

# INTERCOM

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS, CLINTON, IOWA

FEBRUARY 2013

## GENERAL LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT



Thank you all so much for your prayers and concern for Sister Mary Smith.

Mary's family, many friends, Sister Phyllis Morris, and the sisters at The Canticle continue to walk with her each day in her last months, weeks, days.

She continues to recognize us and tries

to respond, though in quiet whispers, when she can. She knows that you all are praying and thinking of her, no matter how far away you are. Sister Phyllis reads your cards and letters to her and she smiles often.

Sister Eileen Golby and Sister Anne Martin Phelan want to thank you, too, for your prayers and support during these past few months. Mary's illness has had a huge impact on the General Leadership Team, as you are all aware. They have had to look ahead and make plans to fill the huge hole left by Mary's absence. Sister Eileen and Sister Anne Martin will be talking with sisters at Spring Regional Meetings and regarding names of sisters who (1) are qualified and (2) will agree to give at least half-time to leadership work.

Please give this careful consideration before those meetings.

Speaking of Regional Meetings, there are four choices of locations to attend. The schedule for the day in each region will be to gather at 8:30 a.m., begin with prayer at 9:00 a.m. and finish by 3:00 p.m. We have some important reports and questions to discuss on those days and we hope that you will work in some time to socialize as well. Please contact the HOST in your region to let her know that you will or will not attend.

*Thank You*

Sister Eileen and Erin Meyermann recently attended a workshop on Covenant Relationships... 'a commitment between 2 or more religious institutes to face the future together.' There are several examples of communities who have already formed such covenants. "The Spirit may call us to discern and complete our journey. But, while the Spirit gives us wisdom, the Spirit also leaves the details to us." Sister Eileen and Erin reported that such a relationship could be very helpful in our future together. The congregations in this upper-Mississippi River area have already been meeting to talk about resources that we can all share with each other. The Spirit is at work.

Sister Anne Martin attended an LCWR Think Tank on "Faithful Discipleship in Today's Church." Interestingly enough, on the first day of the 'think tank', Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation from the papacy! The chief presenter, Anthony Gittens, C.S. Sp. noted that the decision revealed a great capacity for imagination. The whole three days of input and reflection was a crash-course in imagination, vision, conversion, discipleship and mission. It gave Sister Anne Martin many insights to use in our future planning. She is grateful for the opportunity.

Sister Eileen says 'thank you' to those who have returned their Power of Attorney for Finance forms and she encourages others to complete their forms as well.



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## CALENDER OF EVENTS

February 24: [Celebrating Vatican II: Sharing the Vision](#)

March 2: Chicago Regional Meeting

March 16: Iowa Regional Meeting

April 13: Western Regional Meeting & Southern Regional Meeting

May 12-17: Spring Retreat at The Canticle (led by Rev. Ed Peklo)

## ♪ WORTHY OF NOTE ♪

### Initial Discernment - Emily Brabham

We extend a warm welcome to Emily Brabham who will begin her candidacy for vowed membership with the Sisters of St. Francis in the summer of 2013. Emily is a very creative and outgoing young woman who is presently serving as Youth Minister in Durango, Colorado. Emily will be moving to Chicago in July and will be seeking employment in the Chicago area. We invite you to keep Emily in prayer as she seeks employment and continues her discernment process.



Emily was born in New York and her parents moved to Oregon when she was thirteen years old. Her parents live in Sherwood, Oregon along with her sister Ellen. She has two brothers and one sister who reside in New York and a brother in Texas. You can see her family spans the USA.

Emily's response to her acceptance letter was; "I simply could not be happier or more at peace in this moment! God certainly put Sr. Gael in my life at the right time. I am honored to be able to take this next step." We are excited to have Emily begin her journey with us as she continues her discernment process.

### Sojourner - Julie Ferraro

We are pleased to introduce Julie Ferraro who is presently living in Oceanside, California. Julie is with the Franciscan Friars at Mission San Louis Rey Parish where she is the Mission Director and Volunteer Coordinator. Julie applied last fall to begin the Sojourner process and has been involved with Sister LaVern Olberding and the Franciscan Peace Connection. She has been helping with the monthly newsletter. Julie's position at the Mission will end in June and she asked if we had anything here she could do.



