Check it out:
Places of Retreat... & our folks who run them
Our 2019 Jubilarians
Welcome Sister Connie
Franciscan Farm Internship Program

“The world doesn’t want to be saved. It wants to be loved. That’s how you save it.”

Richard Brendan
**Dear Franciscan-hearted Friends,**

It’s summer — at least in our hemisphere. It’s time to enjoy picnics and ballgames, to engage with our neighbors, to slow down and really appreciate the tree shading us from the sun’s intense heat. For us Sisters, it’s traditionally the time we “go on retreat.” We choose a quiet, usually scenic, place to just be — to listen, read, give thanks, and await messages from God’s spirit. It’s kind of a vacation with the Lord.

Every person needs a chance to ponder the big and little questions of life. Many look to us Sisters to help them know where to go, how to get quiet, how to recognize God’s presence, how to live in the light, how to deal with wounds... how to vacation with the Lord. In this issue, we celebrate ministries, presence, and Creation, along with our folks whose work it is to help provide these deeper places of quiet and awe.

I can’t schedule a vacation with the Lord for you, but I can provide you with a mini-retreat — with thoughts to ponder when you sit in creation (or in traffic, or at your computer during a break!). Our cover quote is a great start, and here are a few more:

“Everyone needs beauty as well as bread, places to play and pray, where nature heals and gives strength to body and soul alike.” John Muir

“All of God’s creatures have divine knowledge within, even the tiniest ant, and we’re all trying to get in step and march to the Divine Music.” Martin Buber

“When before the beauty of a sunset or a mountain, you pause and exclaim, “AH”, you are participating in Divinity.”

**Everyday Gratitude**

As you plan activities for the coming months, don’t forget this great quote from Anne Lamott, *“almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes...including you.”* Enjoy your summer!
We know that God is everywhere — in our homes, offices, cars and in our hearts. We are invited to be aware of the Spirit no matter where we are. But sometimes we just need to pause in our hectic lives, relax and open our hearts, be quiet and more aware of God’s presence, and enter into conversation with our Creator surrounded by the beauty of Creation. In addition to our Franciscan Farm in DeSoto where we offer day retreats and opportunities in nature, several of our Sisters serve at retreat centers. Meet Sisters Marlene and Ann Pierre of Il Ritiro in Dittmer, MO, and Sister Julia of Christ in the Wilderness in Stockton, IL.

Il Ritiro Retreat Center

Our Sister Marlene Geppert is Associate Director and offers Spiritual Direction at this Franciscan facility where she has served since 2012. Our Sister Ann Pierre Wilken accepted the position of Director about a year ago. According to their website, Il Ritiro believes that relationship with God, ourselves, and all creation is rooted in a God who loves us and creates us.

Q – Sister Marlene, please tell us about yourself.

I was born in St Louis, but raised on a farm near Oakdale, IL. I was one of 12 children born to Wanda and Ignatius Geppert. For first and second grade, I went to a boarding school with Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Todd’s Mill, IL. I will never forget how kind and loving those Sisters were to us. After finishing elementary school at St Ann’s in Nashville, IL, I went to St Louis to the Aspirature high school and to Marillac College where I received a BA in education. Eventually I also earned an MA in religious studies from Creighton University in Omaha, and certificates in Franciscan Studies and Spiritual Direction. I started out teaching for 8 years in a wonderful steel town in West Virginia. The folks of Weirton were so very kind and generous to me. I went on to teach in St Louis, Omaha and Chicago, and served as principal in Louisiana. It was indeed a pleasure to meet and minister with so many wonderful people. After 37 years in education, I was called to serve the Community as Vocations Director for two years, and as a member of Leadership for ten. Then I came to my dream ministry at Il Ritiro, where I have been eight years. I thank God daily for my call to be a Franciscan Sister of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Q – What about you, Sister Ann Pierre? I was raised outside the small, fruit-farming town of Clyde, OH, near Lake Erie. I am the oldest of 8, and we spent our time working alongside migrants in the orchards and fields. We also enjoyed fishing and other water activities. The year I was in third grade, our parish started a school, St Mary’s, and our Franciscan Sisters staffed it. I will never forget my teacher that year, Sister Petronilla. I was very shy and because I didn’t live in town, I knew no one. I truly loved her for her kindness and her determination to include and nurture every student equitably. Even while attending high school and dating, the words of my 6th grade teacher, Sister Norbert, stuck with me, "God is always calling." After school, I accepted that call and joined the Sisters. I earned a BA in Education from Marillac, an MA in Religious Studies from Saint Louis University, and an MA in Educational Leadership from St Thomas University. I taught in West Virginia, Chicago, and St Louis, and was principal in Omaha. I ministered in education for 20 years, before being called to Community Leadership where I served 10 years through 2000. Then I accepted the position of Director of Faith Formation at St Francis of Assisi in Teutopolis, IL, until February 2018, when I became Director of Il Ritiro. I am thankful that in this ministry, I get to use my teaching, leadership and faith formation experience each and every day in “God’s backyard.”

