

August 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, August 2  
6:00-7:45 p.m.  
St. Joseph Chapel

**“Justice Issues in the Philippines”**  
Monday, August 7  
1:00-2:00 p.m.  
St. Joseph Hall

**Feast of St. Clare Liturgy**  
Friday, August 11  
6:30 p.m.  
St. Joseph Chapel

**“Tiger, Spirit of the Forest”  
Opening Reception**  
Sunday, August 20,  
1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Artist Talk at 2:00 p.m.  
Alfons Gallery

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

## Reflection on the Beach, Part III

For most of us, the Fourth of July is a special day. It gives us the opportunity to set aside some time away from our daily routine to enjoy the company of family and friends while also taking some time to reflect on the meaning of the day.

This year there was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Independence Day on a beautiful beach, the same beach that was the subject of the *Women of Hope* “Reflections” for the last two years (see *Women of Hope* issues August 2015 and July 2016, [archived on our website](#)). In the August 2015 issue, the focus was on the stunning beauty of the sunsets, and how one can see, and even experience, God’s love for us in the gift of nature. (St. Francis in particular is known for expressing his great love for the Creator, especially through his beautiful Canticum of the Creatures.)

In last year’s “Reflection on the Beach,” the focus was on experiencing a tremendous storm and then the horrific aftermath that left a previously pristine beach almost unrecognizable. In the process, however, the prayerful words from Psalm 46 became a source of comfort and calm: “Be still and know that I am God.” How very true those words are.

Because this year’s Fourth of July fireworks were supposed to be especially amazing, thousands of people arrived, many setting up beach chairs and coolers hours ahead of time. By 9 p.m. the clear sky above the water was beautiful and the fireworks display was amazing. However, it wasn’t long before the sky suddenly opened and unexpected rain poured down. The wind howled and people ran as an immense, electric bolt of lightning appeared, splitting and illuminating the dense, black sky.



Reflecting on this later, one could see that although the fireworks were indeed beautiful, they couldn’t compare to the magnificent, awe-inspiring “heavenly display” that followed. Psalm 77 comes to mind: “Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind; your lightning lit up the world.” (Ps. 77:18) Or in the words of 2 Samuel, “Out of the brightness of the Lord’s presence, bolts of lightning blazed forth.”

God definitely had the final word—once again...

Sister Beth Ann Baricevich, OSF  
Vocation Minister

# Vocation Story: Sister Larina Williams

By Sister Ruth Hoerig



Born in Chicago, Larina Williams was raised in a family of 13 children by parents of extraordinary faith. “My Dad’s father was a Baptist minister and my mother converted to Catholicism in her early 20s,” she said. “She had her heart set on bringing her husband and all 13 children into the Catholic Church.”

Larina attended public school until fifth grade. “When my mother enrolled me in sixth grade at Holy Angels School in Chicago, I was inspired by the sisters right from the start. I wanted to enter the School Sisters of St. Francis after eighth grade, but the community encouraged me to wait until I was older.” She then attended St. Angela Boarding School in Carroll, Iowa. After Larina graduated from high school, the principal of Holy Angels “wasted no time getting me ready to enter the postulancy for the School Sisters of St. Francis.”

During her 45 years in education, Sister Larina taught all levels at St. Martin’s, St. Clare, St. Killian’s, and Holy Angels schools in Chicago. During the last ten years of her tenure at Holy Angels, she served as assistant principal of the school.

“The most rewarding years of my ministry were at Holy Angels,” she said. “We enjoyed a genuine family atmosphere in the school where everyone felt accepted and cared for. The 800+ children and their parents were very cooperative and showed a lot of respect and support for all the teachers.

“My 61 years in religious life have been filled with graces all around. Many former students of mine have done well with their lives. The sisters I live with exude an inner joy that lights up my day.

“Community life requires a shared life rooted in deep spirituality,” Sister Larina shared. “Anyone considering a vocation today will find religious life most rewarding if they enter for the right reasons and if they are capable of making a commitment that will sustain them through a lifetime. God is always close, inviting us to keep ourselves open to His continual help in new and surprising ways.”



## 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.



Visit us on our website: [www.sssf.org](http://www.sssf.org) and on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/schoolsistersofstfrancis](http://www.facebook.com/schoolsistersofstfrancis)



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

To unsubscribe, email [communications@sssf.org](mailto:communications@sssf.org).