

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

PERSPECTIVES

Spring 2022



**“WE ARE CONVINCED THAT A BETTER WORLD
CANNOT BE BUILT WITHOUT A BETTER ECONOMY...”
- POPE FRANCIS**

FRANCISCAN PERSPECTIVE



Mission Statement

We are a community of vowed Franciscan women centered in Eucharist, committed to be loving presence through prayer, witness and service.



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Pictured on cover: depiction of fraternal economy from the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy. Reprinted with permission.

Volume 37 | Number one

Laudato Si' Action Platform

We commit ourselves to the seven-year Laudato Si' Action Platform journey to intensify actions for greater social and environmental justice. We recognize that everything is a gift from God, and thus we embrace our dependence on creation.

Anti-Racism

We commit ourselves to cultivating a culture of humility, considering first what needs to be addressed in our own racial biases, history and organization as we join others to address the racial injustices of our society and church. We commit to increasing our commitment to unveiling our white privilege.

Historical Truth and Healing

As we study more deeply our own history and impact at St. Mary's Boarding School in Odanah, Wisconsin, from 1883 to 1969, we recognize that the time is now for justice and healing. We are educating ourselves and others regarding our complicity in historical trauma through engaging in the implementation of unjust policies and doctrines resulting in the displacement, assimilation and genocide of countless Native American communities. We commit to practicing cultural humility in our relationships with Indigenous peoples and are exploring ways we can develop, support and nurture just and respectful relationships with those who share our history at St. Mary's Boarding School.

Encuentro@TheBorder

We are educating ourselves and others about the deeper significance of immigration issues, namely the needs of the people who can no longer remain in their homes and countries because of violence, political corruption and environmental devastation. Our collaborators include La Crosse, Wisconsin's Coulee Region Immigration Task Force, Mexico's LA 72 Migrant Shelter, Arizona's Kino Border Initiative and Catholic Charities in Brownsville, Texas.

Franciscan Economics

Pope Francis has invited and challenged us to join the solidarity economy, the Economy of Francesco, a worldwide movement aimed to change the current economic models and craft a future that is more inclusive and just. Through Seeding a Legacy of Healing, ministry grant and impact investments, we are acting on the opportunities and our commitment to transform economies for people and the planet.



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ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO: 'SOUL OF THE ECONOMY OF TOMORROW'



Sister Sue Ernster, pictured left, attends Francesco Collaborative's Solidarity Economy Encounter at The Industrial Commons in Morganton, North Carolina.

By Elizabeth Garlow and Felipe Witchger

“Dear Friends, I am writing to invite you to take part in an initiative very close to my heart,” wrote Pope Francis in a letter to “young people studying economics and interested in a different kind of economy.” The letter, sent on May 1, 2019, was an invitation to “an event that will help bring us together and allow us to meet one another and eventually enter into a ‘covenant’ to change today’s economy and to give a soul to the economy of tomorrow.”

Over two years later, thousands of young people plan to gather in Assisi, Italy, Sept. 22 to 24, 2022, for the Economy of Francesco event. While younger leaders will lead the conference, they will also tap into the wisdom of elders who have been working to make the global economy more humane and sustainable for decades. Participants will meet in 12 “thematic villages” to discuss topics such as finance, agriculture, energy, lifestyle and women in the economy, culminating in a meeting with Pope Francis to offer experiences and proposals for the future.

However, this gathering is no longer a “launch” of the Economy of Francesco. It is a continuation of its spirit, which has been woven in and through communities and initiatives since Pope Francis shared his initial letter and invitation over two years ago. One such initiative is the Francesco Collaborative, which we launched last year to accompany investors who desire to support the solidarity economy — one that is rooted in the common good, love of

neighbor and stewardship of our common home.

The Pope’s letter struck a chord with us: we felt called to play a role in giving a “soul of the economy of tomorrow,” particularly in the realm of finance. We first set out to re-examine our current social-political realities and ask ourselves how we could better integrate our spiritual heritage, formation of conscience and work with investors. We have been students of heterodox economic schools of thought pointing to a new praxis through things like cooperative enterprises and solidarity. We also recognize the conventional logic that is so deeply entrenched in our dominant training and ways of working, particularly in finance and investing.

The invitation from Pope Francis to dream of a new economy rooted in the ideals of Catholic Social Teaching has animated our efforts to cast an alternative vision and build conviction around new possibilities. We launched our Livable Future Investing workshop, a collaborative space for asset stewards to explore and apply frameworks rooted in CST to their finance and investing activities. At its heart, this workshop is about unleashing the leadership and bold action each of us can

Photos courtesy of
Francesco Collaborative



take to, in the words of Pope Francis, be “protagonists of transformation.”

We have found that a growing number of asset stewards, especially those with a faith background, are reckoning with the injustices perpetrated by our dominant economic investment paradigms. Yet we lack dialogue around how the limited options afforded by conventional finance constrain our ability to adequately respond. The Francesco Collaborative is helping investors play their part in “preparing the future,” one in which future generations can thrive, and we can be remembered as good ancestors.

That future is contingent on co-ops and employee ownership trusts to restructure the traditional “capital supremacy” power dynamics in business. Conventional firms are almost always accountable to their capital shareholders or the investors. Workers, customers, producers, surrounding communities and the interests of all other stakeholders (including the earth and future generations) are in fully-subordinate relationship to the people with the money.

Cooperatives center democratic ownership and governance by a different stakeholder group — usually workers, customers or producers. Employee ownership trusts have employees as owners of a meaningful share of the firm — the upside doesn’t accrue narrowly to the external investors but also to the employees who have a share in creating the value of the business.

Our view is that bold action in impact investing — when seeking to embody CST as your starting point — looks like more cooperatives, employee ownership and purpose trusts. We believe bold CST-embodied investing can restructure conventional ownership, governance and leadership to have the common good, solidarity and subsidiarity integrated into business.

We define “Shared Ownership” as the ecosystem of cooperatives, employee-owned businesses, perpetual purpose trusts (or steward ownership), “Just Transition” enterprises, place-based anchor institutions and organizations focused on repair and healing for past harms.

FSPA has been vital to the formation of the Francesco Collaborative. Since the first conversation we had with Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Sue Ernster, she told us about FSPA’s commitment to the Economy of Francesco and Laudato Si’ with a desire to make those commitments real and practical. Unlike many others we’ve worked with, FSPA has delivered very practically by deploying meaningful grants and investments in 2021 to enterprises and funds networked into and living the values of the Economy of Francesco.

