

June 2017

## Upcoming Events

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

**Beatitudes Prayer and Concert**  
Wednesday, June 7  
6:00-7:45 p.m.  
St. Joseph Chapel

**Violin-Piano Recital with Frank Almond and Andrew Armstrong**  
Sunday, June 11  
2:00 p.m.  
St. Joseph Hall  
\$25. Call 414-385-5272

**"Water: The Essence of Life" Exhibit Opening Reception**  
Sunday, June 11  
1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Artist talk at 2:00 p.m.  
Alfons Gallery

**Capuchins' Run/Walk for the Hungry at Polish Fest**  
Friday, June 16  
5:00 p.m.  
Summerfest Grounds

**Sisters and Associates' Jubilee Mass**  
Saturday, June 17  
10:30 a.m.  
St. Joseph Chapel

Visit [www.sssf.org](http://www.sssf.org) for more upcoming events

## Mississippi Mission

Recently the opportunity presented itself to travel to Holly Springs, Mississippi, to participate in a week-long program of "Vocation Discernment." With sisters from other communities and a young woman who is discerning her vocation, we assisted an elderly woman whose home was badly in need of repair.

After two days of painting, cleaning, mowing, and scrubbing, we were asked to tutor some of the children at nearby Holy Family School. What a joy! We then did our best to finish the woman's home on the last two days of the week.

Being able to share the home of fellow School Sisters of St. Francis Ramona Ann Schmidtkecht and Julene Stromberg for 10 days was a wonderful experience. Sister Ramona has been ministering in Holly Springs for more than 50 years and radiates joyful enthusiasm as she walks the halls of Holy Family School, greeting by name everyone she meets.

Sister Ramona opened a childcare center while teaching high school home economics. The program thrived and continued to grow even after the school closed. "Whatever needed to be done, we did," she said, and this included making wedding dresses, prom corsages, special cakes, and even a baby's coffin. She was honored with a plaque that included her picture and the words, "For Loving, Humble, and Dedicated Service to God, St. Mary, CADET, Holy Family Catholic Schools and Community for More than 50+ Years."

Sister Julene has been ministering in Holly Springs for more than 40 years, primarily as a math teacher specializing in algebra and calculus, but she also excelled at teaching special education classes for six years. She came to Mississippi with "a desire to live with cultures other than my own," and continues teaching by tutoring in their home.

Both sisters are grateful for their years in Mississippi, especially the acceptance they felt when they first arrived from wonderful people who are now "family." Beautiful nature surrounds them, and they see time in their gardens as "quiet time." As Sister Julene noted, "Flowers can tie people together." Both are especially proud of their 300 different varieties of daffodils!

We are especially inspired by Sisters Ramona Ann and Julene, who truly exemplify "women of hope!"

Sister Beth Ann Baricevich, OSF  
Vocation Minister



# Vocation Story: Sister Susan Weinheimer

By Sister Ruth Hoerig



Growing up in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Susan Weinheimer was known as a “party person.” Religious life was far from her mind – until her junior year of college.

“I was enjoying my share of parties, dates and the latest fashions, yet there was something missing,” she said. “When I finally came to grips with the question, and told my parents, they were astounded to say the least, especially because I was wearing an engagement ring. But after they had time to think about it, they supported my decision.”

Sister Susan entered the community in August 1957. Our Franciscan sisters seemed more serious than the Dominican Sisters who taught her in high school and college, but she soon found we shared her fun loving, happy pursuit of the good life!

“My first assignment was at St. Nazianz, Wisconsin, where I taught first and second graders,” she said. Sister Susan went on to earn a Master’s degree and began working with religious ed teachers, but found “working with adults wasn’t as rewarding for me as teaching young children.” She returned to the classroom, teaching at St. Victor, Monroe, Wisconsin, for 11 years; St. Matthias, Milwaukee, for 17 years; and St. Josaphat, Milwaukee, until her retirement.

“I have never regretted my decision to become a sister,” she said. “The words of Psalm 23 express my feelings well. Religious life truly did fulfill all my wants and desires.” Though there were challenges and hurdles along the way, she knew she was not alone. She kept Jesus’ words ever before her: “Remember that I am with you always, even to the end of time.” (Matthew 28:2)

“For any woman considering a call to religious life, I would encourage you to seek out someone who can accompany you and guide you along the way,” Sister Susan advised. “Pray about it and remember: God is ever faithful.”



## Stay Current on Facebook

The School Sisters of St. Francis’ Facebook page offers daily spiritual reflections plus updates about our congregation’s mission, ministries, community life, and events. Like us and find out about upcoming liturgies, concerts, workshops, and opportunities for spiritual growth. It’s a great way to stay connected and journey with us in faith. You’ll find us at [www.facebook.com/schoolsistersofstfrancis](http://www.facebook.com/schoolsistersofstfrancis).

*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](mailto:babaricevich@sssf.org) or call her at 414-550-0321.



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