


Franciscan Spirit

Winter
2018

VOL 28



**"We are mothers when
we carry Him in our heart
and body through love
and give Him birth through
a holy activity."**

St Francis of Assisi

In this edition

Sister Pauline educates
to stop human trafficking
New Farm Coordinator
Nativity Display to benefit
pregnancy care centers
Celebration Jazz Concert
scheduled



REFLECTIONS FROM *Renita*

Sister Renita Brummer is Minister General of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Dear Friends,

Babies. We Sisters love babies. Their innocence and cuteness and smells (well at least most of the smells) speak to us of the humility of God. They open us to littleness and simplicity and welcome. They make us smile and coo and believe in goodness. They inspire so much hope.

It was years ago when I was reading the work of Dominican mystic Meister Eckhart that I came across his words, "What good is it to me that Mary gave birth to the son of God 2000 years ago if I do not give birth to Him in my person, my culture and my time?" I was reminded of St. Francis' words in the Letter to the Faithful, "We are mothers when we carry Him in our heart and body through love and a pure and sincere conscience; and give Him birth through a holy activity..." Though not many of us Sisters have born children, all of us have been engaged in carrying Christ in love and giving Him birth through holy activity. I know you have, too. Age doesn't restrict this kind of birthing. Each time we speak for the innocent, the victim, the voiceless, we birth Christ. Each time we sit in quiet prayer tuning our spirits to the Spirit of God; each time we hold the suffering of another, or express joy through the pain and paradoxes of life, break bread, go the extra mile, refrain from judgment, welcome the stranger . . . you get it!

As you enter into this season of wonder, do more than look at the sweet infant in the crib. Carry Him in love and give birth to him in your life, in your town, in your culture.

And let us make this a special season of loving and embracing and protecting babies.



News from Tau Center

As we prayerfully considered how to best serve as a transforming presence of Gospel values in the world, it became clear to us Sisters that we needed to deepen our commitment at our Franciscan Farm in De Soto, Missouri. To do so, we felt it was important to have the Farm Coordinator live on the property, to be a consistent presence of peace and hospitality there.

We are pleased to announce that Mr Jack Zimmerman has accepted the role of Franciscan Farm Coordinator. Jack brings a wealth of education and experience to our mission with a PhD in Geography, and undergraduate study in horticulture and cultural anthropology. He has taught at many levels, has experience at the Catholic Worker Farm with the Sinsinawa Dominicans in Wisconsin, and at The Lord's Acre Farm in North Carolina. He has also lectured on Pope Francis' ecological letter entitled "On Care for Our Common Home."

Along with Franciscans for Earth Director Nicole Heerlein, Jack will play an integral role in our education, collaboration and advocacy efforts.

We are grateful to Keith Heerlein for his faithful service to our mission, hosting groups at the Farm and being a presence at the Farmer's Market for the past eight months. May God bless him in his future endeavors.

The journey of our Franciscans for Earth

commitment continues to evolve, and you are a part of that journey with us! Look for opportunities to experience our Franciscan Farm in the near future.

We also invite you to visit the Tau Center this Christmas. For the past several years, we have hosted a baby supply drive in January, which we are continuing this year, but with a Franciscan twist!

We will have more than 150 different nativity

scenes, many from other cultures and parts of the world, on display at the Tau Center for you to view. We all know that St Francis' live nativity during midnight Mass in Greccio was inspiration for the crèche scenes still gracing homes today. We hope that the many artistic and cultural variations invite everyone to experience and truly celebrate the incarnation of the Word made flesh.

Just as the kings presented Jesus with gifts, we invite you to share with local babes. The suggestion admission is either \$5, a pack of diapers, or new/gently-used baby items. All will benefit area pregnancy care centers. This year's recipients will be Birthright and Our Lady's Inn locations in St Louis City and in Defiance, Missouri.

See the invitation on page 4 for details!



Sister Story: To Stop Human Trafficking

A conversation with Sister Pauline Schwandt...

With all the travel this time of year, hotels can be bustling places. While you seek lodging to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with family, ring in the New Year, or watch the Super Bowl with friends, a victim of human trafficking may be just down the hall. January is *Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month*, so this quarter's focus is on Sister Pauline who works to educate hospitality industry employees about this heinous exploitation.