FSPA is one of the asset stewards that we’ve seen grow the most in the past 12 months. This gives us tremendous hope for many others to live the Economy of Francesco more boldly.



Elizabeth Garlow and **Felipe Witchger** are co-founders of Francesco Collaborative. Elizabeth also serves Fellow on Faith and Finance with New America and is based in Detroit, Michigan. Felipe is the former founder of the Community Purchasing Alliance and is based in Durham, North Carolina. Learn more about their organization at francescocollaborative.org.

APIS & HERITAGE CAPITAL PARTNERS: HELPING WORKERS OF COLOR OWN THEIR FUTURES



Pope Francis has invited and challenged us to join the new economy, the Economy of Francesco, a worldwide movement aimed to change the current economic models and craft a future that is more inclusive and just. – FSPA Seeding a Legacy of Healing Team

Are the principles of Catholic Social Teaching present in this investment? Are we extracting more value and willing to give up return? What is the impact of this investment? What's the cost if we don't invest?

As an organization contributing to the solidarity economy — a global movement to build a just and sustainable economy where people and planet are prioritized — FSPA asks these questions to ensure the investment will generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact.

And after researching Apis & Heritage Capital Partner's employee-led buyout model, FSPA's Seeding a Legacy of Healing team members knew that they could make an impact by becoming an investment partner in A&H Legacy Fund I.

A&H is a private equity fund that buys privately-owned businesses with significant workforces of color from founders who want to retire and converts those enterprises into 100% employee-owned companies. A&H partners like to say that the first generation of wealth created by a company ought to go to the founders who took the risk and who want a return on their life's work but that the next generation of wealth ought to go to the

workers who are building value for the company every day. And since A&H focuses on companies with large workforces of color (and low-income workers as well), the model can shift racial wealth and opportunity gaps in our country.

A&H partners and staff are mainly people of color. The intention of Legacy Fund I is to buy at least eight companies from retiring founders and anticipates converting at least 500 workers into employees/owners over the next five years. They focus on buying companies mainly in essential services like waste hauling, landscaping, elder care, commercial cleaning and food processing, although they will consider manufacturing and other sectors as well. Their scope is nationwide. At a minimum, target companies must earn net profits of \$1 million and employ 50 workers, one third of which being people of color. Forty years of economic data show that compared to their peers, employee-owned companies are more resilient and likely to stay rooted in their communities; have a greater capacity for profitability and productivity and provide environments for work that are more satisfying.

After A&H acquires a company, they and their partner, the Democracy at Work Institute, provide support and training to create an engaged and empowered workforce and enlightened management team. And while employee ownership's big payoff for workers comes when they retire, A&H also looks for ways to improve jobs today: paying weekly instead of every two weeks and bumping pay scales, creating family-friendly scheduling or

improving benefits. Providing workplace culture that honors all voices with the belief that everyone can contribute is part of the A&H model as well.

On Juneteenth 2021, A&H announced its flagship Legacy Fund I first close at \$30 million. We are told that FSPA's early financial commitment to the Fund helped galvanize other investors too. A&H expects to announce its final close for Legacy Fund I at over \$50 million, and it is now closed to new investors.

"We are looking to make life-changing investments with this first fund to address the significant and growing wealth gap in this country, especially for Black and brown workers," said Todd Leverette, co-founding principal at A&H. "We're providing a path to financial freedom for workforces of color across the United States."

Added A&H Co-Founder Phil Reeves, "While there is a myriad of ways to manage wealth in America, there are really only two ways to begin to acquire wealth here: you can own your home, or you can own your business. We are focused on the latter, especially for workforces of color, which have been shut out of the benefits of equity ownership for so long."

Michael Brownrigg, another founding partner, puts the impact case this way: "Today, two-thirds of Black and Latino workers retire with zero savings from work. This lack of savings, or wealth, is why so many seniors and families are just one unexpected medical bill away from losing their home; it is why families don't have the resources they need to invest in their children and grandchildren. Whereas, the average worker who retires from an employee-owned company will have close to \$150,000 in savings, which can be life-changing and which can, over time, begin to address not just the racial wealth gap but also intergenerational poverty."

Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Catherine Kaiser adds that "Other religious communities and Catholic impact investing networks have ventured into impact investing and are joyfully and openly sharing what they have learned. This is jumpstarting our capacity. We are impressed with all the opportunities and the commitment to transforming economies for people and the planet."



Ayanna Banks is a 20-year employee at Recology Waste Hauling, a \$1 billion revenue, employee-owned enterprise operating on the West Coast. In a webinar on the benefits of employee ownership, Ayanna said:

"I was a single parent coming in. With the Employee Stock Ownership Plan it helped me a lot. You know, we can't take out of the ESOP, but you can show your statement as a form of income that would help you to get loans, to purchase a home. So, with that, it helped me put my oldest daughter through college and now my youngest is at Xavier University studying to be a lawyer. It gave me that stability to help them grow even more, and to educate them more, and have a sense of what you want to be in life."



Susan Hoop: "For me, being at an employee-owned company meant everything. I was a single mom, with two kids, no child support, no help. I worked at one job, with no benefits or anything. Coming to Recology made my dream come true. Working for an employee-owned company, knowing I have benefits, knowing I have an ESOP. In the ESOP they put shares into your account, and when I look at it today, I think I couldn't even put \$5 into a savings account even if I wanted to, and some days I look at the ESOP and I almost have tears in my eyes thinking, I could never have put that money in that account. And I know if something happens to me, my kids will be OK."

Apis & Heritage's online resource library is full of books, articles and presentations that have shaped their work and helped them see the world a bit differently. They partner with the Democracy at Work Institute to share real-life employee ownership stories.

Visit apisheritage.com and select Resources from the menu to access the library.

Photo at left: The Apis & Heritage Team (from left) Michael Brownrigg, Natalie Edwards, Todd Leverette, Philip Reeves, Jason Ollison and Kyle Chin-How. Photo courtesy of Apis & Heritage.

CALLED TO MEET OUR AFGHAN NEIGHBORS WITH SAFE



They are health care providers. They are education professionals.