In order for us to get to know Julie, we have invited her to come and stay with us for three weeks. She will be arriving on Thursday, February 28, and will be living at The Canticle until Wednesday, March 20. This will allow the sisters to take the time to get to know her personally and see if her talents are in the areas needed.

Please give Julie a warm Franciscan welcome!

## CELEBRATING VATICAN II: SHARING THE VISION

Sunday, February 24 2:00pm  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church  
Hiawatha, Iowa



Follow Up Discussion  
March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
Prince of Peace Parish  
Clinton, Iowa

### Liturgical Reform: The Crucial Impact and Legacy of Vatican II

Come and hear Massimo Faggioli reflect on how the liturgical constitution is vital to the achievements of Vatican II, to the core theology of the Council, and to its impact on Catholicism through the world. Faggioli studied and taught in Europe before becoming Assistant Professor of Theology at St. Thomas University, St. Paul, Minnesota. Specializing in the history of Christianity, his most recent books are *Vatican II: The Battle for Meaning*, and *True Reform: Liturgy and Ecclesiology in the Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

After the event, a follow-up discussion will be held locally at Clinton's Prince of Peace Parish in the family room at 6:30pm on March 7th. Everyone is invited to attend, even if you did not attend the presentation in Hiawatha. The question and answer session will be centered on points Faggioli provided and should be of interest to anyone who appreciates the Liturgy.

## DEVELOPMENT OFFICE REPORT

Work in the Development Office is beginning to pick up speed. Sister Mary Ann Phelan has returned to work part-time and is trying to catch up. She would like to thank all of you for your support and love during her hip surgery and rehab, "you are so wonderful!" Gratefully our donors continue to send gifts regardless. We have had a generous response to our annual Sisters' Retirement Fund request. Sister Mary Ann is currently working on newsletters for St. Francis de Paula alumni and the *Reconnect* for our former sisters, and is planning the spring solicitation request.

## SAVE THE DATE

A 5-year commemorative event of the Postville raid will be held

**Friday, May 10th**

starting at the Federal courthouse in Cedar Rapids and concluding at the Immaculate Conception Church.

Come and hear from speakers who experienced or were involved in some way with the raid!

*(The Inter-congregational Immigration Task Force is planning this event. Sister Jane McCarthy currently serves on this task force.)*

## GUN VIOLENCE GROUP

### Discipleship Response to the Crisis of Violence in America

In the aftermath of the Sandy Hook shootings, local residents have begun gathering to consider together the root of the problem of violence and how we might address it. The group meets on Monday evenings at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Clinton, and includes people from several different faith communities. Captain Greenwalt of the Clinton Police Department recently addressed the group on February 4th.

Join us for our next gathering on  
Monday, February 25th at 6:00pm!

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
715 S Third Street  
Clinton, Iowa 52732

## PEACE SOUP - A LENTEN SERIES OF COMMUNITY & DISCUSSION

Join Jesus Christ Prince of Peace Parish Pax Christi for a simple Lenten supper of homemade soup and bread. The meal will be followed by a presentation on the violence that surrounds us and ways we can help to heal those who are hurting. A few upcoming topics include:

### February 26 - Human Trafficking

Human trafficking, both for labor and for sex, is among the largest and fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world. The guest speaker, Maggie Tinsman of the Quad Cities, is a former Iowa State Senator who introduced legislation to make human trafficking a felony in Iowa. She has been recognized as Quad Cities Woman of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and Iowa Social Worker of the Year and has been the recipient of numerous awards.

### March 5 - Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is one of the least understood problems today. It is often invisible due to the reluctance of elders to report instances - especially in rural areas. It may come as a surprise to many that most elder abuse is done by family members. In addition to physical abuse, the elderly may suffer from financial and emotional abuse as well. The presenter will be Kassie Streveler, MSW of McDonough District Hospital in Macomb, Illinois.