Q - First, tell me about your upbringing.

I was raised in a loving home in South Omaha. Dad worked for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and Mom worked at St Catherine's Hospital, now Bergan Mercy in Omaha. My parents had 5 children. We lived simply — raised chickens, geese, a goat, and had a large garden and fruit trees. We went to Catholic grade school, St Stanislaus. We practiced many Polish customs focused on our Catholic faith. As a young family, we went to many weddings... the party was always at the Polish Home in South Omaha. We danced to many Polkas and celebrated with wonderful Polish foods.

Q - What or who brought you to the Franciscan Sisters? My cousins, Sisters Madonna and Barbara Mary both entered the convent when I was in school. I knew I wanted to be like them, and entered the aspiranture high school in St Louis which was on the property of our congregation. I loved the prayer life, the time spent with the other women learning how to be sisters... it was a

good life and one I felt called to. I made first vows in 1964 and professed final vows in '67.

Q - Please describe your work as a Franciscan Sister.

I currently minister at St Thomas More Parish in Omaha. There, I started an Outreach Committee to serve the needs of the homebound and those in nursing homes and hospitals. They are still part of our parish, and we want to offer support through the end of their faith journey. Since we have at least 60 funerals a year due to an aging congregation, I started the Bereavement Program. When someone loses their spouse, they experience a great need for gathering, sharing stories, and being supported by others who have been through it. I also provide "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) to help people discover the practice of the Catholic faith.

Before returning to Omaha two years ago, I served as Minister General and on the Leadership Team of the Congregation. Prior to that, I taught Religion at Daniel J Gross Catholic High School in Omaha, and I worked in Religious Education for the Archdiocese of Omaha, the Diocese of Baker, Oregon, and the Diocese of Great Falls, Montana. I would drive all over each diocese training and updating catechists on Vatican II. I also taught in grade schools and directed Religious Education for parishes.

Q - How did you become involved with the human trafficking education ministry?

Human Trafficking was one of our corporate

stands at a gathering of the LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious).

The problem is worldwide, and today we see it as a tragic form of slavery. In the US, "more people live in slavery now than at any other time in history" according to the website notrafficking.com. No city or town is immune to this \$150 billion a year global criminal enterprise, and I wanted to take action.

Here in Omaha, the majority of human trafficking is sex trafficking which is defined as people being forced or coerced into the commercial sex trade. If the individual is under the age of 18 and engaging in commercial sex, they are experiencing human trafficking regardless if force, fraud, or coercion is also taking place.

Statistics show that during a 6-month period in 2015-16, nearly 2,000 unique individuals were labeled for sale in Omaha on just one dark website peddling sex with men, women, children and toddlers. Toddlers were the most expensive, available for only \$150.

(According to a quote from Meghan Malik, in an Omaha World-Herald story this past June, "This no longer looks like 'street walking.' Present day sex trafficking looks more like a young teen going to a hotel room after school where he or she is bought and sold for sex multiple times. The next day, it starts all over again.")

Malik is trafficking project manager for the Women's Fund of Omaha. The article goes on to state that the Women's Fund, which is an active member in the Coalition On Human Trafficking, also "partners with and plays a key leadership role in the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force led by the attorney general and Salvation Army. In the past year, the Women's Fund, [cont'd page 4](#)



Sister Pauline offers the Coalition on Human Trafficking's Hotel/Motel Awareness Training.

Joy to the World!

You are invited to experience more than 150 Nativity Sets on display

Sat, Dec 15 & Sun, Dec 16 – 10am to 2pm

Mon, Dec 17 through Fri, Dec 21 – 9am to 4pm

Sat, Jan 5 & Sun, Jan 6 – 10am to 2pm



Franciscan Sisters
of Our Lady
of Perpetual Help

*Let every heart,
prepare Him room*

Just as the kings brought gifts to the Christ child, we invite you to donate to area pregnancy care centers. Suggested admission is a \$5 donation OR a pack of diapers OR a new/gently used baby item. All will benefit Birthright, Our Lady's Inn in St Louis or Our Lady's Inn in Defiance, MO.