And they are people who have fled humanitarian and environmental violence waged against them in Afghanistan: those among the more than 70,000 Afghan

evacuees expected to resettle in the United States under humanitarian parole in 2021. Humanitarian parole is defined by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services as an allowance for individuals “who may be inadmissible or otherwise ineligible for admission into the United States for a temporary period for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.”

Mobilized to meet them in the U.S. with more than relief of immediate human need is the International Rescue Committee: an organization missioned “to help people whose lives are shattered by conflict and disaster to recover and gain control of their futures.” Through its Center for Economic Opportunity, IRC has launched the Support for Afghan Financial Empowerment Initiative — assistance for Afghan refugees as they begin the arduous path to economic stability in new communities across the U.S. More specifically SAFE is “a nationwide, evidence-based, practical initiative designed to help the 70,000+ Afghan humanitarian parolees,” half of whom are women, “build a financial foundation in their neighborhoods by offering linguistic and culturally-appropriate education and counseling and access to free financing.”

“Many times when guests come to this country,” says Kasra Movahedi, executive director of IRC’s Center for Economic Opportunity, “they have training/gifts from their home countries that aren’t immediately recognized

in the U.S.” SAFE is a three-year project uniquely positioned to help our new Afghan neighbors invest in themselves and their new America communities. The initiative provides tools to translate work experience from abroad to economic sustainability in the U.S. “SAFE is an unprecedented program that will support more than 70,000 guests from Afghanistan,” says Kasra, “potentially doubling IRC’s clients; a hugely significant initiative to undertake.”

With SAFE, services will be available nationally through a hybrid model that includes community-based walk-in services in key locations as well as web portal access populated with language-specific resources — information spelled out in Dari and Pashto. SAFE provisions include:

- A dedicated, in-language web portal that serves as a one-stop-shop to access all SAFE services and resources and, critically, is accessible to Afghan families no matter where they ultimately resettle in the U.S.
- Culturally-responsive, in-language financial capability services including financial education and coaching to ensure that these vulnerable, linguistically-isolated households who have limited to no understanding of American banking and financial systems are able to begin to build a solid financial foundation in their new home.
- A \$10 million loan fund that will offer 0% APR auto, education, immigration and personal loans — alongside financial education and 1:1 financial coaching — to eligible Afghan households.

These SAFE measures will complement the core resettlement and workforce development services provided by refugee-serving agencies during these families’ first months in America. SAFE is projected to reach at least 50% of Afghans arriving as a part of the 2021 evacuation efforts.

Upholding the commitment to relationships proclaimed at FSPA’s 2018 Mission Assembly, one moving us to build bridges of relationships that stretch us to be people



Sandra Hoesser, an affiliate with FSPA, served Afghan refugees last September as a volunteer at Wisconsin's Fort McCoy. Photo credit: Barbara Davidson/AP/Shutterstock

of encounter who stand with all suffering in our Earth Community, FSPA invested in the IRC and SAFE with \$250,000. It is an investment that will measurably impact these relationships and the financial capability services provided to affect the social and environmental landscape of our ever-changing world.

Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Eileen McKenzie expands upon our charge to go out and meet our Afghan neighbors with SAFE.

“The FSPA response to the 2021 Afghanistan crisis, which brought thousands of refugees to Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, was one of prayer and action. In our Adoration Chapel and in the compassionate response of sisters, affiliates and partners in mission on staff, we engaged with hope for healing, peace and justice. Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Laura Nettles’ coordination service was pivotal at the local and national level, and we all responded in the ways we could at the time with what we had. We aimed to impact the transition of our Afghan brothers and sisters from refugees to neighbors. We knew that resettlement, cultural adaptation and financial literacy would be ongoing challenges long after the news stopped covering the crisis. We wanted to be sure to support their transition after they left the La Crosse area. That is why we chose to invest in the IRC SAFE Initiative, a

program designed to address their unique challenges of resettlement, including financial access to education, transportation, immigration processes and other needs.”

For more information about SAFE, visit irc-ceo.org

Prayer for Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

God, no one is stranger to you
And no one is ever far from your loving care.

In your kindness watch over migrants, refugees and
asylum seekers,
Those separated from their loved ones,
Those who are lost
And those who have been exiled from their homes.

Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,
And help us always to show your kindness to strangers
And those in need.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Who too was a refugee and migrant
Who traveled to another land
Searching for a home.

Amen

(Source: Nouwen Network)

2022 FSPA JUBILARIANS:

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL SISTERS
AND AFFILIATES CELEBRATING
JUBILEE IN 2022



75 years
class of 1947



Sister Rita Heires



Sister Marguerite Bruening

70 years
class of 1952



+ Sister Anita Beskar



Sister Mary Ann Gaul



Sister Mary Ellen Huebsch



+ Sister Clara Mae Kuempel



Sister LaVerne Ramaeker

**60 years
class of 1962**



Sister Carol Arenz



Sister Ruth Berra



Sister Georgia Christensen



Sister Theresa Connolly



Sister Eileen Lang



Sister Shirley Morrissey



Sister Fran Marie Sulzer



Sister Marlene Weisenbeck

Affiliates - 25 years

Michelle Ahrenholtz, Tammy Barthels, Mary Ellen Baumhover, Roger Baumhover, Dianne Bruck, Kathy Corey, Mary Rose Keil, Marci Madary

MY PERSPECTIVE: OUR CATHOLIC MISSION OF IMPACT INVESTING AND SHAREHOLDER ADVOCACY

A conversation with Sister Sue Ernster

“True to Our Franciscan Calling, we commit ourselves ... to preserve and nurture God’s creation, to increase social and global consciousness, to educate ourselves to political awareness, and to encourage action to effect change where necessary.”



This proclamation is spelled out in the solemn constitution of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Unity in Diversity #40. It is infused in every investment — all acts of ministry and social responsibility for the global community — that FSPA makes. It fortifies

every dollar that donors like you give to advance our mission and our commitment to leveraging the power of your gift.

FSPA is engaging in the Catholic Impact Investing Collaborative, a collective of organizations missioned to “sharing our experience and celebrating our Catholic faith and values,” seeking expansion of “the use of wealth in service to people and planet.”

Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Vice President and Treasurer Sue Ernster took part in a recent CIIC community forum facilitated to “identify successful approaches that Catholic investors have taken to further their impact investing journey including the process of establishing governance, aligning investment policy statements and navigating challenges to implementation.” We share her contribution to the conversation and commitment to not just sustaining but nurturing and growing our global partnership with you.

