May Events

Please join us for these celebrations and special events at St. Joseph Center, 1501 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee.

Piano Recital featuring Andrew Armstrong
Friday, May 1
7:00 p.m
St. Joseph Hall

“Come and See” Afternoon of Reflection
Saturday, May 2
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Heritage Room

Beatitudes Taizé Prayer And Concert
Featuring Grace Urbanski
Wednesday, May 6
6:00-7:45 p.m.
St. Joseph Chapel

Associate Relationship Acceptance and Renewal Mass
Sunday, May 17
10:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Chapel

Visit www.sssf.org for more upcoming events

Coming Full Circle

On a sunny April day, I visited with School Sister of St. Francis artist Dorothy Bock in her Rockford, Illinois home. An exhibit of her artwork had recently been shown in the William Reif Gallery at nearby Womanspace, an interfaith center. Entitled “Dorothy Bock: Coming Full Circle,” the exhibit was described as “…a one woman show featuring large paintings from the past 10 years and smaller works to the present. The themes are all inspired by nature, people, and the arts.”

We sat in a cozy kitchen overlooking a river rushing by a forest tinged with green. She began by reading aloud a paragraph from Notre Dame magazine discussing “absolute see,” a Buddhist concept involving “…seeing without judging, compelling us all to open our hearts and minds to differing viewpoints.” I understood why this concept captured her attention as she discussed how everything we meet in life can transform us into becoming more compassionate and accepting of others.

The second-oldest of eight children, Dorothy was known as the “creative instigator” of family activities, including little religious rituals with her siblings. It wasn’t surprising that later she would be greatly influenced by the sisters who taught her. “The sisters were intelligent, strong, creative women who saw us as individuals. They loved and encouraged us, and I wanted to be like them.” She added, “Even as a child I wanted to dedicate my life not to a single family, but to something larger—the family of the universe.”

As a teacher, Sister Dorothy has always been known for her creativity and the innovative high school programs she began. But another impressive accomplishment is the lasting impact she has had on her students. She sparked their passion, which then found creative expression in their paintings, poetry, and the way they viewed life itself.

Today Sister Dorothy continues to paint, write poetry, and teach. As a Franciscan, she celebrates the inter-relatedness of all God’s creation in her joyful, vibrant spirit and amazing artistic creativity. Sister Dorothy Bock truly lives the concept of “absolute see.”

When have you felt called to see with an open heart? Do you ever sense an inter-relatedness with life all around you? I’d love to hear from you about your experiences and understanding!

Sister Beth Ann Baricevich, OSF
Vocation Minister
Vocation Story: Sister Rose Hacker

Sister Rose Hacker’s favorite Scripture passage, Matthew 25:31-46—“when I was hungry, you gave me something to eat”—continually challenges her to look beyond herself and do what she can to make a better world.

As Pastoral Minister and Director of Liturgy at Sacred Heart Parish in Boone, Iowa, Sister Rose has been a sign of Christ’s light and love for many years. Pastoral ministry allows her to get to know the hopes and dreams of parishioners. “I have grown personally, spiritually and professionally because of my ministry in parishes,” Sister Rose said.

Her greatest accomplishments happen when she helps to connect people with needs to those who can address them. An exciting example began when Sister Rose received a letter from Sister Margaret Held, a nurse practitioner in Mississippi. Sister Margaret described the needs of the children and adult patients and her ministry at a rural health clinic and hospital for books, school supplies and toiletries. About the time Sister Rose received that letter, a school staff member asked her about a Lenten project for the students. “Project Mississippi” began! The children collected books, toys, pencils, crayons, and notebooks that several parishioners and Sister Rose delivered to the clinic.

Being a School Sister of St. Francis has provided Sister Rose with opportunities to deepen her spirituality and use her many gifts. She continually listens to the Holy Spirit, who has put her in places she needed to be. As director of liturgy, Sister Rose helps to plan school Masses. She also serves as a hospitality minister, brings the Eucharist to the homebound and those in nursing homes, works with adult faith formation and outreach programs, and serves on the RCIA team. She even updates the websites for the school and parish. As Sister Rose serves and mentors others, she is sure to invite people to share in the ministry and make use of their own gifts and talents.

Adapted from an article by Sister Carol Ann Jaeger for the School Sisters of St. Francis’ Pastoral Ministry Network.

Yellow

All yellow spring sifts through sky’s sun-sieve in yellow garlands, climbing over trees and fences grounded with daffodils dancing in the yard.

All yellow spring breaks out in a dandelion rash over hillside skins, and God opens a yellow, twinkling eye of sunlight over grave yards, farm fields and singing orchards.

Sister Dorothy Bock

Women of Hope is the monthly electronic newsletter from the Membership and Relationship Team of the School Sisters of St. Francis for single Catholic women interested in exploring God’s call in their lives. If you are interested in learning more about life with the School Sisters of St. Francis, contact Sister Beth Ann Baricevich by email at babaricevich@sssf.org or call her at 414-550-0321.

Visit us on our website: www.sssf.org and on Facebook: www.facebook.com/schoolsistersofstfrancis

School Sisters of St. Francis

1501 S. Layton Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53215-1924

To unsubscribe, email communications@sssf.org.