

April 2017

Upcoming Events

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

“Catherine of Siena, A Woman for Our Times”
One-woman play with Sister Nancy Murray, OP
Saturday, April 1
10:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Hall
\$20. Call 414-385-5272.

“Confronting Cultures”
Opening Reception
Exhibit by Midwest artist Nancy Lamers
Sunday, April 2
1:00-3:00 p.m.,
artist talk at 2:00 p.m.
Alfons Gallery

Beatitudes Prayer and Concert
Wednesday, April 5
6:00-7:45 p.m.
St. Joseph Chapel

Foundresses Day Liturgy
Friday, April 28
6:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Chapel

Visit www.sssf.org for more upcoming events

A Call to Resurrection

If someone asked you, “What is the meaning of Easter?,” what would be your response? Understandably, you might first think of the candy, colored eggs, baskets and bunnies that have decorated the shelves in stores for some time now—all symbols of Easter.

But what about the deeper, religious meaning of this feast day? Yes, we know that it’s a celebration of Christ’s rising from the dead. But what does that really mean? Resurrection. New life. New beginnings.

How do we fit this feast, this foundational core of our Christian faith, into our own Lenten journeys, and then continue it after Easter? In other words, how can we experience this “call to resurrection” in our lives?

For the past several years, I have had the privilege of being invited to be a “spiritual companion” during Lent to a number of young women who attend Marquette University. Vocation ministers, teachers, and campus ministers meet with interested students for individual, hour-long conferences once a week during their Lenten journey. I recently wondered how these wonderful women would view “resurrection” in their lives at this time, so I asked them. Here is what these seniors said:

“Resurrection to me is taking the judgment, unwillingness to forgive, and any other clutter in our hearts, emptying them out, and waiting for God to fill the empty spaces with blossoming flowers and love.”

“Each day we are offered an invitation to new life. Celebrating Christ’s resurrection allows us to be part of a victory so large, we can hardly comprehend it. This victory is what spills out as an open invitation each new day, new hour, new minute.”

“I believe we can experience new life and new opportunities each and every time we ask for forgiveness. I also see God’s grace as a personal invitation to each of us to experience ‘resurrection.’ A favorite quote of mine is, ‘God is at work even when we struggle to believe.’”



Aware that Easter awaits, how are you hearing the call to resurrection, new life, and “spiritual blossoming” at this time? I’d love to hear from you!

Sister Beth Ann Baricevich, OSF
Vocation Minister

Resurrection. New life. New beginnings.

Vocation Story: Sister Claire Pink

By Sister Ruth Hoerig



This summer, Sister Claire Pink will celebrate her 70th jubilee as a School Sister of St. Francis. She devoted her life to the service of others as a music teacher and church musician.

"I began attending St. Clement School in Lancaster, Wisconsin, in 1934 – the same year that the School Sisters of St. Francis came to Lancaster," she said. "The sisters always seemed especially joyful and happy. When I would see them in church, they seemed 'special' in some way, set apart as women who had given their lives to God in service to others."

In high school, Claire first thought of becoming a sister, and after two years of public high school, she entered the convent. Because of a teacher shortage, she began teaching in Chicago even before she had completed her college education. "I had to take my courses in summers and on weekends, so it took me ten years to earn my college degree," she said.

Over the course of her religious life, Sister Claire served at four Chicago parishes. "My best years were spent at St. Clare Parish," she said. "Not only was it my first opportunity to work with people from other cultures, but the 1960s were an exciting time to work in the Church. The Second Vatican Council was starting to make its impact and Martin Luther King, Jr., was becoming nationally renowned for his social activism in combatting racial inequality."

Reflecting on her retirement, she said, "I am so grateful for the time we now have for prayer, retreats, and spiritual growth," she said. "Our community life is a wonderful source of comfort and grace, and we have few worries because of the good health care we have and the wonderful accommodations we enjoy."

"As I look back now, I can see how richly God has blessed me," she said. "Even though some of those blessings came through challenging times, I have found deep satisfaction in the good we were able to do for others as religious in the Church."



St. Catherine of Siena: A Woman for Our Times

Sister Nancy Murray, OP, the biological sister of comic genius Bill Murray, will grace our St. Joseph Hall stage this Saturday, April 1, when she performs "Catherine of Siena, A Woman for Our Times." Sister Nancy has presented this one-woman show to audiences across the country and around the world. She draws on the saint's own letters to bring you face to face with a feisty, opinionated, and spirited woman of faith. Tickets are just \$20 for our 10:00 a.m. performance. Call Donna at 414-385-5272 today to reserve yours!

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.



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