Sister Sue defines impact investing specific to FSPA:

“We started our impact investing journey in 2018. Pope Francis was calling us to the Economy of Francesco, and

we started looking at how we could build a Franciscan economy. Impact investing allowed us to use our finances to amplify our mission and make the greatest impact. As we embark on this journey, we are looking at what is greater, the social impact or the financial return. Given equality we invest for impact. Impact is a greater priority than risk or return.”

Sister Sue speaks to FSPA’s structure and implementation of impact investing:

“We are still figuring out our governance structure. There is a small committee of sisters who look at private market investments with a retired financial advisor. Looking to the future, we plan to broaden our consultant base. We already participate in Social Responsibility Investment screening with our publicly traded portfolio managers. We have found that there are not many publicly-traded opportunities that follow that Catholic Social Teaching.”

Sister Sue identifies FSPA investment objectives:

“Our investments are shaped by our 2018 mission assembly movements in which we outlined three main commitments. The first is bridging the equity gap, unveiling our white privilege so that our investments foster and fortify equity. The second is building bridges of relationships to stretch us to be people of encounter who stand with all suffering in our earth community, like political and environmental refugees. The third is our focus on joyful Gospel living, to be transformed in love and goodness for community and mission. We recognize that we can’t do everything for everyone, so we need to hone in where we can and trust that others will fill the gaps that we aren’t able to fill.



“Pope Francis was calling us to the Economy of Francesco, and we started looking at how we could build a Franciscan economy.”

- Sister Sue Ernster

The Economy of Francesco logo is used with permission from the team at francescoeconomy.org.

The mission and vision of the Catholic Impact Investing Collaborative align with FSPA’s provocative movements of Relationships, Gospel Living and Unity in Diversity.

About CIIC

CIIC’s Mission: By sharing our experience and celebrating our Catholic faith and values, we seek to expand the stewardship of financial resources in service to people and planet.

CIIC’s Vision: To foster a world where capital is a transformative force for good; stewards the environment; and enhances both equality and human dignity.

Collaborate with like-minded investors and partners by sharing knowledge, resources and opportunities.

Accelerate the flow of Catholic financial resources toward investments that pursue intentional, positive and measurable impact.

What CIIC Offers

The Catholic Impact Investing Pledge - a global initiative encouraging investors to move beyond avoiding harmful investments to proactively making commitments to measurable impact investments.

Membership - a dedicated program offering investment opportunities and an online community platform for Catholic investors to connect, collaborate and accelerate their impact investing efforts. Coming soon: a membership tier for financial intermediaries.

Catholic Impact Investing Resources - virtual community forums, 1:1 connections with peers, stories of Catholic impact, monthly newsletter and member-only pitch sessions about vetted impact investing opportunities.

Connect With CIIC

Anne Schankin, Director - anne@catholicimpact.org

Maggie Stohler, Associate Director - maggie@catholicimpact.org

SPIRIT OF MINISTRY: THE ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO AND “GOOD HUMANS” AMONG US

Pope Francis is calling us to a new relationship with our finances; one that is more than just dollars and cents. He is inviting us to join a movement — the Economy of Francesco — that challenges us to use our resources to build a more sustainable, equitable and inclusive world for all of creation.

Rochelle Nicks, an affiliate with FSPA and director of mission advancement, wholeheartedly embraces this challenge. Her personal and professional investment in Franciscan values and fraternal economy drive her to truly be “a good human” among us every day. Committed to learning more about Franciscan economics and how to apply its principles in daily life, Rochelle picked up the book “Franciscans and Their Finances: Economics in a Disenchanted World” by Father David B. Couturier, a friar of the Capuchin Province of St. Mary.

Father David is a teacher and scholar of Franciscan studies, theology, clinical and pastoral psychology, socio-analysis and organizational development as well as the author of “The Fraternal Economy: A Pastoral Psychology of Franciscan Economics.” Through his extensive experience and insight, he offers tools for investing in an economy built on providence, relationships and care for all creation, not exclusively of currency.

Rochelle shares these key takeaways from the book — Franciscan economic principles that can inspire the “good human” in all of us.

1 When working through your personal and communal economic decisions, use these five principles:

Transparency: There is mutuality in all things. All goods, economic activities and ministerial decisions are at the service of the whole. There are no hidden schemes by leadership or membership.

Equity: All individuals and communities get what they need and contribute what they have for the common good and the building up of communion. Service replaces entitlement.

Participation: Build mechanisms of cooperation and communion of persons without domination or deprivation.

Solidarity: Those who have more give more to those deprived. Everyone works to undo structures of sin that serve as obstacles to communion.

Austerity: Spend the minimum necessary, not the maximum allowed. Live and work simply, so that others can simply live and work.

2 Talk with others about your economic situation. You are not alone.

Learn and Reflect: What larger economic forces are shaping your lives? Why are we economically insecure? What can we do together to develop a more secure foundation for our economic lives in the future?

Provide mutual aid and local action: How can you get out of debt? How can you downscale your consumption and live a more ecologically friendly existence? Help each other create concrete alternatives.

Decide whether to engage in further social action: Lobby members of the United States Congress for health care reform. Press congress for livable wages. Pray together.

3 Rethink work.

Commit to the dignity of the human person. A human person should not be reduced to what she can produce and consume in the marketplace.

Recognize an inherent right to work. Humans are the bottom line of economics, not profit.

Believe in the abundance and generosity of God, not the theology of scarcity.

Observe the intimate connection between labor, community, ecology and peace.

Practice an ethic of work that supports families, connects neighbors and builds a civilization of love.

4 Challenge consumerism.

Examine your own desires and what has happened to your yearning for the infinity of God. How often have you allowed that desire to be replaced with the primacy of goods?

Learn where your products originate from and watch for slave and trafficked labor. Focus on the social and cultural primacy of every human's dignity and rights.

Work to expose supply chains that support human trafficking and dismantle the mechanisms that promote human trafficking.

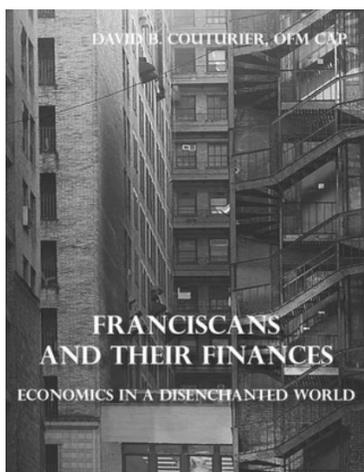
5 Unclutter your soul.