### March 12 - Wage Injustice in the Workforce

The United States prides itself on the idea of self-improvement. If someone works hard enough, he/she should be able to make it. However, there are some who work hard with full-time jobs and still cannot cover the costs to live. In this session, we will gain an understanding of the underlying causes of the violence of wage discrimination and those exploited in the struggle for fair and equitable compensation.

### March 19 - Healing Violence Through Faith

How do we, as people of faith, respond to violence? Faith communities should be sanctuaries of trust, safety, and guidance. Our spirituality gives us a moral compass of peace. We are called to use prayer to foster hope and support for victims while working to cultivate a culture of peace throughout the community.

**Peace Soup 2013**  
St. Boniface Hall  
2520 Pershing Blvd - Clinton

**Every Tuesday during  
Lent at 6:00pm**  
Free and open to the public!

**Celebrate Lenten Vespers**  
with the Sisters of St. Francis  
at The Canticle



Every Sunday during Lent  
at 6:00pm

## ASHFORD VOLUNTEER FAIR

Ashford University invited local organizations to set up booths at their volunteer fair to showcase volunteer opportunities for students and staff members. Sisters Joan Theiss, Teresa Kunkel, Marilyn Shea, Anne Martin Phelan, and Eileen Golby helped staff the Sisters of St. Francis booth. Renee Williams and Gabriela Egging also took turns at the table. A special thanks to Kate Marlowe for creating displays and advertising materials for the booth.



Sisters Joan Theiss and Teresa Kunkel at the fair

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# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CELEBRATIONS

## St. Mary's Catholic School - Storm Lake, Iowa

St. Mary's Catholic School in Storm Lake, Iowa celebrated Catholic Schools Week and the school's Centennial year January 27 - February 1 with a Mass and other school activities. The Catholic Schools Week Mass honored Msgr. William Cooke, who is credited with opening St. Mary's School. The Clinton Sisters of St. Francis "accepted the charge of the infant school" and in September 1912, St. Mary's opened a full elementary and ninth grade. Some of the rural students boarded with the sisters during the school week. The Sisters of St. Francis staffed the school through the 1949-1950 school year.



Msgr. Cooke and Clinton Franciscan Sisters  
(photo from [www.stmarys-storm.pvt.k12.ia.us](http://www.stmarys-storm.pvt.k12.ia.us))

## Regina Catholic Education Center - Iowa City, Iowa

Sister Sarah Martz returned to her alumni school and gave a presentation at Regina Elementary during Catholic Schools Week. She was asked by the elementary assistant principal to come and speak about her experience of being in school at Regina, her religious vocation, and little bit about her present ministry. Sister Sarah based her presentation on the commonality of each of the topics - love. "While I was in school, I learned all of the important academic stuff that is expected, but the faculty and staff of the school also reinforced what my parents had started teaching me about love...how to love oneself, love others, and love God! My religious vocation is a response to God out of love in gratitude for the love I have been shown. The ministry that I am involved in is one of love...loving those who frequently feel unloved/unlovable."

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## PEACE CONCERT

The third annual Peace Concert was held on Sunday, February 10th at 3:00pm at Zion Lutheran Church in Clinton. The purpose of the Peace Concert was to celebrate the power of music to promote peace. The concert featured various area church choirs. Brian Burns, the Assistant Professor of Music at Clark University in Dubuque, conducted the mass chorus. Sister Kathy Sadler and Sister Joan Theiss participated in the choir, as well as Associate Joyce Ollie and Sojourners Gabriela and Lou Egging. Kudos to the planning committee: Rev. Jennifer Henry, pastor of Zion Lutheran; Ruth Blom, liturgical minister of Zion Lutheran; and Laura Anderson, Sister Mary Smith, Sister Marilyn Shea, Sister Kathy Holland of the Sisters of St. Francis.



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## DINGMAN PEACE AWARD DINNER



Sister Simone Campbell and Sally Frank

Simone Campbell SSS, Executive Director of NETWORK, who gained national acclaim for "Nuns on the Bus" will be the keynote speaker at the 18th Annual Maurice J. Dingman Peace Award Dinner on March 9 at Our Lady Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny, Iowa. The dinner will honor Sally Frank, local scholar and courtroom guardian protecting the First Amendment. Sally, educated at Drake University, has been a scholar of the U.S. Constitution and for decades has defended the First Amendment rights of Iowans who have used the Bill of Rights to challenge U.S. foreign and domestic policy. Tickets for the dinner are \$40 and available by calling (515) 554-7899.