Special places of prayer are located along the scenic trails throughout Il Ritiro.
Q – Who operates Il Ritiro? Il Ritiro Franciscan Retreat Center is owned and operated by the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province. In the Spirit of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi, we offer a place of hospitality and respect for all people of faith. We work to create an environment that fosters a sense of connection with God through creation, beauty, ample time and space for prayer and contemplation.

Q – How do you describe your location and grounds? Our center encompasses 90 acres in the Ozark hills near Dittmer, MO. It is a welcoming place for prayer, retreats, conferences, and other types of gatherings. The natural setting includes a stocked lake with a dock, and expanses of timber with walking trails, plenty of wildlife, prayerful spaces, and even waterfalls if the weather is right. Nestled among the trees are several large houses, each with an updated kitchen, a lounge and 6 to 8 individual bedrooms with 11 to 17 beds. We also have three smaller "hermitage houses" which are designed with everything needed to provide comfort, privacy and relaxation for one to three guests. All of our facilities are air conditioned and well maintained. Our two conference rooms are designed to efficiently seat up to 25, and up to 35 people, and we also have a dining room for 50 that serves three full meals a day (or you can bring your own food, depending on your retreat preference). Two chapels grace our grounds — our main chapel that is traditional with an altar and seating offering weekday and Sunday morning Masses; and our small, private, nature chapel with large windows for contemplation. We also offer an in-ground pool for exercise and relaxation — it is open between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Q – Tell me about your retreats. We bring in wonderful presenters to offer a full schedule of guided or preached retreats on specific topics. We also invite individuals and groups to book our facilities for private contemplation, self-led retreats, conferences, reunions and getaways. Spiritual direction is available by appointment, and visitors are always welcome to schedule a tour of the grounds.

Q – How do people contact you for more information? Our new website is ilritiro.org or mail us at PO Box 38, 7935 St Francis Ln, Dittmer, MO, 63023. You can also call (636) 274-0554 or email il.ritiro@gmail.com.

Christ in the Wilderness

Our Sister Julia Bathon is Executive Director of Christ in the Wilderness, located in the northwest corner of Illinois. For 17 years she has served this hermitage retreat center that describes itself as a place for solitude, prayer and reflection.

Q – Sister Julia, please paint our readers a picture of your background.
I am the oldest of nine and we grew up on a farm about an hour southeast of St Louis. After attending a grade school taught by our Sisters, I went to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Aspiratory in St. Louis for high school and entered the convent. I taught in Missouri and Louisiana schools for 16 years, during which time I decided to pursue a ministry of spiritual direction, having benefited from it myself. At the time, there were not a lot of spiritual directors available. I say that God has a sense of humor because my teaching and degree work were primarily in math and science. I finished the last summer of my Masters in Christian Spirituality with an emphasis on retreat ministry and spiritual direction from Creighton University, as I began working as a formation director. After 6 years there and 4 years at the Center for Spiritual Development in Bird Island, MN, I applied at Christ in the Wilderness Hermitage Retreat. When I visited, it was the end of January and there was no snow on the ground at the time. It felt like home since I grew up on a farm, and after a second interview a month later, the rest is history. On May 1, it was 17 years that I have been the Executive Director.

Q – Who operates CITW? Christ in the Wilderness is a sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St Joseph.

Q – How do you describe your location and grounds? We are far west of Chicago, in the rural rolling hills of the Mississippi Valley. We offer three separate and secluded air-conditioned hermitages, each fully equipped for one with a single bed, a bathroom, full kitchen, and screened porch. We are open year-round, and have no telephones, televisions or computers, (and our cell coverage is purposefully not strong). I live in the ‘main building’ which houses the emergency phone, a borrowing library, and the laundry. Our beautiful cedar chapel and screened gazebo are nestled among the trees to offer places of quiet prayer and reflection out of the elements, and we have an old granary with a deck where you can sit and relax in the sun. We also offer three miles of walking paths and trails sprinkled with seats and swings to observe God’s Creation.