NEEDED BABY ITEMS:
diapers - newborn, #1, #2
onesies - 0-3mos, 3-6mos
sleepers with footies
baby socks & hand mittens
new booties & bibs
new light receiving blankets
new bottles, brushes, pacifiers
baby lotion & shampoo
infant comb and brush sets
nail clippers
baby monitors
crib & porta-crib sheets
boppies & boppy covers
sound machines

Photo 45973478 © Photowitch - Dreamstime.com

335 S KIRKWOOD RD (NORTH OF KINDERCARE BEHIND PNC BANK)

EFFINGHAM • MONROE • OMAHA • KIRKWOOD

*Are you
feeding
your
wolves?*

PAVING PATHS FOR
PEACE & ALL GOOD



Franciscan Sisters of
Our Lady of Perpetual Help



Cont'd from Page 3:

and partners have trained more than 7,000 people across the state of Nebraska, including social service providers and law enforcement, to recognize and combat sex trafficking. It has also funded Coalition on Human Trafficking hotel/motel training at more than 80 lodging locations in the Greater Omaha and Lincoln metro areas.")

When I moved back to Omaha a few years ago, I contacted the congregations of the Servites, The Mercy Sisters, and the Sisters of Notre Dame, and was impressed by their efforts to stop human trafficking. I met with the retired Assistant Attorney General. And I attended a Hotel-Motel Project workshop.

I immediately began providing training to front desk personnel and housekeepers at 12 Omaha-area hotels. Because hotels and motels are often sites traffickers choose, they also provide an opportunity for them to get caught. During each session, I teach desk and cleaning staff the "3 Rs." We want employees to: Realize that the problem exists in our area, Recognize when it is happening in their facility, and Respond properly for a positive outcome. There are many indicators or unusual behaviors that traffickers can present. Understanding, identifying, and reporting them is key. Each session is scheduled for 45 minutes, but often the participants get involved and ask questions which extends the class time. I use a Powerpoint presentation... and a trifold display to help get the points across.

The hardest part is scheduling a date and time for the training. I work with hotel managers who are often stunned by the information and the positive response by their personnel. Personally, I am amazed how many people are not aware how prevalent Human Trafficking is here all across the US, even in smaller cities like Omaha.

Q - What is the biggest obstacle rescued victims face?

Once victims are freed, especially the young girls, they are badly traumatized and psychologically harmed. In addition to the physical harm, post-traumatic stress and the addictions that are often introduced to force them to comply, they are often deeply embarrassed, and their self esteem is severely damaged. Often, they have no support system. The process of helping them form new ways of thinking about themselves and their futures is a slow transformation. We could write several more articles on this very emotional, lengthy process, but suffice it to say that there is hope and professional help out there for victims, once they are freed. One example here is Magdalene Omaha, a sanctuary for healing and recovery to women survivors of trafficking, abuse and addiction. 84% of women who enter, graduate two years later, clean and sober through their program of "radical welcome and love." They provide safe long-term housing, a personalized plan for recovery, job training and education, all with the strong belief that "love heals."

Q - What can we do to help?

Educate yourself. Become aware of just

how prevalent this crime is in your area. Do some research — you will be surprised. Raise awareness by discussing it with family and friends. Stay alert. Report suspicious behavior. Obviously, if you know someone is in danger, call 911. If you suspect something, or believe you may have helpful information, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline toll-free at **1-888-373-7888** or TTY:711. Anti-Trafficking Hotline Advocates are available 24/7. You can also text the National Human

Trafficking Hotline at **233733**. If you would prefer to remain anonymous, there is a reporting tool available online at <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking>. Kids in danger may not be able to make a call, but they may get the opportunity to text and are encouraged to seek help by texting HELP to 233733 (beefree).

And as always, pray. The power of prayer is immeasurable. Please pray for victims, their advocates, witnesses and the perpetrators. ☁

SIGNS & SYMBOLS WITH SISTER REGINA, ARCHIVIST

The significance of Greccio

A lot of my time as archivist of the congregation is spent looking into the past. I may be researching who of our Sisters ministered at a given school or studying an individual Sister's file, hoping to find a picture of her to scan and email to a relative. I truly enjoy doing this, touching into the memory of one of my sisters and connecting them to someone who remembers and loves them. The month of December offers all of us an opportunity to be about searching and remembering. We spend time searching for the containers that hold our Christmas decorations and for the perfect space each year to place the Christmas tree and crèche. What a joyful time it is, digging into the boxes and finding treasured ornaments that bring back old memories.

