

October 2017

Upcoming Events

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

Pancake Breakfast/ Fall Festival

Sunday, October 1
8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Center

Transitus of St. Francis

Tuesday, October 3
6:30-7:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Chapel

Feast of St. Francis Mass

Wednesday, October 4
6:30-7:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Chapel

Book of Revelation Workshop

Saturday, October 7
9:30-11:30 a.m.
St. Joseph Center
Fee \$15; call 414-385-5272

“Tiger, Spirit of the Forest” Exhibit

Wed-Fri and Sun 12:00-3:00 p.m.
Alfons Gallery

Visit www.sssf.org for more upcoming events

Casa Alexia, Our Border Ministry

The mission of Casa Alexia is to stand in solidarity with migrants, immigrants, and victims of violence in the El Paso-Juárez border region. School Sisters of St. Francis have been committed to making these words a daily reality for many years by “being a hopeful presence and promoting actions responding to those in need.”

Sisters (from left) Kathy Braun, Fran Hicks, Josefina Lopez, Carol Jean Ory, Elsa Canan, and Arlene Woelfel offer accompaniment and counseling to victims of violence and their families, while providing education and other needed pastoral services. As our sisters also advocate for basic human rights in various ways, they raise awareness regarding the social, economic, and political realities of the border.



It is one thing to know about the activities and ministries of the sisters; it is another to have the privilege of seeing them firsthand visiting with women and children in El Paso’s extremely poor *colonias* neighborhoods; teaching English to a class of young women (and one young man) eager to learn; and accompanying a mother and young son who do not speak English to the airport, to mention a few examples.

Our sisters also began a monthly food program seven years ago in Juárez, last year serving more than 100 families with basic necessities such as oatmeal, canned milk and vegetables. (When a jar of peanut butter was added to the list, smiles of delight appeared as the children tasted peanut butter for the first time!) Other activities include ministering to the frail elderly; helping detainees use Capacitar healing techniques to alleviate the stress of incarceration; and empowering poor and uneducated women to earn a livelihood through their beautiful work as skilled seamstresses.

This border experience was eye-opening in so many ways, but seeing all that our amazing sisters are doing brings to mind the words Pope Francis spoke at his first General Audience of 2017: “To speak of hope to the desperate, it is necessary to share in their desperation; to dry the tears on their faces, it is necessary to unite our tears with theirs. Only in this way can our words and actions really offer some hope in the midst of such pain.”

For all that you do and all that you are, Sisters, we are grateful.

Sister Beth Ann Baricevich, OSF
Vocation Minister

Vocation Story: Sister Carol Ann Jaeger

By Sister Ruth Hoerig

Carol Ann Jaeger was born in Ashford, Wisconsin, just four days before Christmas and so was given the name “Carol,” meaning “song of joy.” Carol Ann thought about becoming a sister as early as the fourth grade but didn’t actually enter the convent until she had graduated from high school.

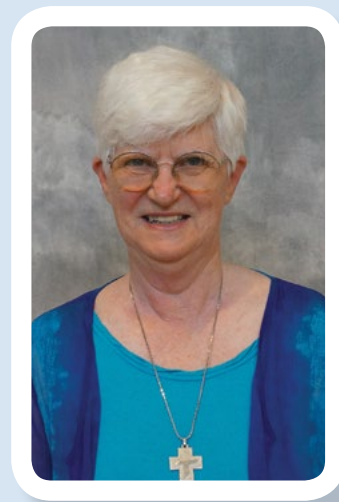
“My mother, who also wanted to become a sister in her younger years, supported me in my wish, but she wanted me to wait until I was older,” Carol Ann said. “She didn’t want me to be homesick and return home.” Carol Ann entered the community after graduating from St. Mary Springs Academy in Fond du Lac.

After graduating from Alverno College, Carol Ann taught second grade at St. Albert’s Parish, Milwaukee, and the primary grades at St. Joan of Arc in Okauchee, Wisconsin. Her experience as a primary grade religion teacher inspired her to earn a master’s degree in religious studies at Fordham University in 1971. She worked closely with religious education teachers in Wisconsin and Iowa, and also served as a parish director and pastoral associate in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Beginning in 2011, she served as director of personal services for the retired sisters living at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee.

“Through all my years of ministry, I always felt the presence of God,” she said. “I especially enjoyed preparing children and their parents for the sacraments and sharing the Word of God with the people among whom I worked.

“I feel very blessed as a vowed religious because of the numerous opportunities we have to grow in wisdom and grace. We were given a good deal of support to develop our gifts and talents, and we have generations of former students and parishioners who keep in touch.”

Throughout her life, Sister Carol Ann was buoyed up by a favorite scripture passage from John 10:10: “I have come in order that you might have life, and have it to the full.” That’s quite appropriate for someone named “Carol Ann” who has indeed been a “song of joy” to all the people who benefitted from her ministry in the Church.



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.



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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