Q – Tell me about your retreats.
Retreatants who come here are looking for solitude, prayer and reflection. They are absolutely delightful people who are searching to find God’s spirit within. We are open to all spiritual journeys and many find healing and renewed life after retreating here.

Q – How do folks contact you?
Our website is citwretreat.com. You can schedule via email at citw@citwretreat.com or by calling (815) 947-2476. You can also write to me at Christ in the Wilderness, 7500 Randecker Rd, Stockton, IL, 61085.
Each year when June rolls around, we gather for a spirited week of sharing, reminiscing and laughter. We pray, discern, and discuss topics related to our lives and our ministries. We end this wonderful week with the celebration of the 25th, 50th, 60th, and 75th Jubilees (or anniversaries of our Sisters’ first profession of vows). What a celebration it is! Jubilarians invite friends and family for the special ceremony – excitement lets everyone know that it truly is “a day the Lord has made.” At the Eucharistic celebration, a spirit of gratitude emanates from the readings, the singing, and the whole-hearted participation. Hearts overflow with memories and tremendous joy as vows are renewed. This is a day to be so proud of our celebrating Sisters, to call to mind our own commitment to religious life, and to realize the gift we have all received in coming together to be Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

### Celebrating 50 Years

**Sister Renita Brummer, OSF**

Sister Renita was born on a farm near Effingham, IL, and earned a BA from Marillac College and an MA from St Bonaventure University. Sister Renita is currently Minister General of the congregation. She also served in leadership from 1985-90; as director of the Chiara Retreat Center in Springfield, IL; director of Campus Ministry at MS&T in Rolla, MO; and in education in the St Louis Archdiocese and in Wisconsin, Illinois and Louisiana. Sister is grateful for her rural roots, her large close-knit family, and her Franciscan vocation.

**Sister Laura Reynolds, OSF**

Sister Laura was born in the small town of Christopher, IL, and earned a BA from Marillac College and an M-Ed from the University of Missouri-St Louis. She currently serves in the Belleville Diocese at Benton, Christopher and Sesser, IL, as a pastoral visitor, organist and RCIA Coordinator. She previously served in education in the St Louis Archdiocese and in Illinois and Wisconsin, and served as a pastoral associate in Royalton, IL. Sister is grateful for all the people she has met, especially those she visits each day who are a constant source of inspiration.

**Sister Ann Pierre Wilken, OSF**

Sister Ann Pierre was born in Sandusky, OH, and earned a BA in Education from Marillac College, an MA from Saint Louis University, and an M-Ed from St Thomas University. She currently serves as director of Il Ritiro Retreat Center in Dittmer, MO. She previously served in congregational leadership, in faith formation in Teutopolis, IL, and in education in the St Louis Archdiocese and West Virginia, Illinois and Nebraska. Sister is profoundly grateful to our God for the surprises and blessings of these 50 years.

**Sister Rosalie Wisniewski, OSF**

Sister Rosalie was born in St Louis, MO, and earned a BA from Marillac College and an M-Ed from the University of Missouri-St Louis. She is currently Assistant Minister General of the congregation, and has served in education for the St Louis Archdiocese, and in Illinois, California, West Virginia and Missouri schools; as program director at St Louis Crisis Nursery; co-director of the Franciscan Common Novitiate; and a family specialist at Our Lady’s Inn. Sister is grateful for the gift of risk-taking that has allowed for many beautiful blessings.

### Celebrating 60 Years

**Sister Barbara Mary Novak, OSF (Sister Carmel)**

Sister Barbara Mary was born in Omaha, NE, and earned a BA from Marillac College and an MA from Saint Louis University. She is retired and serves in Leadership as Canonical Minister. She also previously served in congregational leadership, as a grant writer in Ohio, and in education in the St Louis Archdiocese, Iowa and Nebraska. She is grateful for the privilege of representing the congregation in Rome in 1982 at an International Assembly for more than 400 Third Order Franciscans.

**Sister Charlotte Struckhoff, OSF**

Sister Charlotte was born on a farm near Augusta, MO, and earned a BA from Webster College and an MA at Indiana University-Bloomington. She is currently retired but remains active in Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the St Louis Archdiocese. Past positions include teaching and ministering as organist and liturgical music coordinator in the St Louis Archdiocese, as well as Louisiana, Ohio, Indiana, Texas, New Mexico and Nebraska. Sister shares that gratitude and pride in family roots and the Franciscan Sisters fills her heart with a humble joy and praise to God.