## UPDATES AT THE CANTICLE

- The third floor at The Canticle will undergo some refreshing soon. Painting will begin shortly in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor neighborhoods and hallways. The Chapel will be re-painted after Easter and get new carpet once the painters have finished.
- Just completed in February, a new walk-in tub has been installed in 2W. The bathtub features massaging jets and an in-line water heater so the water will not get cold. With just a short step up, even the sisters with mobility challenges can use it. This is great news for Sister Marie de Lourdes Davenport who wasn't able to grasp the safety bar in the tub room when she moved to The Canticle almost sixteen years ago. "I look forward to using the new tub."
- Kathleen and Tom Duckhorn of Ellicott City, MD donated a new 50" television to the sisters. Kathleen was in our OSF community as Sister Joseph Ann O'Riordan. The TV is on a wheeled-stand and can be moved from neighborhood to neighborhood. It has a Blu-ray player with it as well. The Blu-ray player is Wi-Fi ready and has the capability to stream Netflix movies and other Internet features. The TV can also be hooked up to a laptop so presentations can be given.



Hair stylist Lindsey Voss beautifies Sister Marie and Sister Dorothy in The Canticle's new room.

- A salon room, located on the first level, was recently converted back into a functioning hair salon. Hair stylist Lindsey Voss will be coming every other Monday morning for appointments. She may come at other times as well, based on need and her availability. She does have her own hair salon in Charlotte, Iowa called "Shears to You" and a ten year old daughter, Madi. Lindsey can provide cuts, styles, or perms. Having her hair washed, Sister Marie de Lourdes Davenport said, "We are glad to have somebody here so we don't have to go out." Sister Dorothy Stolmeier added "It is wonderful to have her here. She is very careful and very accommodating."

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### Our prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of:

Joan Reed, mother of Julie Reed. Julie is a former Sister of St. Francis.



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## WOMEN'S CONNECTION HONORS TWO ASHFORD STUDENTS



Ashford University students Nkemdilim Okwumabua and Brittany Zinser were among the fifteen outstanding regional women who were honored by Women's Connection on January 23<sup>rd</sup> as emerging women leaders for their exceptional leadership initiative and high academic achievement, and for making a difference in their school and community.

Okwumabua from Rockford, IL and Zinser from Cincinnati were among 350 women leaders who gathered for the Women's Connection "Women in Leadership" event, featuring US

District Judge Sara Darrow on the topic, "Find Your Voice: Perspectives on Passion in Life and Leadership."

The mission of the Women's Connection - one of the largest women's organizations in eastern Iowa and western Illinois - is to inspire, educate, connect, and empower women.

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## THE ALVERNO LOOKS TO FUTURE WITH BLESSING OF NEW CHAPEL

The Alverno Healthcare Facility celebrated the blessing of their new chapel and dedication of the altar Tuesday, January 22, 2013. Residents, staff, and guests joined together in worship, with Bishop Martin Amos presiding. Special music was provided by the Sugar Creek/Bryant Choir.

The creation of the new chapel took place as part of an overall renovation of the front lobby and main lounge areas. The project, which began in October 2012, also included the creation of office spaces and a conference room. During the renovation, worship services and activities were relocated to other areas of the building. According to Alverno Administrator, Libby Goodman,

"The months of hard work and dedication to this project have certainly paid off. The chapel at The Alverno has always served as the heart of our organization and we are pleased to be able to have this beautiful, new space to worship, which offers the privacy requested by our residents." While the new flooring, walls, and furnishings are all currently in place, they are still waiting for the installation of three stained glass transom windows for the chapel area, which will depict the creation story.

