



ASSOCIATE CONNECTIONS

FEBRUARY, 2022

Meet Associate Denise Ingrassia

I have to say it's never easy to give up and say good bye to a loved one. It could be a parent or relative, a good friend, a pet, a home, a neighborhood - anything that has given you some pleasure. OR a job and all the people that go with that job and all the satisfaction of doing that job ... and knowing you did it well and with pleasure.

Saying good bye to CHiPS after 9 years, 6 months and 2 days was not easy. I can only imagine how Sister Mary Maloney felt after all her many years there. It never felt like a job to me - it was exactly where I wanted to go and be each and every day. I looked back and took the good with me as I moved forward with my head held high knowing I made a difference and helped many. I followed what I learned was the Franciscan way ...

While at CHiPS I was introduced to that way. I became an associate, I understood the charism I was following and it is what leads the way. Being an associate is something that I live, I am far from the rest of you but the directory stays on my nightstand and you are close where it counts, in my heart. When Sister Mary first invited me to think about becoming an associate I didn't really know how much it would entail - but it seems to me that we are born to this way and how we have a title.

Since leaving CHiPS in June of 2020, the beginning height of the pandemic in NY, I have struggled to find my way into a new chapter. I moved once to Florida to work in a medical detox center with addicts.

Then I moved again and currently live in Virginia Beach, when realizing that my one and only son needed me nearby him. I am on the Chesapeake Bay and I wake up to a view of the beautiful inlet and bridge - I appreciate being here knowing he appreciates me being here.

I am working part time at a job-not a labor of love but a job that keeps me busy. I have applied for and hope to receive a position at an Independent Living facility here on the Bay where the elderly residents can transition to higher levels of care if needed. I am hoping and believe it will fill an empty spot.



My food insecurity project in Jamaica, West Indies - a model I have worked on creating for the last several years, has been put on a brief hold until the tourist travel returns. I

know that will bring me a lot of satisfaction helping the poorest of the poor by providing food from the All-inclusive resorts with the help of the Kottongnae Korean Catholic community on a mission there who with the blessing of the Bishop will help me have the model come to fruition.

Favorite Quote – Jim and Molly Traynor

Act Justly
Love Tenderly
Walk Humbly...
Micah 6:8

Reflection on Scripture

One of my FAVORITE Scripture quotes is from Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul had a very deep love for Jesus Christ and often writes beautifully about Jesus. Paul also had some very hard times and suffered greatly. And because he loved God, Paul would talk to and about God very openly.

When I am going through a hard time (as all of us do at times), I go to this passage from Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter 8, verse 28. My consolation comes when I am reminded:

“WE KNOW THAT GOD MAKES ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE GOD.” Or to say it another way:

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD.”

Associate Recognition

On November 21, 2021, Annie Yaeger and I attended an event at the Cathedral neither of us was really prepared for. It was a Mass to honor the Outstanding



Caregivers for 2021. We were among a group of wonderful caring and compassionate caregivers being honored for something we love to do – Annie as a

nurse and me as a volunteer. We both know God placed us where we would be able to live our faith and the charism of Mother Frances every day. The Sisters on the Magnificat are very dear to Annie and me. As much as we support them in various ways, they give us so much more. There are no words that can express the depth of love shared on the 3rd Floor of St. Clare Convent.

Yes, God will help this “mess” to work out for GOOD, especially when I go to God in LOVE. God won't leave me alone, but God will be there WITH me to help me get through it.

But I also find this quote helpful when all things work out well and I want to go to God in gratefulness and thanks. We are so blessed to be so loved by God in everything and at all times. That quote keeps me aware of God's love that is with us ALWAYS! Then I just rest in God's love, knowing that TOGETHER with GOD, life is at its best. AND it isn't I who do it, but it is GOD and GOD'S LOVING WORK!!!

Sr. Madonna Hoying, SFP

Annie has retired but plans to come back for visits. I still volunteer. God has blessed us both so much by leading us to the Sisters that we didn't need an event at the Cathedral to honor us. We were both humbled to be recognized as Outstanding Caregivers but have received all the recognition we want in the smile, a hug, a loving touch, a prayer by one of the Sisters.

Mother Frances told Sister Alcantara Hohns in a note on November 28, 1863 – “We should proceed in love through these times and go unnoticed, yet, be ever ready to serve.” Annie and I are grateful to be able to serve the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor.