### Celebrating 75 Years

**Sister Elaine Urbanek, OSF**

Sister Elaine was born in East St Louis, IL, and earned a BA and an MA from Saint Louis University. Sister Elaine worked in education in the St Louis Archdiocese and in Illinois, Louisiana, Iowa, Nebraska and California. She is thankful for prayer and the opportunity to visit and chat with fellow residents at the retirement center.
On 3/18, Tau Center staff visited Jack at Franciscan Farm to help with planting in preparation for the 4/20 Farmers Market openings in DeSoto and Kirkwood, and the Annual Tau Center plant sale held 4/23.

On 3/7, our Sister Xavier Fik turned 102!
This spring, we shared stories through Paving Paths to Peace & All Good in Monroe, LA, 3/4 (below, left); Effingham, IL (right) 4/8; and with a new group at Chicago Ridge, IL, 5/6 (top).

We offered two Visio Divina events: 3/19 at the St Louis Cathedral Basilica viewing the illuminated Bible from Saint John’s Abbey (see pg 9), and 5/9 at Tau Center reflecting on the Dossal of St Clare and the San Damiano Cross (above).

One 4/3, we hosted a National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC) Workshop at Tau Center.
Teaching the Teacher by Jack Zimmerman

The importance of educating children, young people and adults of all ages about creation and our place within it was articulated eloquently and powerfully by Pope Francis in his stirring encyclical “Laudato Si’—On Care for Our Common Home.” Education has been a central mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help since the order was founded in 1901. So, in recent years, as the sisters came to understand their call to be Franciscans for Earth, it was only natural that education would be a focus of attention going forward. Teaching others about the integral ecology that binds all the Earth together, linking social and economic justice and love for God to our relationship with creation, happens in many ways, from eco-films to harvesting work days at the Franciscan Farm.

One of the newest ways that Franciscans for Earth is helping to foster ecological awareness, appreciation and conversion is through participation in the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) in collaboration with the University of Missouri Extension and the Brain Injury Association of Missouri, Inc. This is a 3-year, USDA funded project that seeks to educate and empower new farmers, farmers with special needs and those who want to expand their work on the land. The Franciscan Farm serves primarily as an internship site — a place where someone with the interest and drive needed to “dig in” and get their hands dirty — literally! — can learn farming skills while deepening their connection to creation.

This season, one intern has joined me at Franciscan Farm, working in the greenhouse and the garden. Desiree is a Texas native with lots of family in the area. She moved here a couple of years ago with her husband, Tom, and lives in Potosi. Desiree already has learned about nitrogen fixation, the difference between open pollinated (OP), hybrid (F1) and genetically modified organisms (GMOs), how to plant potatoes to get a good crop and avoid potato beetle pressure and many other things. She is a huge blessing — working with alacrity four days a week through the seemingly endless rain of this spring. She brings a sense of wonder — working with alacrity four days a week through the seemingly endless rain of this spring. She brings a sense of wonder to the daily activities of planting, watering, weeding, and patient waiting that reflect and enhance the deep spiritual significance and beauty of the gardener’s craft. Her attentiveness to the birds who share the area and her reticence to remove even the most unwelcome garden visitors (hungry caterpillars included) keeps our focus as farmers where it belongs — on loving awareness of God’s Creation and how to be in right relationship with it all. As is usually the case, our students teach us so much!

“Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.”

From Canticle of the Sun, by St Francis of Assisi
Visio Divina, or “divine seeing,” is a prayer practice gaining interest. Similar to its partner, Lectio Divina, which focuses prayer on Scripture, Visio pairs visual imagery with Scripture or other reflective readings. We provided a Visio Divina experience early this spring at the Cathedral Basilica of St Louis with two illuminations from the Saint John’s Bible. In May, we hosted a Visio Divina event at our Tau Center focusing on two Franciscan icons: the Dossal of St Clare and the San Damiano Cross.

Time. Time to take time. Both experiences provided the opportunity to stop and reflect. Both enabled participants to learn more about a specific event or passage from the Bible and to delve into Franciscan spirituality.

We are planning future Visio Divina events. Visit our website often at fsolph.org, or call us to receive monthly calendar updates via email. If you live outside of St Louis, check for events in your area. Perhaps an opportunity is available near you!

