

March 2017

Upcoming Events

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

Ash Wednesday Mass

Wednesday, March 1
4:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Chapel

Beatitudes Prayer and Concert

Wednesday, March 1
6:00-7:45 p.m.
St. Joseph Chapel

“Scripture Wisdom, Human Frailty” Workshop

Saturday, March 4 (Part 1)
Saturday, March 18 (Part 2)
9:30-11:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Center
\$25. Call 414-385-5272.

National Catholic Sisters Week

Free Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, March 8
12:30-1:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Center

Joseph Bowls Supper Fundraiser

Thursday, March 9
4:30-7:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Center
\$25 (suggested)
Details: www.sssf.org

Visit www.sssf.org for more upcoming events

Springtime for the Spirit

The season of Lent begins with ashes. As we receive them on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, we might hear the ancient words still used in many places throughout the world: “Remember thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return.” Strong words.

But during the six weeks of Lent, these words may also serve as the focus of a Lenten meditation. While we think about what we will “give up” (or what meaningful activity we may do) for Lent this year, pausing periodically to think about what we felt and what we heard on Ash Wednesday may also help us deepen our prayer life during this holy season.

Another thing to keep in mind is that Lent is actually an ancient word for “springtime.” This may be a new insight, and it may even lead to altering the way we approach Lent. Penance? Yes. But also spring, a time of new birth and blossoming. Trying to live the next six weeks as a kind of extended personal retreat can also help to make this Lent a special time of “blossoming” for us.

A friend recently gave me a copy of Edward Hays’ beautiful “Lenten Psalm of Longing.” I would like to share it with you:

I thank you, O God,
for the warming of the wind that brings a melting of the snow,
for daylight hours that grow longer
and richer in the aroma of hope.

Spring lingers beneath the horizon,
and I lift up my heart to you, Beloved,
in this season of Lent
that gently sweeps across
my sluggish and sleeping heart, awakening me
to a deeper love for you.

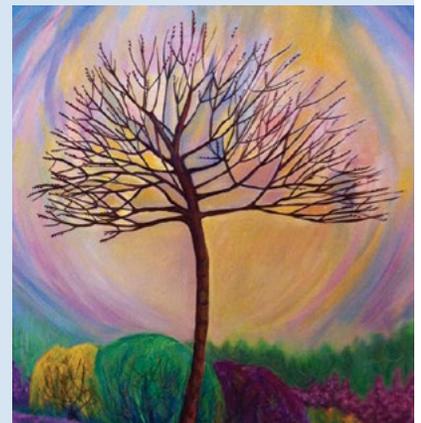
May the wind of the Spirit
that drove Jesus into the desert,
also drive me with a passion
to enkindle the fire of devotion
in the desert of Lenten love.

Birds above, on migratory wings,
signal me to an inner migration,
drawing me homeward bound on Spirit’s wings
to the heart of my Beloved.

May I use this Lenten season
to answer the inner urge to return.

During this special time of Lent, stretch and “blossom” in deeper ways, aware that Easter awaits. I’d love to hear from you!

Sister Beth Ann Baricevich, OSF
Vocation Minister



Courtesy of Sister Dorothy Bock

Vocation Story: Sister Mary Boyd

By Sister Ruth Hoerig

Mary Boyd first thought of becoming a sister during the seventh and eighth grades at St. Irene School in Warrenville, Illinois. The idea stayed with her throughout her four years at Madonna High School in Aurora. "The School Sisters of St. Francis, who taught in both these schools, inspired me and cared about me as an individual," she said. "They were fine educators, friendly and fun to be with."

After graduating from Madonna High School, Mary attended Mundelein College. One year later, she entered the School Sisters of St. Francis. Due to the shortage of teachers in the 1960s, however, Mary's college studies were cut short. "In those days, we completed our teaching degree by attending college classes during the year and attending summer school at Alverno College," she said. Sister Mary was sent to St. Joseph School in Aurora to teach third grade.

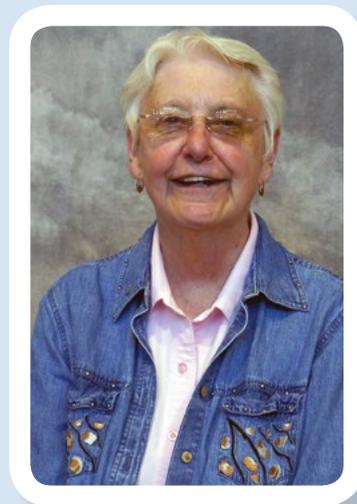
Finding little satisfaction or fulfillment in her vocation during her first eight years in the community, Sister Mary decided to leave religious life. She continued to work as an educator, though, and kept envisioning herself as a Franciscan serving the people of God.

It was through her friendship with Sister Joelyn Hayes that she found her way back to religious life. "When I learned about the new formation program that was established, I knew I wanted to give myself a second chance," she said.

By this time, Sister Mary had developed the confidence to see herself as a contributing member of the community. "I served for 52 years as a classroom teacher, principal, art teacher and Spanish teacher," she said. "My most rewarding experience as an educator was in the visual arts, especially when creating play sceneries with junior high students."

In reflecting on her life, Sister Mary said, "I have found religious life to be very rewarding and life-giving. It is replete with opportunities to serve others and encourages us to be ourselves and to establish meaningful relationships with our sisters and associates.

"Living community life with remarkable women is a wonderful way to minister to the needs of others while making our world better."



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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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