Franciscans, especially those who have had an opportunity to visit Assisi and the Rieti Valley, call to mind at Christmas the story of Greccio, a village perched on a hilltop, in the Rieti Valley of Italy. Greccio was the site of the first living crèche on Christmas Eve in 1223. To the local people and Giovanni Velita, a gentleman St Francis had great respect for, Francis said, "If you want us to celebrate the present feast of our Lord at Greccio, go with haste and diligently prepare what I tell you. For I wish to do something that will recall to memory the little Child who was born in Bethlehem and set before our bodily eyes in some way the inconveniences of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, how, with an ox

and ass standing by, he lay upon the hay where he had been placed."

They went about preparing all the things the saint had told them. St Francis used very concrete means to awaken faith in the lives of the people. His desire was to help the people understand and emotionally engage with the Gospel story of the birth of Jesus. On Christmas Eve the friars gathered, the women and men of Greccio came and prepared candles and torches to light up the night. The Mass was celebrated over the manger and St Francis served as deacon. He sang the holy Gospel with full voice and preached to the people about the birth of the poor King in the city of Bethlehem. St Francis' reenactment of the Bethlehem event awakened the faith of the people of Greccio. The account says that "the night lit up like day, and everyone was overcome with wondrous joy." That first living crèche proved to be so popular that people throughout Europe soon set up living nativities, and statues of the nativity scene in town squares, churches and homes. St Francis is credited with founding the practice of displaying nativity scenes at Christmas time.

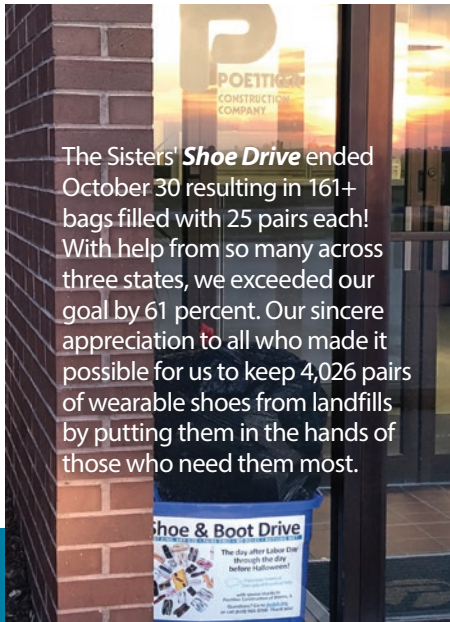
This Christmas as you visit our Nativity Display at Tau Center or view your set at home or at church, may you and your loved ones feel and experience in your hearts the power of the Incarnation — Emmanuel — God with us!



Pictures worth...



On October 27, amid the beauty of blue skies and turning leaves at the Franciscan Farm in DeSoto, many took advantage of Sister Renita's **Come & Be** retreat.



The Sisters' **Shoe Drive** ended October 30 resulting in 161+ bags filled with 25 pairs each! With help from so many across three states, we exceeded our goal by 61 percent. Our sincere appreciation to all who made it possible for us to keep 4,026 pairs of wearable shoes from landfills by putting them in the hands of those who need them most.



Thank you to all who helped and donated!





On October 15, Sisters Georgette and Pauline joined Sisters Renita and Rosalie in presenting ***Paving Paths for Peace & All Good*** at St Bernadette Parish in Bellevue, NE.



On November 5, St Louis-area Sisters brought ***Paving Paths to Peace & All Good*** home. Storytellers presenting to a large group at the Tau Center in Kirkwood included (l-r above) Sisters Regina and Ann Francis, Amy, Joann and Mary Anne, and Joan Phyllis.

a thousand words

Franciscans For Earth

FFE & partners receive grant

The Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help have long enjoyed collaborating with the Jefferson County University of Missouri Extension. We were excited when they approached us to join them in writing a grant through the Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program of the US Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA). We are pleased and humbled to announce that, earlier this fall, the grant was awarded and fully funded.