Develop a new attitude of respect toward nature and things of the earth.

Reprioritize your goals and perspectives.

Shift from busyness to happiness by way of focusing on creative blessedness.

Divest yourself of all that obscures your clear view and ready access to God, yourself, your world and everything in it.



David B. Couturier, OFM, Cap., "Franciscans and their Finances: Economics in a Disenchanted World" (St. Bonaventure: Franciscan Institute Publications, 2015). Available for purchase at franciscanpublications.com.

Rochelle Nicks serves as FSPA's director of mission advancement and entered the affiliation community in 2021. She is deeply rooted and wholeheartedly invested in community as both a spiritual collaborator with FSPA and an avid volunteer for La Crosse Kiwanis Club and Emerson Elementary School. Rochelle, her husband and two sons reside in La Crosse, Wisconsin.



EXPLORING INTERSECTIONS: ECONOMIC JUSTICE



Exploring Intersections: Catholic Sisters on Racism, Migration and Climate is a collaborative project of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious Region 10. Throughout 2021 and early 2022, host Charish Badzinski talked with expert panelists about some of the biggest social issues of our time.

Impact investment advisor Jake Barnett, educator and advisor Elizabeth Garlow and director and founder Dr. Kim Lamberty joined Charish to discuss the topic of economic justice. During this episode, these three panelists helped us understand the nuances of this issue and how we can move toward a more just economic reality.

Meet the Panelists

As the director of Sustainable Investment Stewardship for Wespath and its subsidiaries' investment programs, **Jake Barnett** leads shareholder advocacy and engagement efforts.

Elizabeth Garlow is a fellow on faith and finance at the New America Foundation and co-founder of the Francesco Collaborative, a network of investors, entrepreneurs and changemakers.

Dr. Kim Lamberty has been developing and managing faith-based justice, peace, cross-cultural and community service programs for over 25 years.

Economic Justice Is ...

- the idea that the economy will be more successful if it's fairer.

- the idea that prosperity and justice go hand in hand rather than in opposition to one another.
- an economy built on sustainable growth because a down economy hits the poor and marginalized the most.
- about funneling economic gains to people rather than profits primarily in the form of wages.

- about building an economy that works for the common good.

Action Items

With a better understanding of the topic of economic justice, it's time to talk about the next steps. Each of the three panelists provided suggested action items to help us as we move forward.

- Jake Barnett: Ask your money manager: "How does this align with my values?"
- Elizabeth Garlow: Join a local cooperative.
- Dr. Kim Lamberty: Learn more about tax policy and buy one fair trade product per month.

Economic Resources

Fair Trade Federation: Learn more about fair trade and find fair trade companies in your area by visiting giffords.org/lawcenter.

Network Lobby: Learn more about tax policy and its relationship to social and economic justice by visiting networklobby.org.

Ownership Matters: Learn more about the Solidarity Economy by subscribing to the Ownership Matters newsletter at ownershipmatters.net.

The goal of Exploring Intersections is to start conversations. We encourage you to continue this conversation with others in your community. Visit exploringintersections.org/episodes to listen to the Economic Justice episode for yourself!

IN MEMORIAM: REJOICE, YOU WHO ARE ALIVE IN CHRIST

Sister Mary Myron Stork

Jan. 30, 1916 – Oct. 4, 2021



Martina Mary was born the fourth oldest of 13 children to Henry and Helen (Julich) Stork on a farm near Breda, Iowa. Growing up on the farm gave her a deep appreciation of nature that stayed with her throughout

her life. She attended Mount Carmel Catholic School, including elementary and secondary classes. At the end of her junior year, she moved to St. Rose Convent in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and began her journey as a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, completing her secondary education at St. Rose High School. In 1933 she was received into the novitiate and given the name Sister Mary Myron. She professed first vows on Aug. 6, 1935.

Sister Mary Myron's entire active ministry of 70 years was in the field of education. She received a Bachelor of Science in Education from Viterbo College and a Master of Arts in Education: Instruction and Curriculum from St. John College, Cleveland, Ohio. She ministered in schools in La Crosse, Plum City, Allouez and Stratford, Wisconsin; in Carroll, Calmar and Hiawatha, Iowa; in Bozeman, Montana; in Spokane, Washington, and in David, Kentucky. She served as principal in both Carroll (St. Lawrence School) and Calmar. From 1985 to 2005, she served as a remedial teacher at David School, a small alternative high school in the coal-mining hills of Kentucky. She loved her time and the people there, and the people loved her. Upon her retirement, the executive director of David School, Danny Greene, summed up her impact: "Sister Mary Myron has truly been a gift from God. Her commitment to those less fortunate has been immeasurable. Her life of prayer, service and love for others has represented the Spirit of St. Francis."

Sister Patricia Sheridan

Oct. 7, 1927 – Nov. 19, 2021

Born in Sparta, Wisconsin, to William and Alice (Senogles) Sheridan, Sister Patricia grew up in Kendall, Wisconsin. Her elementary school years were spent at Kendall Public School. Her older sister, Eileen, joined the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in 1943. After



visiting her sister at St. Rose Convent, Sister Pat told her parents she wanted to stay there. She entered the following year and completed high school at St. Rose High School. At entrance into the novitiate, she received the name Sister Alicita, later returning to her baptismal name. She professed her first vows in 1947.

Sister Pat's love for music served as the basis for much of her ministry. She began as an elementary school music teacher in 1949: first in Spokane (St. Augustine), Washington, and then in La Crosse (Holy Trinity). After earning a bachelor's degree in music education from Viterbo College, Sister Pat taught high school music for 21 years in Ashland (De Padua) and La Crosse (Aquinas) in Wisconsin and Carroll (Kuemper) in Iowa. During that time, she completed a Master of Arts in Music Education from DePaul University, Chicago. Later she taught elementary school and parish music in Tomah, Wisconsin, for five years. In 1995 Sister Pat became Director of Religious Education at St. Joseph Parish (Kendall) and continued to serve as DRE and parish minister in Wisconsin at St. John the Baptist Parish (Wilton) and St. Patrick Parish (Elroy) until retirement. Sister Pat continued to minister in Elroy as a private music teacher and parish volunteer until moving to Villa St. Joseph in 2008.

