA sisters as we strive to "Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with (y)our God." (Micah 6:8)



**Sister Lucy Ann Meyer**

My life as a Franciscan Religious woman has been filled with many wonderful and enriching experiences. God has invited and challenged me to be a sign of loving presence as a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration. I have been blessed to know and work with caring and generous people in my years of ministry as an educator, administrator, novice and affiliation minister. For all these blessings and the support of my family and communities, I am deeply grateful.

*Congratulations  
To all!*



## Congratulations to all FSPA affiliates celebrating 25 years of affiliation



### **Affiliate Ann Fox**

“Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8) has always been my guide for affiliation these past 25 years and remains current today. It has guided my involvement in various ministries, prayer life and community, both FSPA and locally, wherever I live.



### **Affiliate Barbara Lawless**

I've known FSPA since I was 13 years old and placed at St. Michael's Home. I lived there until I was 18, at which time I was on my own. The values and love I received there have stayed with me through my whole life. When we moved to Woodruff, I again was close to my FSPA family: Sister Alice Kaiser at my church and Sister Jolynn Brehm at Marywood. To this day, Sister Jolynn is one of my best friends and someone I consider to be “my sister.” I worked at Marywood for a number of years as an assistant to Sister Pauline Wittry. After leaving Marywood I did mission work in Jamaica and Kenya for quite a few years and made my last trip two years ago. The values of the FSPA and the FSPA themselves have made me who I am today.



### **Affiliate Linda Pieper**

I was very fortunate to attend Viterbo University where I first met Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. The education that I received from the sisters at Viterbo made a huge impact on my life. When Sister Rita Mae Fisher invited me to become an affiliate, the Holy Spirit stirred my heart to say “yes”! This was one small way for me to stay connected to a community that had given me so much. Being an affiliate has helped me grow in my prayer life, deepen my appreciation for Eucharistic Adoration and continually learn how to serve Jesus.



*Franciscan Sisters*  
*of Perpetual Adoration*  
*Modern Lives. Sacred Traditions.*