Our partners in this endeavor include the MU Extension and the Brain Injury Association of Missouri. A University of Missouri press release describes the program, "The grant will lead to creating and sustaining beginning farmers and ranchers in Missouri. Teams of experts plan to use educational approaches to improve land access, business planning, mentorship and farm management to grow new and beginning farmers and ranchers. MU Extension partners with the Missouri Brain Injury Association and the Franciscan Farm to fill in the gaps for beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, military veteran farmers, and farmers with disabilities and brain injury. The project will offer experiential learning for beginning farmers through workshops, Grow Your Farm courses, learning circles, farm walkabouts, technical one-on-one assistance and an internship program."

This grant also supports the mission of Franciscans for Earth through education, collaboration, and advocacy of maintaining a sustainable planet and care for Creation.

A Winter Blessing

from *The Circle of Life: The Heart's Journey Through the Seasons*
by Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr

*Blessed are you, winter,
dark season of waiting,
you affirm the dark seasons of our lives,
forecasting the weather of waiting
in hope.*

*Blessed are you, winter,
you faithfully guard a life unseen,
calling those who listen deeply
to discover winter rest.*

*Blessed are you, winter,
frozen and cold on the outside,
within your silent, nurturing womb
you warmly welcome all that longs
for renewal.*

*Blessed are you, winter,
your bleak, barren trees
preach wordless sermons
about emptiness and solitude.*

*Blessed are you, winter,
you teach us valuable lessons
about waiting in darkness
with hope and trust.*

*Blessed are you, winter,
season of blood red sunsets
and star-filled, long, dark nights,
faithfully you pour out your beauty.*

*Blessed are you, winter,
when your tiny snowflakes
flurry through the air,
you awaken our sleeping souls.*

*Blessed are you, winter,
with your wild and varied moods,
so intent on being yourself,
you refuse to be a people-pleaser.*

*Blessed are you, winter,
when ice storms crush our hearts
and homes,
you call forth the good in us
as we rush to help one another.*

*Blessed are you, winter,
your inconsistent moods
often challenge spring's arrival,
yet how gracefully you step aside
when her time has come.*

Photo by Melissa Mercier - Dreamstime.com

THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION \$2500 Trip Raffle



TO THE SUNRISE TOURS VACATION DESTINATION OF YOUR CHOICE!

Please consider supporting the Sisters today. A limited number of \$20 tickets are available!

Ask a Sister, use and mark the enclosed envelope, visit the website, or stop by Tau Center at 335 S Kirkwood Rd, St Louis. The winner will be drawn Saturday, January 19, during the **Celebration of Peace & All Good** Benefit Jazz Concert performed by Dawn Weber & Friends at the Kranzberg Art Studio in Midtown St Louis.

WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT & MAY OPT TO RECEIVE A \$2000 CASH PRIZE

Winter Energy Tips

adapted from money.usnews.com.

- 1. Use the sun for free heat.** Open curtains on your south-facing windows during winter days to bring free heat into your home, and close them when the sun goes down to keep the heat inside.
- 2. Bundle up.** Instead of turning up the heat, put on a cozy sweater and warm socks. Keep throw blankets on your couch, and add an area rug to insulate the floor.
- 3. Use ceiling fans to your advantage.** Ceiling fans can be used strategically to achieve better airflow: a clockwise rotation will trap heat inside to keep rooms warmer during cooler months. Use a low setting to gently push hot air back down.
- 4. Adjust the thermostat at night.** According to the US Department of Energy, you can save about 10 percent per year on heating bills by turning thermostats down 10–15 degrees for 8 hours. Invest in flannel sheets and a warm comforter and dial it down when you sleep.
- 5. Only heat rooms you use.** Close and seal off the vents in spare rooms and large storage areas to be more energy efficient. This directs the heat to rooms you do use.
- 6. Keep your furnace clean and unblocked.** Properly maintained vents reduce energy consumption. Check furnace filters monthly, and replace it when dirty.
- 7. Add moisture** The air inside your home can become very dry. Moist air feels warmer and holds heat better, so a humidifier can help you feel comfortable when your thermostat is set at a lower temperature. You can also increase the humidity with a collection of house plants.
- 8. Invest in insulation.** Heat escaping from homes without proper insulation costs big time. Get inexpensive insulation from your local home improvement store, and cover up all those areas where heat might escape. Start with foam weather stripping for your doors and windows; it's cheap and is extremely easy to apply.
- 9. Decorate for Christmas with LED** to use at least 75 percent less energy. And they last 25 times longer! They resist breaking and don't emit as much heat, so they're safer. Always remember to unplug before going to bed or leaving — they do continue to draw power when not in use.
- 10. Use exhaust fans only when necessary.** Your kitchen and bathroom fans pull the hot air out of your apartment. Use exhaust fans sparingly, and shut them off when you are done.

