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# Peacemaking... Our Journey

## Franciscan Sisters of Peace – Leadership Team



For the past four years our Leadership Team has led us through years of establishing and fulfilling new policies, as well as a shared direction, under the guidance of Congregation Minister, Sister Jeanne Gilligan, Assistant Congregation Minister, Sister Mary Elaine Sullivan and Team Councilors, Sisters, Ellen Byrnes, Maureen Colleary and Kathryn King. As the term of the Leadership Team comes to an end, we offer heartfelt thanks for their courageous and prayerful leadership. In gratitude for their willingness to lead us through this time of transition, we ask God's blessing on each of these Sisters as well as on our new Leadership Team. Elected to serve for the next four years were: Sisters Jeanne Gilligan, Congregation Minister, Sister Regina Holtz, Assistant Congregation Minister, and three Council Members, Sisters Clare Kelleher, Patricia McDermott and Catherine Mary Raymond.

### For Your Information

The intention for the 9:30 Mass on the first Sunday of each month is for those whom we promised to remember in our prayers, the intentions of our Benefactors and for the deceased of those families to whom you sent one of our cards.

## Franciscans International Presentation

Sister Regina Holtz, FSP

The United Nations is an institution familiar to all Americans, and has as its primary aim to keep peace throughout the world. So it should be no surprise to find that there is a notable Franciscan presence at the U.N. - Franciscans International, a non-governmental organization (NGO) which unites the voices of Franciscans from all around the world. With its emphasis on peace-making, poverty and care of creation, Franciscans International (FI) attempts to bring Franciscan values to influence the work of the U.N. With offices in New York, Geneva and Bangkok, the sites of U.N. meetings, FI is well placed to be a voice for the powerless in the halls of power. The "grassroots" Franciscans provide the first hand stories and eye witness accounts of the struggles of the people with whom they minister in countries all over the world. The FI staff gathers these concerns, translates them into the language of the U.N., infuses Franciscan values, and presents the issues to the appropriate U.N. body. In this way, the tradition of St. Francis, his concern for the poor, for the earth and for peace, is kept alive in a fragmented, war-torn world which needs his Franciscan charism more than ever. The Franciscan Sisters of Peace have supported the work of FI since it began over twenty years ago.



*Sr. Regina Holtz, Secretary of FI Board of Directors, at a presentation in UN headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland*

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## From the Congregation Minister

An event occurring every four years in the life of the Franciscan Sisters of Peace is known as the General Chapter. The latter is an expression of the participation of all our sisters in the life and mission of the Congregation. The assembly is a collegial body which animates unity and sisterhood within the Congregation and determines the directions we will take for the next few years. When in session, the General Chapter serves as the highest internal authority in the Congregation.

Among the purposes of the General Chapter are the following: to elect the members of the Leadership Team (Congregation Minister, Assistant Congregation Minister, and three Councilors) for the next four years; to provide spiritual, ministerial, and administrative accountability by the Congregation Minister to the total Congregation and by the sisters to one another; and to amend our Constitutions and Directory as needed.

The Chapter Planning Committee has guided us in considering a wide range of issues that impact the life of the Congregation. Prayer and reflection, presentations, information sharing, conversations, and feedback on all topics under consideration were the vehicles used in our meetings for the past year and a half. Our deliberations resulted in the formulation of several preliminary Direction Statements, which focus us regarding the particular way we will further our mission at this time.

We will assemble for our General Chapter June 24-27. We will begin with two days of retreat, devoted to Franciscan Contemplation and Franciscan Mission. The two remaining days will focus on the aforementioned preliminary Direction Statements which will be reviewed and voted upon. Since these four days mark an important event in our lives, we ask that you join us in prayer as we, accompanied by Francis and Clare, continue to pray, "Lord, teach us what is ours to do."



Sister Jeanne Gilligan, FSP

*Sister Jeanne Gilligan*

## Sister Marie Jerome

Sister Jeanne Marie Gilligan, FSP

On March 19, 1932, Marie Cheevers responded to the Lord's call to be a woman disciple. That was the day she not only left her nets behind in Clifton, NJ, but also left her parents – Letetia and George, her sister Anne, and her brother George to begin a new way of life as a Franciscan Sister that was to last 79 years.

Sister was missioned to a number of elementary schools in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania where she led thousands to Jesus during her 54 years of teaching. She was a principal for 6 years, and relished the day that she was able to return to the classroom. There are many Sisters who worked closely with Sister Marie Jerome who have many fond memories of the love and care that Sister has extended to the children and their families.