Strategies from 5 of the Cleanest Cities in the World
(things to think about from BlockbyBlock.com)

1. Think small like Singapore. Consider the little things: bathroom stickers reminding users to flush, high littering fines, signs to wipe your feet before boarding public transport.

2. Recycle well like Adelaide. This Australian city drastically reduced dependence on landfills by encouraging citizens to give items to charity and to use recycling services wisely.

3. Remove graffiti like Minneapolis. Their stance on vandalism and graffiti is it’s gone within 24 hours, which keeps areas welcoming.

4. Aim for clean, reliable, public transport like Zurich. Many reliable options are available in this Swiss city including trams, buses, boats, and trains, which reduces carbon emissions by decreasing the number of cars on the road.

5. Spread awareness like Reykjavik, Iceland. They discovered that once the government implemented green cleaning systems, local agencies and businesses followed suit.

Storyteller Phyllis Hostmeyer to give keynote address at the Sisters’ Sunshine Gala

On July 20, Phyllis will address the crowd with “All That is Good and Right in the World” during the Sisters’ Sunshine Gala at Orlando’s, 4300 Hoffmeister in St Louis. Join the fun as she entertains the crowd, along with St John Bosco Troubadours and the Rivertown Sound Barbershop Quartet. At the end of the evening, the winner of the $3000 Sisters’ Reverse Raffle will be decided, and several others will win smaller prizes along the way. Raffle Certificates are available now, as are tickets to attend the Gala dinner and festivities. Check the back cover for details and an order form, or visit the Sisters’ website.

International Storyteller to speak July 20

Storyteller, educator, published author — all of these words describe Phyllis Hostmeyer. Some throw in stand-up comic, Bible aficionado, and just plain great lady as well. Phyllis has traveled throughout the US and the world, telling stories and providing professional development. You might find her working with teachers in the Arctic Circle, telling Bible stories in the Holy Land, sharing myths on a cruise down the Nile, or rapping a fairy tale in a workshop. And you can bet Phyllis always brings her experience, passion, and knowledge to every interaction.

Phyllis is mom to three grown daughters and several furry friends. She and husband Bob live in Southern IL.

Phyllis Hostmeyer to give keynote address at the Sisters’ Sunshine Gala

Let Your Eye See

Visio Divina, or “divine seeing,” is a prayer practice gaining interest. Similar to its partner, Lectio Divina, which focuses prayer on Scripture, Visio pairs visual imagery with Scripture or other reflective readings. We provided a Visio Divina experience early this spring at the Cathedral Basilica of St Louis with two illuminations from the Saint John’s Bible. In May, we hosted a Visio Divina event at our Tau Center focusing on two Franciscan icons: the Dossal of St Clare and the San Damiano Cross.

Time. Time to take time. Both experiences provided the opportunity to stop and reflect. Both enabled participants to learn more about a specific event or passage from the Bible and to delve into Franciscan spirituality.

We are planning future Visio Divina events. Visit our website often at fsolph.org, or call us to receive monthly calendar updates via email. If you live outside of St Louis, check for events in your area. Perhaps an opportunity is available near you!
OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

$3000 REVERSE RAFFLE
Support the Sisters! Get your chance for the $3000 Grand Prize by reserving your Reverse Raffle Certificate today! The winner need not be present to win, and we invite groups to go together in purchasing a $150 Certificate. Use the form on the back cover to order yours, or go to the "events" tab on our website. Odds are good -- we only print 200, and we pull for several smaller prizes throughout the evening on our way to revealing the grand prize awardee. Each Certificate comes with 2 dinner tickets to attend the Gala. We would love to see you in St Louis, but for those out of town who cannot join us, dinner tickets can be donated back so that our Sisters volunteering to work the event can enjoy the great meal.

SISTER SUNSHINE GALA
Sat, July 20, Orlando’s South County 4300 Hoffmeister Ave, St Louis, MO
Support the Sisters by joining the fun at their biggest fundraiser of the year. Enjoy a delicious buffet meal, musical favorites by the St John Bosco Troubadours and the Rivertown Sound Barbershop Quartet, a talented storyteller, a silent auction, raffles for a hand-stitched quilt and our wagon of cheer, the Sisters’ homemade bakery, Franciscan Farm produce and more, while you wait for that final ticket in the $3000 Reverse Raffle to be drawn. Receive two free dinner tickets with every $150 Reverse Raffle Certificate, or buy a single dinner ticket for $50. VIP tables of 8 can be reserved for $1000 earning you 4 Reverse Raffle Certificates and an ad in the program honoring a person/event or in memory of a loved one. If you want to support the Sisters, but know you cannot attend, get a Reverse Raffle Certificate or become a Sisters’ Sponsor and donate your seats, allowing the Sisters volunteering to work the event to enjoy the delicious meal!