Perpetual Prayer Cards

Need a special gift or remembrance? Consider enrolling your loved one for Perpetual Remembrance in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Membership of Prayer. Each member shares in the graces of the Eucharist Celebration offered monthly, and in the daily prayers and good works of each of our Sisters. For the \$25 donation, your enrollee (or a family member) will receive a beautiful gold presentation booklet with a personalized certificate inside. Visit our website or call Mission Advancement at (314) 965-3700, x109, with your contact and credit card information as well as the recipient's mailing address, and the name of the enrollee.



Volunteer Spotlight



The Sisters would like to recognize and thank photographer Allen Huelskamp for capturing and generously sharing beautiful images of God's Creation. Those who follow the Sisters have seen, and no doubt appreciated, his work which includes the bluebird on the cover of the Spring 2018 *Franciscan Spirit*, and the nesting goose featured in the Sisters' recent end-of-year mailing.

Allen, better known as Butch in his hometown of Breese, IL, drives around nearby Carlyle Lake in his spare time, taking photos through his car window. He is wheelchair-bound due to injuries sustained from a rifle accident in 1967, when he was just 15. A bullet passed through his body damaging his spine and leaving him paralyzed from the chest down. Butch is one of nine children. Because he was not expected to survive, his four older brothers, each serving in a different branch of the military, were given leave to visit. A brother stationed in Germany brought him a small camera.

Butch spent five months in St John's Mercy Hospital in St Louis, and by the first anniversary of the accident, he had beat all odds. He was walking with the use of canes, thanks to intensive therapy, sheer determination, and a lot of practice.

Each day he walked the back roads, determined to go a little farther. He also rediscovered the camera and used that same determination to teach himself photography, reading everything he could at the public library.

Injury and age have since caught up with Butch, but he doesn't let that keep him down. He is now determined to capture nature's glory, and to freely share it with others. Facebook friends eagerly await his amazing posts, and his images are frequently featured on area TV news broadcasts. Butch shared, "Due to my injuries, I have a lot of free time, and I want to put it to good use. I like to share the things I get to see with those who aren't as lucky as I am." We definitely appreciate it!

See page 11 for some of Butch's bird images.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BEAUTY OF CREATION TRIP RAFFLE

Now through drawing January 19
See any Franciscan Sister of Our Lady of Perpetual Help to get your ticket!

One winner will enjoy \$2,500 toward the Sunrise Tour of their choice (or may opt to receive \$2000 in cash instead). Choose from dozens of worry-free, inclusive, domestic and international travel destinations. Tickets are available at the front desk at Kirkwood's Tau Center, or via the Sisters' website.

Our trip winner will be drawn January 19 during the Sisters' Celebration of Peace & All Good jazz event to be held at the Kranzberg Arts Studio in midtown St Louis. Dawn Weber and Friends will perform!

ECO-FILM SERIES

Join us as we continue our monthly series of thought-provoking films offered at no charge in two metro-St Louis locations:

Reinventing Power

Tue, Dec 4, 6:30pm at Kirkwood Tau Center
Thu, Dec 6, 6:30 at DeSoto Community Ctr

The new Sierra Club film, *Reinventing Power: America's Renewable Energy Boom*, takes us across the country to hear directly from the people making our clean energy future achievable. These individuals are working to rebuild what's broken, rethink what's possible,

and revitalize communities. Joining us for the discussion will be Andy Knott of the Sierra Club and Bob Pashos of Straight Up Solar. This event is free, but registration is required by noon the day of at 314-965-3700 or via the website at www.fsolph.org.