Sister Mary Peter, her dear friend for over 70 years was at her side right up to her last breath. I was in awe of the deep friendship and love between Sister Mary Peter and Sister Marie Jerome. Over the hours Sister Mary Peter prayed and spoke to Sister Marie Jerome as only a close friend could.

On April 5, 2011, the community, family and friends of Sister Marie Jerome Cheevers gathered at Marian Woods to celebrate her life; a life known to God from all eternity; a life shared with her family for 95 years; a life as a Franciscan Sister for 79 years. Once again Marie was empowered to leave all behind and become one with her God for all eternity.



Sister Marie Jerome, FSP

## Associate Communion Breakfast-Retreat Day

Judy Petersen, Franciscan Associate

Saturday, June 4, 2011, the Franciscan Sisters of Peace and Associates gathered together at Marian Woods in Hartsdale, New York, for the annual Associate Communion Breakfast-Retreat Day. Sister Constance Gaynor, FSP, spoke about the associate program from its inception. When Sister Kathryn King was Provincial Superior she sent two sisters to a convention on Associate programs. From this a committee of lay women and sisters studied the possibility of starting our program and then recommended it.

The presentation was very interesting and gave great insight into the many changes that took place over the years. The day ended with a wonderful prayer service.

## 50th Jubilee Reflection - 'The Dream and the Journey'

Sister Margaret Holden, FSP

This time of jubilee causes me to pause and reflect on my life as a Franciscan sister over the past fifty years. As I began my journey in religious life on Friday, September 8, 1961, I was filled with the reality of becoming what I had dreamed since I was five years old, becoming a sister! This reality has unfolded for me over these years in the lived experience of journeying with many sisters, lay associates and those to whom and with whom I have been privileged to serve in ministry.



Sister Margaret Holden, FSP

My journey has taken me to many places that I had never dreamed. On my journey I have traveled near and far through the hills, valleys and mountaintops of life, touching the lives of people and being touched by many. Throughout my journey I have received many graces from a generous God.

In this jubilee time, my desire is to continue the journey amidst the many challenges that life in today's world brings. It is my hope to continue in ministry and use my gifts for those who need them. I know that I will always be accompanied by a loving God in the continued journey with sisters, lay associates and laity.

## Jubilarian – Who? – Me?

Sister Clare Kelleher, FSP

*You shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you.  
The Book of Leviticus 25:9, 12*

Fifty years as a Franciscan Sister! The biblical teaching above calls to mind that the fiftieth year marks a time for celebration and reflection as well as the embarkation point of a new journey; it is a time when we enter the second half of our lives with a refreshed spirituality, an increased awareness, and a richer sense of who we have become thus far.

As we look back at an anniversary or jubilee to celebrate twenty-five, fifty, or seventy-five years, we see our commitment is at once richer and sometimes more painful than when we started.

For each of us, long-term commitments – whether in marriage, religious life, or in any relationship is harder these days mainly, I believe, because of change. People change over a period of time, circumstances change, and we change ourselves, so our relationships change.

As I celebrate 50 wonderful years in Religious Life, I pray for all those who are co-workers in the gospel-field of Jesus and give thanks for those whose faith has brought me into my own following of Jesus.



Sister Clare Kelleher, FSP

## Franciscan Federation Peacemaker Award – 2011

Sister Mary Elaine Sullivan, FSP



Sister Catherine Ryan, FSP

Sister Catherine Ryan, FSP, Regional Director, Catechetical Office Manhattan, Archdiocese of New York, is the 2011 recipient of the Peacemaker Award which will be presented on July 29, 2011 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This annual award is presented in recognition of outstanding wisdom and vision serving in the ministry of the Church.

Sister Catherine Ryan has been the gentle voice of Franciscan peace working in the Archdiocese of New York for the past thirty-five years. Her love of her ministry and the people she serves, in Manhattan, the East Bronx and Harlem, New York, radiates from her as she generously shares her knowledge with those who seek her assistance. Her enthusiasm and undying commitment to the Church of New York is inspiring.

Sister Catherine exhibits a joy-filled Christ-like presence to everyone. Her quiet Franciscan joy and servant leadership exemplifies a passion that ignites parish catechetical ministers to the "MORE" in the arduous and often unheralded ministry of parish catechesis.

## Cabrini Chatter... On Things That Matter

Sister Georgeanne Farrell, FSP

Nursing Home Week at Cabrini  
A special time for sure~  
Library Dedication, Ice Cream Socials on each floor!