DE SOTO FARMERS’ MARKET
Through October
520 N Main, 8am-Noon
Purchase produce and plants from Franciscan Farm at our booth under the pavilion most Saturdays through October.

MAKE IT & TAKE IT KIDS’ ECO-WORKSHOP
Fri, July 26, Tau Center, 10-11:30am
335 S Kirkwood Rd, St Louis, MO
Get your friends together and bring the kids and grandkids to join the Sisters in Kirkwood, as we come together to learn about the problems with one-use plastics and actually DO SOMETHING about it! Everyone is asked to bring a t-shirt you no longer wear, and a decent pair of scissors to this free event. After an educational discussion, we will work together to transform the shirt into a handy shopping bag! This is a great opportunity to connect with young people about the challenges facing our planet while getting to know the Sisters and providing hope through a hands-on activity. Unlike the reusable bags you buy (that are only adding to the amount of stuff that will eventually end up in a landfill), these make use of items you already own. They can easily be washed and dried, so they aren’t harboring bacteria. Plus, it’s a great way to re-purpose that prized T from your favorite event, and the skills you learn can be brought home to use again and again. Everyone under 12 must be accompanied by an adult, and permission forms for all minors (available on our website) must be signed by a legal guardian. We provide snacks. Save seats today via our website, or call (314) 965-3700.

'A DAY AWAY' BUS TOUR
Sat, Sept 7, from Tau Center in Kirkwood to Franciscan Farm and LaChance Vineyards Winery in DeSoto
Slow down and enjoy a scenic ride as we charter a bus to DeSoto for great conversation, delicious food, and opportunities to learn about Franciscan Farm and our neighbor, LaChance Vineyards! We leave Tau Center in Kirkwood at 9am and head to the Farm first. After touring the grounds including the greenhouse, garden, and walking trails, we will participate in a hands-on activity. At lunchtime we will move on to LaChance for a delicious buffet meal which is included in the $50 ticket price per person (wine must be purchased on your own). Lounge around the vineyard until 4pm when the bus departs for Kirkwood. Seating is limited — reserve your spot today via the ‘events’ tab on our website (or leave a message for Nicole at (314) 965-3700, x107)

PAVING PATHS FOR PEACE & ALL GOOD
So far this year, we presented the story of the picnic between St Francis and St Clare in Monroe, LA; and in Illinois in Effingham County and Chicago Ridge. In the fall, we will also host this event for those in St Louis, MO, and Clinton County, IL. Please watch our website and Facebook page and plan to join us for this simple evening of hope and connection. When the time comes, feel free to invite your families and friends to do the same. For email reminders prior to the evening, please register on our website.

FFE ECO-FILM SERIES
FILM - Paris to Pittsburgh
Tue, Sept 17, 7pm Kirkwood Tau Center Thu, Sept 19, 6:30 DeSoto Community Ctr
This film by Radical Media and Bloomberg Philanthropies brings to life the efforts of passionate individuals who are battling the most severe threats of climate change in their own backyards. Set against the national debate over the energy future and the US decision to exit the Paris Climate Agreement, the film captures what’s at stake for communities around the country and the inspiring ways Americans are responding. Registration is requested.

Our 2019 experience entitled Sharing a Picnic with St Francis and St Clare teaches us to:
• Celebrate special places
• Explore the importance of coming together for a meal
• Look to all of Creation for life's lessons
Francis and Clare were both brought up in the Italian town of Assisi in the 13th-century. They gathered one day for a picnic that turned into so much more. Please join our Franciscan Sisters as they examine different aspects of the story of this celebrated gathering and lead in activities to help us apply its lessons to our lives.

PAVING PATHS FOR PEACE & ALL GOOD
AN EVENING OF LESSONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY FROM ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Until we meet again...

Sister Marilyn Smolinski, 1933-2019

Our dear Sister Marilyn died May 24, at Mother of Perpetual Help Residence in St. Louis. She was 86 years old.