Jan Bauer, sfp-a

Ministry Corner

Franciscan Ministries, Inc.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Poor arrived in the United States over 164 years ago (1858). Initially, the Sisters expressed their healing charism through sponsoring hospitals, social service centers and long term care facilities. As their ministries evolved, one thing remained true, their support of the poor. Since then, a few Sisters initiated outreach ministries that addressed unmet needs of the poor and each of those ministries had their own Board. In 2012, those separate ministries were consolidated under one entity (with one board) called Franciscan Ministries (FM), which included: Haircuts from the Heart, Our Lady of the Woods, Tau House, Tamar's Center, Art for All People, and the Centennial Barn.

In 2016, the Community Garden became a full own independent organization (no longer affiliated with FM), and Our Lady of the Woods was closed in 2019.

The mission of Franciscan Ministries is: "Inspired by the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, we are a non-profit human service organization that addresses the unmet needs of people who are underserved, vulnerable, and overlooked. We are a presence of healing, respecting the dignity of each person through a personal approach and diverse services." FM currently has a staff of 6 people and is overseen by a board of directors made up of Sisters, associates, and lay people. Following the tradition started by the Franciscan Sisters of the poor over 164 years ago, today, Franciscan Ministries continues to evolve to meet the unmet needs of the poor. A more detailed description of each Franciscan Ministries program will be included in upcoming newsletters.

Jason Bruns, sfp-a



"Did You Know" # 2

Five days after arriving in Cincinnati, on September 9, 1858, the 1st group of 6 SFP pioneers, took possession of a roomy, 3 story building, located on 4th St. between Central Ave. and John St. The building was offered rent free by the Catholic Orphanage Society.

The 5 Sisters and 1 Postulant were thrilled to have their own residence where they could create community and care for the sick poor, as was their mission. They immediately started the enormous task of cleaning the house, which was said to be covered in dirt, dust and black soot.

As followers of St. Francis, and being poor themselves, they were entirely dependent on the generosity of the citizens for everything they needed to set up their modest Convent/Hospital. They were not disappointed. They marveled at the generosity of the residents, clergy and parishes in the neighborhood!

Just one week after moving in, they received their 1st patient on the condition that the elderly woman bring her own bed and other necessary articles! In a few days they had 5 more patients to care for. The services of a generous/compassionate MD came along, who became the House Physician!

The Sisters were gratified with how well they were received in the community. So, they felt confident they were doing God's will, despite repeated opposition from the Archbishop, who felt they should return to Germany, citing their services were superfluous!

Eventually, Sr. Augustine (appointed by M. Frances as Superior of the fledgling group) spoke up. "We did not come here of our own accord, but in compliance with Holy Obedience, and only therewith can we return when we are called back" The matter was then settled with the Archbishop! (You go Sr. Augustine!)

It wasn't long before the number of patients grew to 14. The Sisters discerned that they were in need of a much larger, more permanent facility. So plans were made to start fundraising, to build a new Hospital! In the meantime, M Frances sent 3 more Sisters, who arrived on January 2, 1859, to aid in this monumental effort!

(Stay tuned for the rest of the story in the next Newsletter!)

Karen Skillman, sfp-a

Celebrating Birthdays



February

2/4 – Gloriajean Wallace
2/9 – Beverly Clipson
2/11 – Edna Schultz

March

3/8 – Leah Curtin
3/22 – George Raab
3/24 – Barbara Ann Bugg

April

4/9 – Mary Jane Bauer
4/21 – Mondaline McCall

Upcoming Events



1/26 - Blast the Winter Blahs- ***The 'Blast the Winter Blahs'*** for staff at St. Clare was a great hit. We are now planning on the same type of goodie bags for Sisters and a gathering for Associates.

2/9 - **Book Discussion** through Lent – “*The Universal Christ*” by Richard Rohr via zoom 6:30 – 8:00PM

2/13 - **Coffee and Conversion**
Join us for continental breakfast in the Peace Center on the first floor with the Sisters after mass at St. Clare’s Chapel. Please bring an item to donate to the Pregnancy Center.

4/2 - **Assembly** – **More information to come**

Spring Retreat at Schervier Hall with Jeanne Hunt facilitating, in planning stages.

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