Mass Celebrating the Life of

Francis Rothluebber

September 16, 2025

St. Joseph Center Chapel
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

In Memory of Francis Rothluebber

Prelude

Welcome Sister Deborah Fumagalli

In Memory Sister Katheen O'Brien

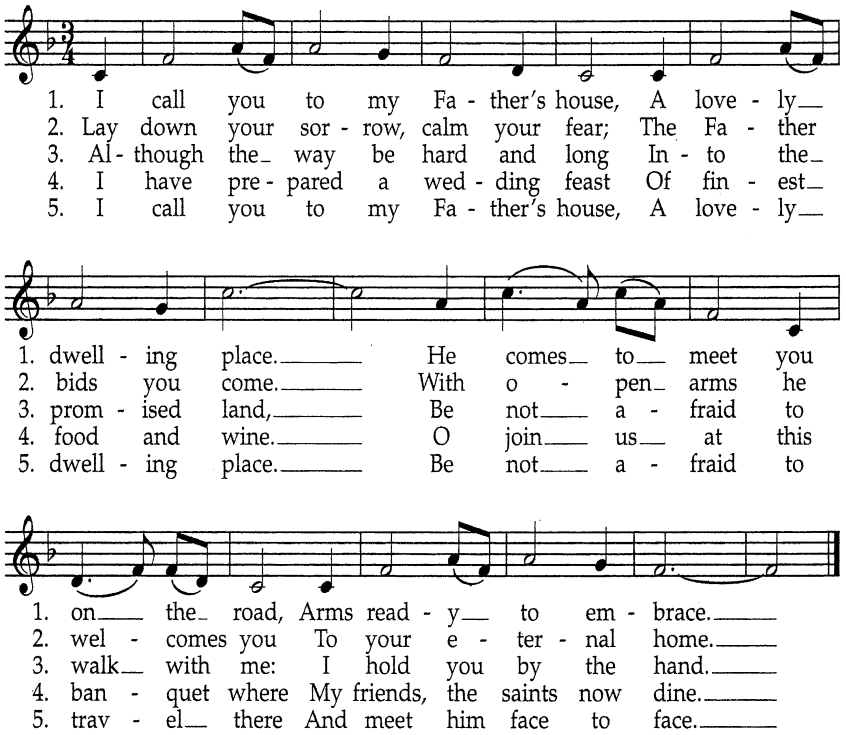
Introductory Rite

Greeting Father Joseph Juknialis

Sprinkling with Holy Water

Entrance Hymn I Call You to My Father' House

NEW BRITAIN Delores Dufner



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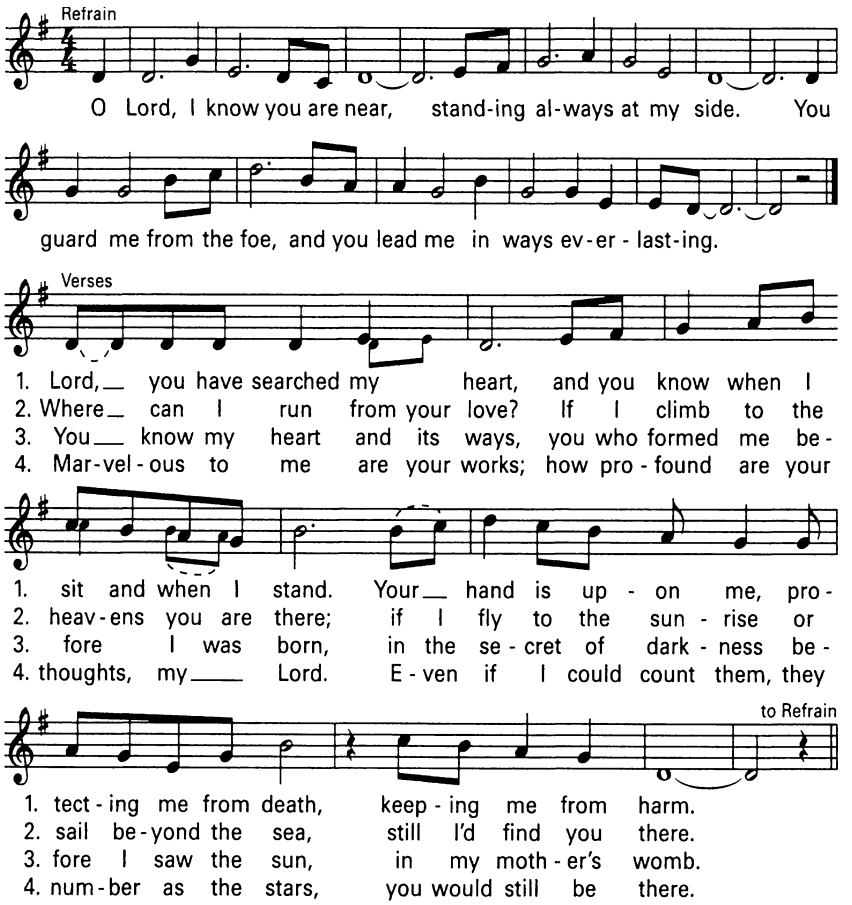
Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Deuteronomy 30: 11-14, 19b-20a

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 139, You Are Near Schutte



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Second Reading Ephesians 3:16-21

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

I am the resurrection and the life, **says** the Lord.
Whoever believes in me will **live** forever.