For me and all the Sisters  
It seems we all agreed~  
That celebration of the Sisterhood  
Was beautiful indeed!

Readings from the Scriptures  
Renewing of our vows~  
Benediction sung in Latin  
Fond memories did arouse!

Gratitude for vocations  
Beautifully expressed~  
By Sisters Eleanor, Sebastian and Celestine,  
We all were truly blessed!

The beautiful reception  
In the lobby and café~  
A very perfect ending to our  
Very special day!

Centenarians were remembered  
In the Riverview Café~  
One hundred years and older  
Another special day!

Heartfelt thanks to all the planners  
Administration and the staff~  
The week's festivities were wonderful  
and the memories will last!



## April Calendar Raffle

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!** Because of you, our April Calendar Raffle was a great success! After all prizes were awarded and expenses were paid we received \$32,000 toward the support of enabling our Sisters to continue to work and volunteer in their ministries. This raffle also helps our sisters who reside at Marian Woods and in Nursing Homes. You continue to provide for us so generously. Enclosed are the names of all our winners. May God bless you with the grace you need most. Congratulations to all our winners in the April Calendar Raffle: Barbara Dondero, Bradenton, FL; Noel Shaw, Tucson, AZ; Margie Healy; Carol Ann Pascucci, Elmwood Pk, NJ; Cristina Manuel, Jersey City, NJ; Anita Schaffner, New Windsor, NJ; Lori Rongetti, Manhattan, NYC; Elena Ippolito, Scarsdale, NY; Carol McNamara, Scarsdale, NY; Lorraine McHenry, Tarrytown, NY; Mary Honis, Hazleton, PA; Olympia Koclanes, Pelham, NY; Maureen Fitzgerald, New York, NY; Nadia Dawoud, Monroe, NY; Kay Connolly, Lincoln Park, NJ; Bill Dalton, Pt. Pleasant, NJ; Jack Courtney, Yorktown Hts., NY; Carol Malkowski, Haworth, NJ; Mary Tummillo, Dumont, NJ; Leigh Cordero, Monroe, NY; Barbara Signorile, Scarsdale, NY; Geri Bianchi, Leonia, NJ; Al Harradine, San Antonio, FL; Jeannine Giordan, San Francisco, CA; Delores M. Lytle, Tucson, AZ; James Foley, Oaklawn, IL; Joan Nottoli, Tucson, AZ; Carrie and Adam Kalita, Chicago, IL; Kathleen Carson, Woodcliff Lake, NJ; Amy Jakimas, Lincoln Park, NJ; Helen Feldman, Highland Falls, NY

## Fall Calendar Raffle

Our second raffle takes place in the Fall. This **Fall Calendar Raffle** will take place on **Tuesday, October 4, 2011**, (the feast of St. Francis). You will have a chance to win the grand prize of \$3,000.00, the second prize of \$1,000.00 and the third prize of \$500.00. **Tickets must be returned no later than September 30<sup>th</sup>.**

There is also an **EARLY BIRD** special prize of \$500.00 on Thursday, August 11, 2011 (the feast of St. Clare). The early bird winning ticket will be placed back in the drum for the October 4<sup>th</sup> drawing giving that person another chance to win one of the grand prizes. The suggested offering for these tickets is **\$10.00 a ticket or three for \$25.00.**

If you would like more tickets please contact the office at 845-942-2527 Ext. 106, or e-mail [dirdev@fspnet.org](mailto:dirdev@fspnet.org). You may even send a check and we will be happy to fill the tickets out for you. Your donation goes directly to enabling our sisters to work and volunteer in their ministries. You help them with their travel and cost of living expenses. You also help care for our senior sisters who reside at Marian Woods and in Nursing Homes. Please accept our early gratitude for your generosity in this appeal. May God bless your kindness.



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## We Remember and Ask For Your Prayers:

Sister Laurenza Hickey, FSP

Sister Marie Jerome Cheevers, FSP

James Holden, cousin of Sister Margaret Holden, FSP

Theresa Switzer, sister of Sister Regina Miriam McWilliams, FSP

Jeanne Foley, sister of Sister Francine Kavanah, FSP

Mary Honis, sister of Sister Helen Shebelak, FSP

Michelle Devine Hohmann, niece of Sister Eileen Marie Cullen, FSP

Lawrence McAndrews, cousin of Sister Mary Elaine Sullivan, FSP

Ann Smith, sister-in-law of Sister Ann Smith, FSP

Wally Dillon, husband of Associate Claire Dillon

*May their souls and all the souls of the Faithful departed rest in peace.*