Sister Agnes Wernimont

Jan. 20, 1932 – Feb. 9, 2022



Agnes Marcella was born to Anthony and Agnes (Gehling) Wernimont in Coon Rapids, Iowa. While in school, her favorite teacher (a Sister of St. Francis of Clinton, Iowa) had a deep devotion to Mary. Praying to Mary helped Sister

Agnes make the decision about religious life. She learned about the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration from her aunt, Sister Anna (Bernadita) Gehling. Sister Agnes was received into the novitiate and given the name Sister Ella. She pronounced first vows on Aug. 12, 1953, and later returned to her baptismal name.

Sister Agnes served her community as a homemaker

in convent homes in Iowa, Mississippi, Washington and Wisconsin for 30 years. From 1983 to 1988, she was manager of the school lunch program at Holy Child Jesus School, Canton, Mississippi. Then, making a change in her career, Sister Agnes worked with abused children at Casa de Esperanza de Los Ninos, Houston, Texas, for five years and one year in emergency services at Catholic Charities in El Paso, Texas. For four years she served in housekeeping and hospitality at the FSPA Central Region Home in Hiawatha, Iowa. She continued volunteering in Hiawatha until her retirement in 2005.

Sister Joan Hageman

June 20, 1939 – Feb. 20, 2022



Born in Festina, Iowa, Joan Marie was the youngest of Nicholas and Rosalia Imoehl Hageman's 11 children. Her interest in becoming a sister was fostered by relatives in the FSPA congregation and her love of nature.

In the summer of 1954, she visited St. Rose Convent, returned home, packed and headed back to St. Rose as an aspirant. Sister Joan was received into the FSPA novitiate on Aug. 12, 1957, and was given the name Sister Vernamae. She later went back to her baptismal name. She professed first vows on Aug. 12, 1959.

Sister Joan served her sisters as a homemaker for 17 years, working in the bakery at St. Rose for two of those years and at convent homes in Rozellville and Dodgeville, Wisconsin; Bellevue, West Point and Breda, Iowa; and Provo, Utah. In 1976 Sister Joan transitioned to the ministry of activities director at Villa St. Joseph, a post she held until 1983. At that time, she studied occupational therapy in Des Moines, Iowa, and served as activity director at Willis Adult Day Care. After receiving a bachelor's degree in Human Services at Grandview College in Des Moines, she went on to earn a Clinical Pastoral Education certificate at Mercy Hospital Medical Center there. She served as chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Centralia, Illinois, from 1991 to 1995. After completing a two-year renewal program in Little Falls, Minnesota, Sister Joan began her ministry as receptionist, gardener and decorator at Villa St. Joseph. Her creativity was expressed there in numerous ways, especially for the many holidays and feast days celebrated at the Villa when she would deck the halls with flowers gleaned from the garden.

Visit fspa.org under news/events to read more.

Sister Clara Mae Kuempel

Mar. 25, 1932 – April 5, 2022



Sister Clara Mae was born in Guttenberg, Iowa, to John and Hildegard (Lake) Kuempel. She grew up in Guttenberg with her three brothers and two sisters, helping her father at the Kuempel & Lake Hardware Store. During her senior year, Sister Clara Mae and a friend visited St. Rose Convent. Two weeks later, she entered the novitiate and was given the name Bernadine. She later went back to her baptismal name. She professed first vows on Aug. 12, 1952.

Sister Clara Mae worked in dietary services for one year in Sparta, Wisconsin. She then earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Viterbo College. She went on to teach for eight years in Calmar, Iowa, and then in Wisconsin in Genoa, St. Mary's Ridge and La Crosse (St. Michael's Orphanage) before earning a Bachelor of Arts in Occupational Therapy from St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Sister Clara Mae then returned to St. Michael's Orphanage to serve as a registered therapist. She later worked at Mendota State Hospital (Madison, Wisconsin) and Wood County Health Center (Marshfield, Wisconsin). Later she moved to Waterloo, Iowa, to resume her ministry of occupational therapy, serving mainly children with severe disabilities at River Hills School. During her eight years there, she earned a Master of Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, New Orleans. From 1997 to 2007, she provided support services to the elderly in Guttenberg through volunteer work at River Living Center and St. Mary's Parish. In her spare time, she became very involved in woodcarving, a hobby she took with her into retirement.

Sister Anita Beskar

May 2, 1932 – Apr. 23, 2022



Anita Marie was born in River Falls (Big River), Wisconsin, to Leo and Mildred (Maier) Beskar. During the summer of 1946, Sister Anita shared her sense of call to become an FSPA with her parents, who were not too surprised since she had FSPA as teachers and a great-aunt, Sister Clarissa Heinz, and an aunt, Sister Genelda Maier, who were FSPA. In 1950 Sister Anita was received into the novitiate and given the name Sister Mary Kenneth. She

later went back to her baptismal name. She professed first vows on Aug. 12, 1952.

She began her ministry of teaching in elementary schools in Edgar and Boyd, Wisconsin, and Spencer, Iowa, before moving into high school education. She received a bachelors degree in chemistry with a minor in mathematics from Viterbo College and a masters in chemistry from Notre Dame. In Iowa she taught high school and was assistant principal in West Point from 1958 to 1966 and in Lansing from 1966 to 1973. After the high school in Lansing closed, she remained there as a religious education teacher. This experience led her to a clinical pastoral education program and further theological study. She served as a religious educator in Marion, Iowa, and as a religious education coordinator in St. Pius Parish in Cedar Rapids. While in Cedar Rapids, Sister Anita began serving in parish youth ministry and vocation education. Later she served at Viterbo University. Sister Anita then helped plan a congregational anniversary celebration that turned into a 20-year relationship with the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis in Cameroon, Africa — the Franciscan Common Venture. Sister Anita spent various periods of time in the West African country with the sisters, providing workshops, spiritual reflection and just listening to their stories of history, fear and hope. Most recently, until her retirement in 2021, Sister Anita ministered at Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center. There she baked mini loaves of bread to welcome visitors. She saw the bread loaf lovingly placed on the guests' cabin tables as a way of sharing Eucharist.

