

May 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, May 3
6:00-7:45 p.m.
St. Joseph Chapel

**World Day of Prayer
for Vocations**
Holy Hour
Sunday, May 7
3:00 p.m.
St. Eugene Parish,
7600 N. Port Washington Rd.,
Fox Point

“Becoming Love” Workshop
The Life and Works of
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ, &
John Polkinghorne, KBE, FRS
Saturday, May 20
9:00-11:15 a.m.
St. Joseph Hall
\$15. Call 414-385-5272

“Confronting Cultures” Exhibit
featuring artist Nancy Lamers
Wed-Fri and Sun
12:00-3:00 p.m.,
Alfons Gallery

Visit www.sssf.org for more upcoming events

Mother Mary, Partner in Hope

May. Mary. For some, the month of May and Mary are intertwined. May, and the arrival of spring, can also bring forth special memories, such as a fondly remembered school May Crowning, processions, Mary-centered homilies, singing hymns honoring her, and praying the rosary with others. All can be connected in some way with the “new life” spring brings, not only in nature but also in Mary’s gift to the world, Jesus.

The special place that Mary holds as the Mother of God is beautifully emphasized and honored at this time. In fact, the entire month of May has been dedicated to her. It is important to remember, however, that Mary is not only the mother of Jesus. She is also *our mother*.



Sometimes while looking at a lovely statue of Mary in a church or admiring a beautiful painting in a museum, we may forget that Mary was a real human being, a young woman who lived in Nazareth, a small village in Palestine in the first century. She was both a wife and mother, and most likely loved both roles, especially watching over Jesus as he was growing up, nurturing his development.

Mary also experienced peaks and valleys in her life just as we all do. She had times of happiness and joy, of course, but also must have deeply felt the grief and loneliness that followed Joseph’s death. Later, Mary would face more loneliness when Jesus left to begin his ministry.

However, Mary’s deepest suffering came when she had to witness her son’s tremendous suffering as he struggled at Calvary, and then endured his crucifixion. Her pain must have been unfathomable, but she remained faithful and hope filled.

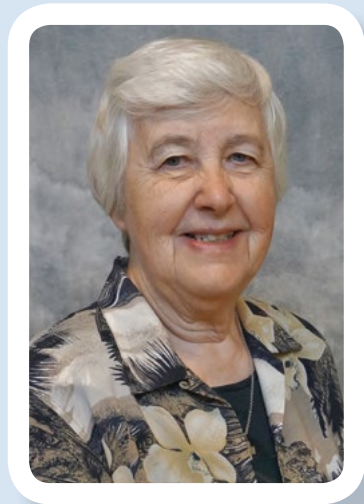
Sister Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, writes, “Even after Jesus’ death and Resurrection, Mary’s pattern of faith is still that of Jewish hope: God’s Messiah will come again soon and bring justice to the land... We ought to relate to Mary as a partner in hope, our eyes opened to sacred visions for a different future. We become empowered to be voices of hope in this difficult world.”

Pope Francis recently wrote, “Through Mary’s intercession, may we be granted that same openness of heart, that same readiness to respond, “Here I am,” to God’s call, and that same joy in proclaiming Him to the whole world.”

Sister Beth Ann Baricevich, OSF
Vocation Minister

Vocation Story: Sister Dorothy Hofer

By Sister Ruth Hoerig



Dorothy Hofer had thought about joining the Maryknoll missionaries as a teen, but when she learned that her friend Ruth was planning to enter the School Sisters of St. Francis, she decided that this community might be a good choice for her also because the sisters also worked in the mission field. So Dorothy and Ruth entered our congregation together.

After Dorothy graduated from Alverno College with a degree in education and Spanish, she was appointed to teach third graders in Rockford, Illinois. She later taught high school Spanish, and then accepted an offer to teach Spanish-speaking adults at St. Mary Parish in Aurora, Illinois. "Teaching adults seemed like a good fit for me," she said. "I enjoyed working with Hispanic people very much and eventually felt called to help them develop the spiritual dimension of their lives."

She earned a Master's degree in pastoral studies, and took a position in adult formation in Aurora, Illinois, preparing Eucharistic ministers, working in RCIA, and preparing parents for the Baptism of their children. She later took a similar position in Adel, Iowa. "I found that adult formation was very satisfying because I was able to use my creative skills more readily," she said.

In 2011, she began a completely new area of service as Ministry Director for the congregation's U.S. Province. "I really enjoyed this work because I was able to get to know a lot of the sisters and learn about the extensive work of our sisters in the United States," she said.

"Living with people who share the same values and who mutually accept and respect one another has had a very positive impact on my life," she said. "We were often encouraged to take on responsibilities we never dreamed of and relied on an ever deepening relationship with God to see us through.

"As I reflect on my life, I know that God desires each of us to find a path that will help us to 'act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God.' (Micah 6:8). For me, religious life has been that path."



At May Workshop, Science Meets Theology

Great thinkers have always attempted to explain people's relationship to the vast universe and the metaphysical place where God resides. On Saturday, May 20 (9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.) at St. Joseph Center, the workshop, "Becoming Love," will focus on the life and works of a Jesuit and an Anglican theologian: Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ, and John Polkinghorne, KBE, FRS. Dedicated to their scientific fields as much as to their faith, their lives and ideas make for thought-provoking study. Our presenters will be Sister Jane Elyse Russell, OSF, Ph.D., and Sister Mary Carroll, OSF, D. Min. Register today: \$15. Contact: doloughlin@sssf.org or 414-385-5272.

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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