More Than Honey

Tue, Jan 15, 6:30pm at Kirkwood Tau Center
Thu, Jan 24, 6:30 at DeSoto Community Ctr

Fifty years ago, Einstein insisted "If bees were to disappear from the globe, mankind would only have four years left to live." Over the past 15 years, 50% to 90% of all local bees have disappeared, and this epidemic is still spreading from beehive to beehive — all over the planet. Join us for this 2012 Swiss documentary directed by Markus Imhoof about declining honey bee colonies in California, Switzerland, China and Austria, and what it may mean for society. This event is free, but registration is required by noon the day of at 314-965-3700 or via the website at www.fsolph.org.

A Plastic Ocean

Tue, Mar 12, 6:30pm at Kirkwood Tau Center
Thu, Mar 21, 6:30 at DeSoto Community Ctr

This documentary film was directed by Australian journalist Craig Leeson. It dives into and investigates the devastating impacts plastic has caused to our environment, especially our marine life. What starts as an adventure to film the blue whale, leads to the shocking discovery of a thick layer of plastic debris floating in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Craig, alongside world record-breaking free diver and environmental activist Tanya Streeter, then travels across the globe to report on the havoc caused by decades of plastic use. The film presents beautiful shots of the

marine environment. This contrasts with footage of heavily polluted cities and dumps of plastic rubbish. The juxtaposition between these images sends the message that our actions and choices can severely impact the planet. Throughout, experts are interviewed to provide further insight into some of the problems plastics present. This event is free, but registration is required by noon the day of at 314-965-3700 or via the website at www.fsolph.org.

CELEBRATION OF PEACE & ALL GOOD

Sat, Jan 19 - Midtown St Louis

Doors open at 6pm, concert begins at 7pm

Join us at the Kranzberg Art Studio in Midtown, just down the block from the Fabulous Fox, for a jazz concert by Dawn Weber & Friends to benefit the Sisters. This is the second annual Celebration of Peace & All Good event, held this year on the weekend following Dr Martin Luther King Day. Dawn is well known in the region for her vocal repertoire and trumpet expertise. She will be joined by premiere St Louis musicians Carolbeth True on piano, Matt McKeever on sax, Bob DeBoo on bass, and Jerry Mazzuca on drums. This special evening will be the first concert jazz legends Carolbeth and Dawn perform together, allowing both the young and the young at heart to experience professional jazz in an intimate setting. This group of St Louis all-stars will play a variety of jazz and selections from Art Blakey and The Jazz Messengers song list. This is definitely a concert you won't want to miss! The winner of the "Beauty of God's Creation \$2500 Trip Raffle" will also be drawn. A limited number of reserved VIP tables are available, and general

*May the joys of Christmas fill your heart
with peace & hope for the coming year...*



Franciscan Sisters of
Our Lady of Perpetual Help

admission seating is first-come, first-served. Go to the Events tab at www.fsolph.org, for tickets, or call 314-965-3700 for sponsorship opportunities. This evening is sponsored by Poettker Construction Company.

SACRED EARTH: OUR CALL TO ACTION!

Sat, March 9- Nerinx Hall HS
530 E Lockwood, Webster Groves

The Sisters are joining other Consortium Conference Collaborators to present this special program for high school students and teachers. We hope to inspire and motivate you to take action for our EARTH — implementing Laudato Sí, Pope Francis' environmental message. Our Ecological Consortium Conference Collaborators include Oblate Ecological Initiative of Godfrey, IL; Jamie Hasemeier of Holy Redeemer Parish in Webster Groves, MO; Mark Etling of St. Nicholas Parish in O'Fallon, IL; and Nerinx Hall High School of Webster Groves, MO. For more information or to sign up to attend, watch our website at fsolph.org, or call Nicole at 314-965-3700, x107 to be added to the invitation list.

LET YOUR EYE SEE: ENGAGING THE DIVINE THROUGH SPIRITUAL ART

The Saint John's Bible

Thur, March 21, 6:30pm

Cathedral Basilica of St Louis, 4431 Lindell

Franciscan Icons

Thur, May 9, 6:30pm

Sisters' Tau Center, 335 S Kirkwood Rd

For more information or to sign up to attend, watch our website at fsolph.org, or call Nicole at 314-965-3700, x 107 to be added to the invitation list.