Affiliate Peter Williams

Jan. 15, 1940 – Nov. 2, 2021



Frederic Peter Williams, 81, died at home, on Nov. 2, surrounded by his family after an extended illness. He was born in Berkley, California, to The Reverend Frederic P. Williams and Marjorie Smith Williams. Peter graduated from Shortridge High School, Indianapolis, and Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, where he completed a triple major in history, philosophy and religion. After teaching for two years, he was trained as a community organizer by the Northwest Community Organization of Chicago, Illinois, and worked for that organization dealing primarily with urban housing inequality. He also worked as a community organizer for Cook County OEO, the North River Commission,

Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago and Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation where he developed and led training programs for staff of local branches of the organization around the country.

Peter married The Reverend Mollie Williams, also an FSPA affiliate, who survives him. He especially supported Mollie in her effort to be ordained in the Episcopal Church. Peter and Mollie have two sons, Eric (Cynthia) and Mark (Catrin), and two grandsons, Allan and Keagan. Peter loved the New York Yankees, the Boston Red Sox, classical and jazz music and the Episcopal Church.

Affiliate Diana Schmidt

April 19, 1954 – Jan. 30, 2022



Diana Lynn (Conerd) Schmidt passed at home on Jan. 30, 2022, in Jacksonville, North Carolina. She was born on April 19, 1954, in Waverly, Iowa, to Richard and Dorothy (Karns) Conerd. She married Richard D.

Schmidt on Oct. 17, 1979, in Waterloo, Iowa, and together they had four children. Diana touched the lives of many people with her love and faith.

Diana is survived by her husband of 42 years, Richard; their four children, Kimberly (Timothy) Humm, Andy (Miranda) Schmidt, Tara (Adam) Berry and Samantha (William) Simpson; and 11 grandchildren.

Affiliate Donald Fidler Jr.

Apr. 19, 1948 – Feb. 6, 2022



Donald "Don" Jr. Fidler, 73, passed away quietly the morning of Feb. 6, 2022. Preceded in death by his father Donald Fidler, senior, and his mother, Naomi Maxine Fidler, Don is survived and deeply loved by his wife of 52 years, Pat, and her extended family; his cousin, Jean, her daughter, Suzanne, and her family; and his many other cousins in Iowa, Florida and across the U.S.

Don so loved all of his family, cooking indoors or out, reading (especially history books) and discovering his heritage, especially in finding that some of his family of origin were from Scotland and Poland. He loved sewing and making quilts and traveling. He enjoyed his years as a deacon for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, especially as a chaplain at Cerenity-Marian of St. Paul. All in all, a life well lived and to be celebrated.

MEET OUR SISTERS: SISTER LAURIE SULLIVAN

Every month since the beginning of the year we have featured a new sister profile in our e-newsletter Join Us: a guide for discerning religious life, published by the FSPA Formation Team. These profiles offer insight into the sister's hometown, vow ceremonies, educational background, community life, current and past ministries and much more.

In January, we featured Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Laurie Sullivan.

Sister Laurie Sullivan, born in Lake Linden, a small village located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, professed her final vows as a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration on Sept. 12, 2020, with her loving family and friends joining the celebration via Zoom. After living in Michigan for over 45 years, Sister Laurie thought that is where she would spend the rest of her life, but God had other plans for her. Holding a certificate in pastoral studies and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Sister Laurie currently ministers as an office manager at Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center in Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin.



Sister Laurie's Michigan upbringing now places her in harmony with her love of God and the beauty of Wisconsin's Northwoods. When asked how she responds to the cries of the Earth and the cries of the poor in her ministry, she expressed, "My spirit and heart have always been drawn to the marginalized and the poor, and they have both taught me a lot. I live simply so that both the Earth and the poor may live. I am conscious of how my day-to-day choices affect both, and I always try to do no harm."

For Sister Laurie, being a Catholic sister during this time in Church history means "being a voice, as well as a presence, to those on the margins, even those to whom the church itself may have overlooked or ignored. As Catholic sisters, we assist people in learning to discern and accept the will of a loving and merciful God. Relying on God, Mary and our founders, we seek to follow Jesus' footsteps."

Visit fspa.org/discerning to learn about the lives of Sister Michele Pettit, Sister Sarah Hennessey, Sister Kristin Peters and more! To subscribe and read past issues of the monthly e-newsletter, Join Us, visit fspa.org/connect.



Sister Michele Pettit

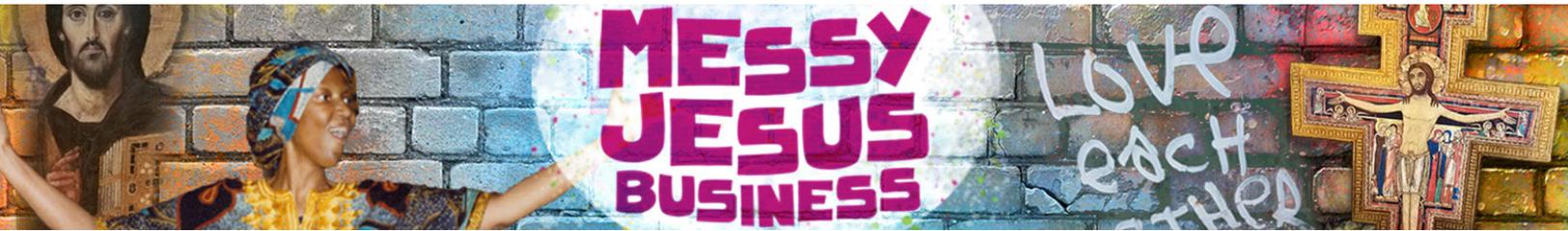


Sister Sarah Hennessey



Sister Kristin Peters (right)

YOUR TOP THREE FAVORITE PODCAST EPISODES



Since launching the Messy Jesus Business podcast in 2020, Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Julia Walsh recently released her 50th episode. As we celebrate this milestone, we look back at the top three most downloaded episodes to date!

We Are All Pilgrims

#3



“In a real sense we are on a journey to God, we’re seeking him, but the whole time God is with us.” - Lisa Deam

The Mystery and the Mess

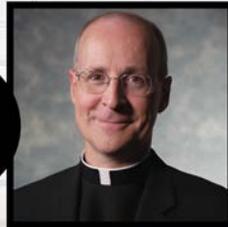
#2



“Let yourself be broken. Let yourself suffer. Cling to Christ through it.” - Tessa Bielecki

Prayer and Polarities

#1



“It’s difficult, but I think part of it is understanding not everyone’s gonna like me. Not everybody liked Jesus.” - Father James Martin

#3 “We Are All Pilgrims” featuring Lisa Deam

In this episode from season three, Sister Julia and author Lisa Deam discuss pilgrimage as a spiritual practice and discipleship as a journey, and how loving history and being part of the Church is relational, messy work.

