

COMMUNITY NEWS – MARCH 2024



Sisters of Saint Francis of the Providence of God

Confidently, joyfully, we go Forward!



I used to believe that prayer
changes everything,
but now I know that prayer changes us,
and we change things.

Mother Theresa

CALENDAR

March 05	Franciscan Federation Board Mtg. - Zoom
March 06	General Leadership Mtg – Zoom
March 09	Associate Mtg, St. Germaine, 10-12
March 10	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 10	Community Day Celebration, Mass and Luncheon, Canongate 11:00 AM
March 12	Community Day Joint Prayer Service with Brazil, 6 PM Online
March 17	St. Patrick's Day 🍀
March 18	MSMW Mtg with Bishop Zubik 8:30-1:00
March 19	First Day of Spring
March 23	Sisters Place Members/Board Meeting, Kearns Spirituality Center 9:30-12
March 28	Holy Thursday
March 29	Good Friday – Offices closed
March 31	Easter Sunday

BIRTHDAYS & FEAST DAYS

Ir. Maria Adelma B



Ir. Neide B



Ir. M. Amelia B

FRANCISCAN FEDERATION HOLDS LISTENING AND LEARNING SESSIONS



The transition of structure and widening of the tent at the Franciscan Federation continues this year with a welcome to all Franciscan-minded people and organizations. The Federation hopes to become a meeting place, a resource center and a catalyst to spread our Franciscan charism and mission. (At left: President Sister Suzanne Kush OSF, Assoc. Director Eunice Park, and Executive Director Sara Marks)

In the effort to collect the ideas, hopes and dreams of our members, the Federation is holding six “Listening and Learning” sessions throughout 2024. The first of these was held in Marriottsville at the Bon Secour Retreat Center. Sisters Janet and Althea attended the two-day meeting. This time together with 30 other Franciscans-at-heart allowed the Federation leadership to share the progress of the transformation of the organization and listen to the hopes and suggestions of the attendees.



A new database has also been created. Names of Sisters were sent to the Federation office. You may be receiving an invitation to log in to receive Federation notices and to access the Members-only resources. The website is also new, with multiple resources available for all of us. Check it out at www.franfed.org



PITTSBURGH DIOCESE CELEBRATES CONSECRATED LIFE DAY

The office of the Delegate for Religious convened religious from the Diocese on February 4th to celebrate Consecrated Life Day. Although it has been celebrated in September along with the Jubilees of religious, Sister Mindy Welding wanted everyone to have a chance to get together to celebrate our life. The event was held at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Baden PA.

Sisters Janet, Althea and Mary Ann represented our congregation at the event. A special prayer service helped us recall the great gift of our vocation. Each congregation placed a symbol of their community before the altar, listened to a beautiful reflection and sang our hearts out. The service was followed by refreshments and a chance to socialize with one another.



For the World Day of Consecrated Life, Pope Francis reminded us: “Every day the Lord visits us, speaks to us, reveals himself in unexpected ways and, at the end of life and time, he will come. He himself exhorts us to stay awake, to be vigilant, to persevere in waiting. Indeed, the worst thing that can happen to us is to let “our spirit doze off”, to let the heart fall sleep, to anesthetize the soul, to lock hope away in the dark corners of disappointment and resignation.

Let us be restless, let us be moved by the Spirit, like Simeon and Anna. If, like them, we live in expectation, safeguarding our interior life and in conformity with the Gospel, if, like them, we live in expectation, we will embrace Jesus, who is the light and hope of life.”

BROOKDALE CELEBRATES THE GIFTS OF RESIDENTS



Brookdale Senior Living has many opportunities for residents to enjoy one another and to share their gifts. Sister M. Edward had the opportunity to share her love of song at a talent show this February. Among many participants doing skits, reciting poems and singing their favorite tunes, Sister Edward sang “I Did It My Way”, the very popular song sung by Frank Sinatra.

She has many other songs ready to share when the occasion rises. There will be another event in March, so be prepared to hear more beautiful melodies!

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES SEEK COLLABORATION

The Catholic Sisters Leadership Council and the Delegate for Religious office sponsored a conversation among congregations in the Pittsburgh area regarding the LCWR efforts to collaborate and to discuss potential ways to collaborate together to meet the needs of our congregations. Mark Schafale, Chief Operations Officer for the Felician Sister, is coordinating LCWR efforts to match congregations based on needs and resources and spoke to the group about his experiences.



Nine congregations were represented. Sister Janet

attended and found the conversation enlightening. Several congregations are seeking memory care placements, others would like to explore sharing financial or Human Relations services. Further conversations are being scheduled.

MEETINGS IN BRAZIL HELP DISCERN THE FUTURE

Our Sisters gathered for four days of prayer and discussion as they continue deepening their sharing with one another and discern the future as they discuss the ongoing needs of the geographic area. The meetings concluded with an informative presentation on Liturgy by Fr. Eduardo, a good friend of the Sisters, and the Commitment Service for the Lay Franciscans.



ANNA CLAUDIA BEGINS HER JOURNEY IN RELIGIOUS LIFE

On Sunday, February 25, Anna Claudia moved in to our Novitiate House in Vila Alpina. About 12 of her family members came with her to see her new home and community members. She will be officially accepted into the Aspirancy this week. She has been in the process of discerning her vocation with Sister Antonia Maria for several years. A mature young woman who held an administrative position, rented a house and had her own car enjoyed was able experience our mission in Itinga and at Paz e Bem and weekends in several other communities is anxious to begin this new phase of her life. Let us keep her in prayer.



Sister Maria Goretti will be her director during this phase while she assists in the small communities of Vila Alpina, studies theology and the congregational curriculum and community life

(At left: Sr. Adriana, Anna Claudia, Sr. Janet)



HOLY PERSEVERANCE, ANNA CLAUDIA!