

GOOD MORNING!

It is a joy for me to welcome each one of you to this Homecoming in the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the founding of the School Sisters of St. Francis.

We celebrate today in gratitude the courage and risk of our three Foundresses, who came to this unknown place in the world, Wisconsin, in 1874.

We give thanks for the passion and persistence and shameless trust in God of Mother Alexia; for the contemplative and creative energy of Mother Alfons, who brought this glorious chapel into being; and for Sister Clara, who accompanied Alexia and Alfons across the ocean and to New Cassel, Wisconsin, to found this community.

We thank God for God's goodness to us, in guiding these three sisters to New Cassel, to Winona, and finally to Milwaukee.

WELCOME HOME sisters, associates, and all who have been a part of our journey. It is good for us to be here. We thank you for coming today to pray, to reconnect, and to celebrate.

For all that has been, thanks.

For all that will be in our relationships today and into the future, YES.

Sister Barbara Kraemer, O.S.F.  
*Provincial of the U.S. Province*