Gospel John 14:18-21

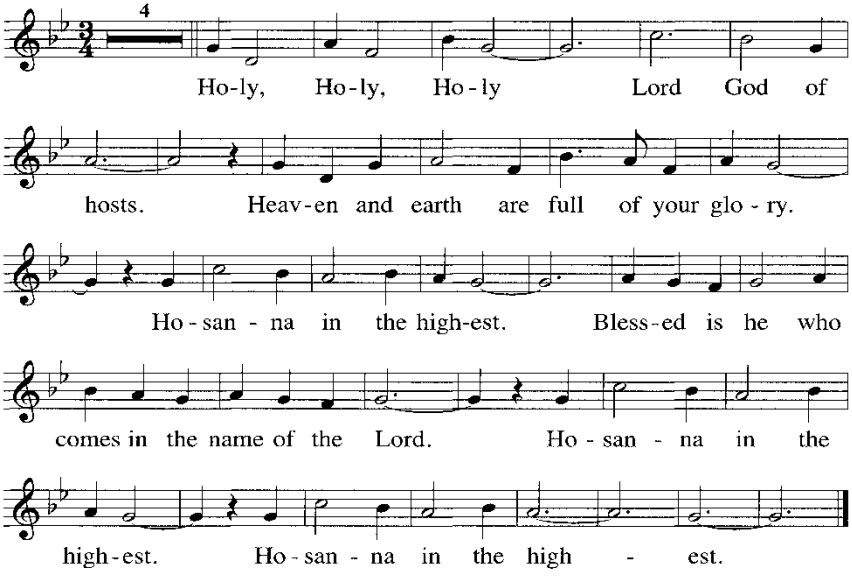
Homily Father Joseph Juknialis

Prayer of the Faithful

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts and Preparation of the Altar

Eucharistic Acclamations Mass of Creation M. Haugen



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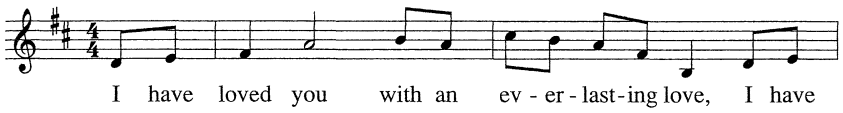
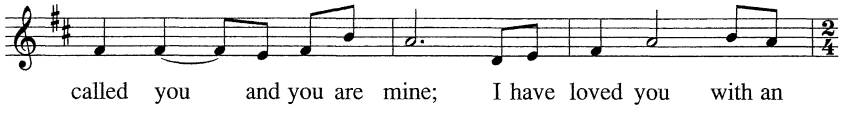
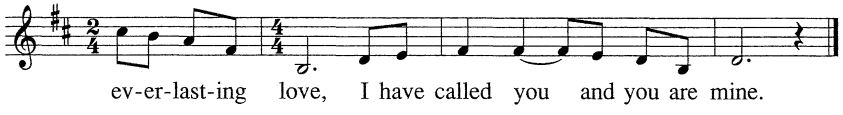
There will be two Communion stations.
Please come up the narrow aisle.
Return by the middle and the side aisles.

Communion Processional I Have Loved You Joncas

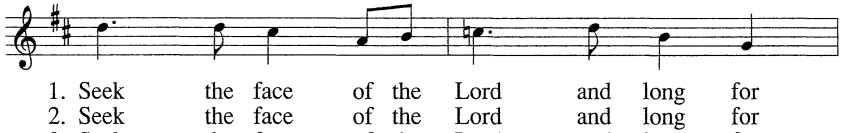
Refrain







Verses



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Final Commendation

Invitation to Prayer

Song of Farewell In Paradisum

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Prayer of Commendation

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Closing Hymn Sing with All the Saints in Glory

HYMN TO JOY

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School
Sisters
of
St. Francis

Francis Rothluebber, who served as the sixth President of School Sisters of St. Francis, died in Rockford, IL, on Aug. 13, 2025, at the age of 103. Alma Marie Rothluebber was born Feb. 14, 1922, in St. Libory, NE, the 4th of 10 children to Effie and William Rothluebber. She was received into the School Sisters of St. Francis on June 13, 1938, and was given the name Sister Francis Borgia. She is survived by her brother Hop of Norfolk NE and her sister Alvina of Sturgis, SD, as well as by several nieces, nephews and cousins; many friends; and by the School Sisters of St. Francis, with whom she ministered for more than half a century. As Sister Francis Borgia, she began her teaching ministry in Milwaukee in 1942 followed by two decades of service as teacher and principal at Alvernia High School in Chicago. In 1966, Francis was elected as President of School Sisters of St. Francis, leading this worldwide congregation of more than 3,600 professed sisters across the US, Europe, and Central America during the cultural and religious shifts of the mid 20th century. In May 1972, the international delegates unanimously re-elected her to the SSSF presidency and she was also elected to a 3-year presidential term with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). Her leadership of LCWR influenced the renewal of religious life in many US congregations. Later, Francis ministered as a lecturer, workshop leader and spiritual director in Milwaukee (1976-1985) and then as founder of Columbiere Center (now known as Spirit Mountain Retreat Center) in Idyllwild, CA. In 1994, Francis received dispensation from her religious vows but remained a lifelong friend of the community and her sisters. Author of numerous books, articles, and multimedia presentations, Francis continued to write into her late 90s. She also founded New Momentum for Human Unity and created an award-winning 2009 documentary film "City of the Dawn" spotlighting the southern Indian city of Auroville. After an injury late last year, Francis moved to Rockford, IL, where she received care at the home of a friend and the services of Northern Illinois Hospice Association.

Following today's liturgy, there will be an evening gathering of friends at Sacred Heart Center (next door to St. Joseph Center) to celebrate Francis' life and legacy. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Francis' name to a religious or charitable organization of your choice. A service and interment will be held in Idyllwild, CA at Spirit Mountain Retreat Center on September 24, 2025.