In addition to the excitement created by these improvements, The Alverno is also excited for the future as it looks to celebrate 100 years in 2014 and move forward with its new owner, Trinity Senior Living Communities (TSLC). Goodman shared, "We are very appreciative of all of the work done by the Sisters of St. Francis over the past 98 years and we have so much to look forward to." While the ownership of The Alverno will change from the Sisters of St. Francis of on March 1, 2013, the facility will continue to operate under the name of The Alverno and the Sisters and Board will continue to serve in an advisory capacity.

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## ONE BILLION RISING

On February 14th, all women (and those who love women) were invited to join one billion individuals across the world to dance, rise up, and demand an end to violence against women. One Billion Rising is a global strike for those who refuse to participate in the status quo until rape and rape culture end. The movement was designed to show the world women's collective strength, numbers, and solidarity across borders.

Sister Martinelle Bonnell first shared this movement with Laura Anderson at the Center for Active Nonviolence and Peacemaking and with Ashford University in hopes that local groups would pick up on it and act. Laura forwarded the information onto the YWCA and they elected to participate. Zumba instructors at the Clinton YWCA led participants in the "Break the Chain" dance from 6:30-7:15pm on February 14th. Ashford University's Psychology Club also chose to participate and incorporated the routine into their Valentine's Day dance that was held on campus. A special thanks for Sister Martinelle for making the suggestion!



## SPRING RETREAT AT THE CANTICLE

May 12 - 17, 2013

**'Abundant Blessings; Grace upon Grace.'**

Director: Fr. Edward Peklo, SVD Chicago Province

*The retreat will begin at 3:00pm on  
Sunday, May 12th and will end after  
lunch on Friday, May 17th.*

Contact: Renee Williams, Canticle Administrator

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## IMMIGRATION MINISTRY IN CHICAGO AREA

In order to live our public stance on immigration, the sisters and associates in the Chicago area have been collaborating with two groups: Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants (ICDI) and Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants (SBI). The organizations have a fivefold thrust:

- Prayer vigil outside and prayer inside with people to be deported at Broadview Detention Center
- Pastoral care ministry at McHenry county jail
- Court watch program
- Post detention accompaniment
- Lobbying for change in laws



Fr. Tim Gray, Sister Maria Zeimen, & Connie Saldivar

Recently the former St. Mary of Czestochowa convent was obtained as a post detention house. It is presently being renovated, cleaned, and furnished. It will be named the Marie Joseph Hospitality House in memory of a woman who, several years ago, was released from jail with nowhere to go and no one to care for her. She froze to death on the streets of Chicago.

Those released from jail will be welcomed to live at the hospitality house while looking for employment and permanent housing. Sister Gael Gensler and people from St. Julie Billiart parish will be donating some of the linens for the 17 beds in the home.

Chicago Associate Helen Bleth, Connie Saldivar (in the process of becoming an Associate), and Sister Maria Zeimen participate in the weekly prayer vigil. Connie and Sister Maria are part of four teams who offer pastoral care to those in McHenry jail. Their pastoral care team has fifteen members, including Fr. Tim Gray, a member of Priests of the Sacred Heart, who is pictured above. Many of the sisters, including those at The Canticle, and associates are in communion with those detained through prayer. Helen hopes to be participating in the court watch program. People from ICDI, SBI, and the Catholic Conference of Illinois recently spent a day in Springfield lobbying for temporary driver's licenses for undocumented people in Illinois. It passed both the House and the Senate and has been signed by Gov. Quinn.

The Clinton Franciscans have supported this ministry through a donation from the Congregational Sharing Fund to ICDI.

### SISTER MARIA ZEIMEN MOVING TO CLINTON

The ARCH L'Arche Clinton Community Leader, Keith Kalaukoa, has made the difficult decision to resign from his position after nine years of service. He will remain until the end of February. Sister Maria Zeimen will serve as the Interim Community Leader for the next 4-5 months. She will be living at The Canticle in Clinton during that time. Please keep the Arch Community in your prayers during this time of transition.



**Sisters of St. Francis - Clinton, Iowa**  
**[www.clintonfranciscans.com](http://www.clintonfranciscans.com)**

**The heart of our Franciscan charism, our corporate mission, is active nonviolence and peacemaking.**