

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Assisi Heights—Rochester, MN

Commemorative Issue—Sept. 2022

By S. Sue Reif, OSF, Volunteer Coordinator



Sisters of Saint Francis Celebrate

50 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

at Assisi Heights

1972-2022



CALLED TO BE INSTRUMENTS OF GOD'S LOVE

Prayer Ritual in Lourdes Chapel Followed by Outdoor Reception June 9, 2022

'Twas a beautiful evening in Rochester, Minnesota on June 9th as Sisters welcomed our lay volunteers into Lourdes Chapel for a special prayer service to celebrate 50 years of Volunteer Services at Assisi Heights and to give thanks for all of our volunteers. The theme was "Called to be Instruments of God's Love."



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this was the first time that most of our volunteers had been inside Lourdes Chapel since March 2020! The community spirit was alive as they came together to celebrate and pray together.

Sister Cecily Schroepfer played music on her flute to set the tone and to begin the prayer service.

Sister Mary Goergen read an opening reflection from Sister Joyce Rupp's book "May I Have This Dance" noting how "God's love seeks to dance and make music for the world" through our own individual personalities and life experiences. The Sisters of Saint Francis are grateful for our volunteers who certainly make God's love come alive in many different ways at Assisi Heights!



Sister Alice Thraen read a reflection by St. Teresa of Avila, reminding everyone that "Christ Has No Body on Earth but Yours." ".....Yours are the eyes with which Christ looks compassionately on this world. Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses all the world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Sister Dorothy Hansen proclaimed a fitting Scripture passage from St. Paul to our volunteers:

**"We Thank Our God Every Time We Think of You,
And When We Pray for You, We Pray with Songs of Joy...."—Phil. 1:3-4**





Several volunteers (Barb DeCramer, Bruce Rohde, Jeanette Fortier and Candace Shankland) read reflections by S. Joyce Rupp: "A Litany of Being God's Instrument of Goodness" and "A Commitment to Give and Receive."

Throughout the service, Sister Anne Walch (accompanied by Lynn Karnati on the piano) led everyone in singing "God's love is flowing like a river, flowing out of you and me....."

A final blessing for volunteers was led by Sister Ramona Miller, Community Minister of the Sisters of Saint Francis. The service concluded with the Peace Prayer of St. Francis.

Sister Sue Reif, Volunteer Coordinator for Assisi Heights, invited the volunteers to enjoy an outdoor reception on our beautiful grounds.



Volunteers visited with each other as they enjoyed hearty appetizers and beverages on a lovely evening on the west side of our grounds as the sun set. A good time was had by all!

(Photo: Carolyn Isaak, Sr. Alice Thraen, Jean Rynda)





Jeanette Fortier, Marianne Texley, Colleen Peplinski, Catherine Ewing, Carol Hennessey



Melinda Holtegaard, Carolyn Isaak, Jean Rynda, Julie Murray



Gene and Rachel Mullenbach



Linda Ims and Barb DeCramer



Bobbie Losure, Linda Behrens, Diane Wroblewski, Sally Burns, Margie Dretsch



Sister Anne Walch and Ellen Stelling



Sister Karen Collette and Fr. Jim Kunz



Charlie Farrell, Jim Fritsch, Sister Marisa McDonald, Bruce Rohde, Bonnie Sokolov



Laxman Rajput and Jim Voegeli



Sisters Marlys Jax, JoAnn Haney, Barb Goegen, Tierney Trueman and Sue Reif

Sisters Celebration at Assisi Heights

Sunday Afternoon, June 12, 2022

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and extra safety precautions for the Sisters living at Assisi Heights, a second celebration was held for Sisters, to thank them for ALL that they do to volunteer to enrich life at Assisi Heights and to remember with gratitude the many volunteers who have given of their time, talents and love to the Sisters. Sisters enjoyed a prayer of thanksgiving and remembrance, ice cream sundaes and cookies while they visited with each other. Two of our lay volunteers spoke to the Sisters, telling stories about their history with the Sisters and how they enjoy volunteering at Assisi Heights: Rosemary Van Houten and Jeanette Fortier.



(Top Right: Sisters Helen Haag, Barbara Haag, June Kaiser, Rosemary Zemler)

(Left: S. Dale Lewis visits with Jeanette Fortier)

(Right: Rosemary Van Houten visits with S. Anne Walch)

(Bottom Left: Sisters Rosemary Cordell, Theresa Hoffman, Clara Ines Ordonez and Christine Stanoch)



(Bottom Right: Sisters Geneva Berns and Dorothy Hansen)

REMEMBERING WITH GRATITUDE.....

This year of 2022, as we celebrate 50 years of Volunteer Services at Assisi Heights, we remember with deep gratitude all of those early Sisters and lay volunteers who laid the foundation for a volunteer program at Assisi Heights:

Sister Bernadette Servaty, OSF who had the inspiration to launch an organized volunteer program at Assisi Heights in 1972 and served as the first Volunteer Coordinator.

Those early lay volunteers who helped Sr. Bernadette, especially Evelyn ("Evie") Cashman, first chairperson of the Volunteer Group
Lee Smith, first vice-chairperson of the Volunteer Group



Other Early Lay Volunteers Include:

Betty Murray--Virginia Hudson--Betty Voss--Pat Tomforde

Sisters who played instrumental roles in the early years of the volunteer program were:

S. Seton Slater--S. Conall O'Connell--S. Stephania Kienast--S. Mary Goergen—
S. Allan Halbur—S. Rita Patzner--S. Fidelis Logan--S. Elaine Fritz

We also remember with gratitude all of the hundreds of volunteers (women, men, teenagers, children and four-legged creatures) who have given generously of their time and talents, their care and love to the Sisters throughout the many years, since the days of our early beginnings and who continue to do so today.

*"We Thank Our God Every Time We Think of You,
And When We Pray for You, We Pray with Songs of Joy...."*

—Phil. 1:3-4



Today, Sr. Seton Slater (left) and Sr. Bernadette Servaty (right) now reap the benefits of all the work they did with volunteers 50 years ago. They both live on our Healthcare floors and appreciate all that volunteers do for them!