Baptized Patricia Ann at Immaculate Conception Church in Omaha, NE, she entered religious life in 1952 and pronounced perpetual vows in 1958. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Webster College in St Louis, MO.

Sister Marilyn had a clear and insightful way of teaching, especially math. She shared this at schools in the St Louis Archdiocese including Our Lady of the Pillar, St Pius X, and St Sebastian, and also in West Virginia, Louisiana, Kansas, New Mexico, Illinois, Nebraska, Iowa and Wisconsin. Later she ministered as librarian at Our Lady of the Pillar School and volunteered at the Tau Center in Kirkwood.

Sister had a warm and wonderful sense of humor and a contagious spirit. She was fun to be with, always had a smile, and brought joy to all those around her. There was a sincerity about her that flowed from her beliefs and convictions, and she wasn’t afraid to share them as a matter-of-fact. She was always proud of her Omaha roots, and lived life to the fullest.

A funeral Mass for Sister Marilyn Smolinski was celebrated at 5pm on Thursday, May 30, in the Lally Room on the Cardinal Carberry Campus of Cardinal Ritter Senior Services. Burial occurred on Friday, May 31 at Resurrection Cemetery in St Louis.

Share stories and leave remembrances via the Sisters’ website at www.fsolph.org

Perpetual Prayer Cards

Need a special gift or remembrance? Consider enrolling your loved one for Perpetual Remembrance in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Membership of Prayer. Each member shares in the graces of the Eucharist Celebration offered monthly, and in the daily prayers and good works of each of our Sisters. For the $25 donation, the enrollee (or a family member) will receive a beautiful gold presentation booklet with a personalized certificate inside. Visit our website or call Mission Advancement at (314) 965-3700, x109, with your name, address, phone number, email address and credit card information, as well as the recipient’s mailing address, and the name of the enrollee.

Sisterly Expressions

Five photographs of God’s Creation by Sister Dolores (Doe) Sanchez were accepted into a show entitled “Child’s Play: Creative Act as Contemplation.” The display was up for the month of May at Good Shepherd Arts Center in Ferguson, MO. Sister Doe is originally from El Paso, TX, and currently serves as Pastoral Associate at St Anthony of Padua Parish in South St Louis. This clay sculpture (right) by Sister Ann Francis (Panchis) Monedero was also featured.
Save our common home! To receive this via email, or to be removed from the list, please send your contact information with your specific request to info@fsolph.org.

Sisters Sunshine Gala
& REVERSE RAFFLE
Need Not Be Present to Win

$3000 Raffle Winner Determined!
Delicious Dinner Buffet
Franciscan Farm Produce
Sisters’ Homemade Bakery
Sunflower Garden Prize Packages
Silent Auction
Wagon of Cheer Raffle
Hand-stitched Quilt Raffle
International Storyteller
Live Music & Fun For All Ages
AND SO MUCH MORE!

JULY 20 AT OLANDO’S, ST LOUIS

SUPPORT OUR LARGEST FUNDRAISER!
Reserve your Reverse Raffle certificate today for an opportunity for $3000! (Need not be present to win!)

☐ Reserve ___ $150 Reverse Raffle certificate/s for me (includes 2 free Gala dinner tickets - see box below*)

☐ I want to reserve a table at the Gala for $600 (includes 4 Raffle certificates & 8 Gala tickets - see box below*)

☐ I want to reserve a VIP table for $1000 which includes 4 Raffle certificates, 8 Gala tickets (see box below*), and a tribute ad in the program:
  ☐ in honor of ☐ in memory of

☐ I would like ___ single dinner ticket/s to the Gala for $50 each (no Reverse Raffle certificate)

☐ Please reserve ___ seats at the Gala for me (we will contact you for your guest list)

☐ I cannot attend the Gala

CONTACT & PAYMENT INFORMATION
Contact
Name ______________________________________
Business Name (if needed for program) _________________________________
Address _____________________________________
City_______________________ ST____ Zip ________
Email Address ________________________________
Phone ______________________________________
Total $___________ (mark payment method below)
☐ Check enclosed (suggested donation to FSOLPH)
☐ Credit Card# _______________________________
  Name on card ________________________________
  Exp____/_____ Security Code__________

Questions? Ask info@fsolph.org or (314) 965-3700.
Complete and mail with payment info (no cash) by July 10 to: FSOLPH, 335 S Kirkwood Rd, St Louis, MO 63122 or by fax with credit card info to (314) 965-3710.