COME & BE RETREAT

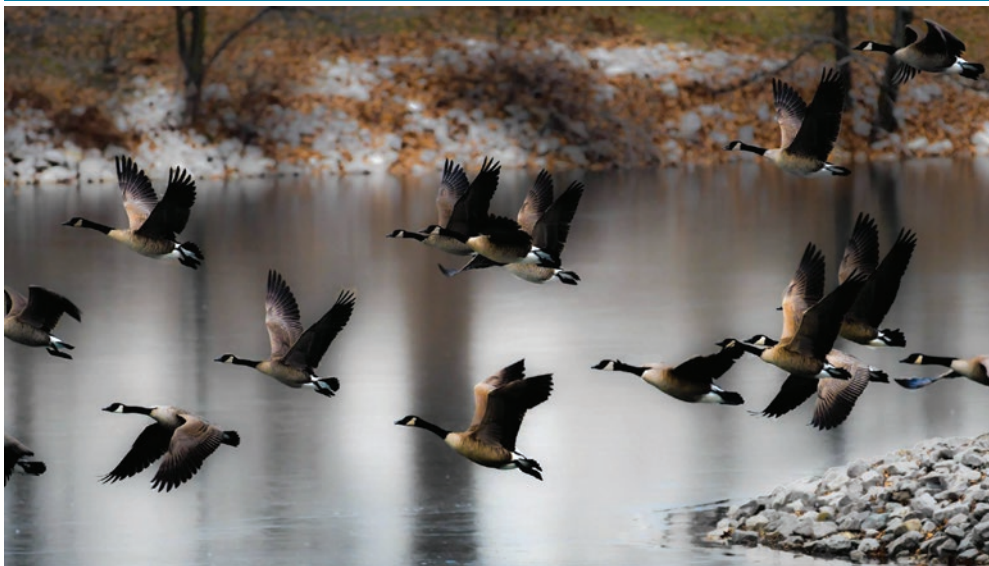
In the heart of Kirkwood

Sat, March 30, 6:30pm

Cathedral Basilica of St Louis, 4431 Lindell

Come experience how to be at peace and to share peace in the midst of life's hectic pace and chaos, engaging Prayer, Reflection, Silence and Creation.

*Thank You
for including us
in your will!*



Please enjoy these beautiful images of God's Creation taken at Carlyle Lake by Allen Huelskamp, Volunteer Spotlight honoree (pg 9).

To see more of Allen's photos, view our Feast of St Francis video posted to Facebook on Oct 4.

While you're on our page, follow us on Facebook so you won't miss the Sisters' special video series featuring daily Scripture meditations throughout the season of Advent!



Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Tau Center
335 S Kirkwood Rd
St Louis, MO 63122

Return Service Requested

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A CELEBRATION OF *Peace & All Good*

THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART
ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019
FROM 6 TO 10 IN THE EVENING FOR
A LIVE CONCERT BENEFITING THE SISTERS
BY DAWN WEBER & FRIENDS AT
THE KRANZBERG ARTS CENTER STUDIO
3224 LOCUST IN MIDTOWN ST LOUIS



This will be the premier concert in which legendary jazz pianist Carolbeth True (left) and trumpeter/vocalist Dawn Weber team up for this wonderful performance. Joining them will be Matt McKeever on sax, Bob DeBoo on bass, and Jerry Mazzuca on drums. This group of St Louis All Stars will be playing a wide variety of jazz and selections from Art Blakey and The Jazz Messengers song list.

Dawn says, "This is definitely a performance you won't want to miss!!"

Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres courtesy of Orlando's. Cash bar.

Tickets are limited. Get yours today at www.fsolph.org/events or (314) 965-3700

General Admission - \$35 Seats first-come, first-served (\$20 - 18 & under); VIP Reserved - \$200 Table of 4

This evening is made possible by a generous donation from:



Poettker Construction

For additional sponsorship and end-of-year donation opportunities,
contact Brian Moeller at 314-965-3700 or brian@fsolph.org by December 15.