#2 “The Mystery and the Mess” featuring Tessa Bielecki

In this episode from season four, Sister Julia and author Tessa Bielecki discuss pain and the healing process: how they forge transformation and how suffering can help us to know union with God. Tessa explains this concept through the lens of past trauma.

#1 “Prayer and Polarities” featuring Father James Martin

In this episode from season two, Sister Julia and author Father James Martin discuss the challenges of prayer and polarities in the Church. As an author, priest and editor, Father James discusses how he faces these challenges while remaining true to the Gospel.

Messy Jesus Business is a Catholic blog and podcast that explores the mess of radical discipleship and Gospel living. Visit messyjesusbusiness.com to read, listen and subscribe! And follow along with us on Facebook (@MessyJesusBusiness), Instagram (@messyjesusbusiness) and Twitter (@messyjesusbiz) to find out which other podcasts made the list!

SISTER MEG MINISTERS IN BOLIVIA

“When I am in transition, I long for routine. It brings a sense of normalcy to a way of being that is new, unknown and a bit awkward. The structure of my days with the Tertiary Sisters of Saint Francis provides me with a foundation that is constant. It is both prayerful and productive, a peaceful mix of life that I have appreciated since I arrived.” – Sister Meg Earsley

Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Meg Earsley professed her first vows with FSPA in 2021. She then completed mission formation with Franciscan Mission Services and is now in Bolivia attending language school and spending the year in mission with the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis in Santa Cruz. In her new blog, “Wanderings and Wonderings,” she describes the experience as one of frustration, contemplation, discernment and prayer. “How far along should I be in my learning? There is no marker, no invisible bar I have yet to cross ... It’s at this moment that I invite my inner encourager to start rooting for me and she begins the simple mantra, poco a poco, little by little in Spanish, and things get brighter and, interestingly enough, easier.”

Follow along with Sister Meg on her journey by subscribing to her blog at fspa.org/sistermeg.



VALLIMAR JANSEN WOWS AUDIENCE WITH HER STORY OF SISTER THEA BOWMAN

The FSPA Anti-Racism Team hosted internationally-known speaker, storyteller, composer and recording artist Vallimar Jansen. With great passion and joy, she told the story of Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Thea Bowman.

“Sister Thea gave the world so many vivid examples of how to live in unity and peace and how to face death with purpose, grace and dignity,” said Vallimar. “With her life’s work, Sister Thea exemplified what it was like to be authentically Black and truly Catholic. She was a prophet and a resounding voice in the Black Catholic movement in America.”

The play ended with a portion of Sister Thea’s historic address to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in June 1989.

This event was part of La Crosse, Wisconsin’s Viterbo University Sister Thea Bowman Week, which included the establishment of Viterbo’s Sister Thea Bowman Center. The week-long celebration honored the incredible legacy of Sister Thea, a current candidate for sainthood.



ST. ROSE RENOVATION PROJECT COMPLETED

For three days in March, sisters, partners in mission on staff and building contractors came together to celebrate the St. Rose Complex Renovation project. While there are a few exterior steps left to complete, our three-year project has come to an end.

During the ritual on March 18, a procession of symbols included a St. Joseph prayer card, and a candle like the one that has been burning next to St. Joseph in the niche to the left of the altar in Mary of The Angels Chapel since March 19, 2019, the day we blessed the project. Representatives brought forward a blueprint of plans, a hard hat and baskets containing symbols of our renovation years — an item from the old well in the courtyard, a hammer and nails and a COVID-19 mask, acknowledging that we completed the project during a global pandemic.

Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Laverne Wilichowski offered a blessing of hope. “Continue to stir up hope in our hearts. May it find a home in us and room to grow so that our life may speak of one long season of hope. Help us to make this newly-renovated space a true home for hope.” With the renovation project behind us, we look forward to living into the planning that started all those years ago: integrating the sisters and partners in mission living and working at Villa St. Joseph into the newly-renovated St. Rose Convent. A timeline is yet to be set.



FSPA SUPPORTS IOWA'S KUEMPER CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S FAITH FORWARD CAMPAIGN

“It is in humility and gratitude that FSPA supports Kuemper Catholic Schools. More than 300 FSPA have served at what is now the Kuemper Catholic School System since 1909,” said Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Sue Ernster at a ceremony announcing FSPA’s gift to the institution’s Faith Forward Campaign. “We’re grateful that this ministry continues, in good hands, through all the faculty and staff working today to provide a Catholic education rooted in faith.” John Steffes, Kuemper president, added that the Faith Forward Campaign will support three components: teacher salaries, tuition assistance and facility and technology improvements.

To learn more about Kuemper’s campaign and watch a video presentation that features Sister Sue, see “Kuemper Catholic Schools: gratitude for lead campaign gift” at fspa.org/news.

From left, Sisters Maria Friedman, Sister Irene Nieland, Sue Ernster and Carrie Kirsch attended the celebration and presented FSPA’s gift to John Steffes. Photo courtesy of Kuemper Schools.





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“This person is filled and overflowing with the Spirit, and if there were more like her, what a wonderful world we would live in,” said Adam J. Kennedy, Evans County Economic Development Authority in Claxton, Georgia, as he named Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Janet Fischer the community’s Citizen of the Year.

Sister Janet received this honor at a Claxton-Evans County Chamber of Commerce banquet on April 21. “When I think about [Sister Janet], there are many words that come to mind: honest, kind, giving, has a servant’s heart, sacrificial, selfless, great smile, loving, a friend to all, a cheerleader for the downtrodden.” Citing Sister Janet’s move to Claxton in 1980, Adam added, “our community has been much better for it.”

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Claxton-Evans County Chamber of Commerce President Paul Coley presents Sister Janet Fischer with the community’s Citizen of the Year Award. Photo courtesy of Claxton-Evans County Chamber of Commerce.

Connect with our partners in ministry

Franciscan Spirituality Center La Crosse, Wisconsin, fscenter.org

Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin, marywoodsc.org

Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center Hiawatha, Iowa, prairiewoods.org

Global Awareness Through Experience, gate-travel.org