



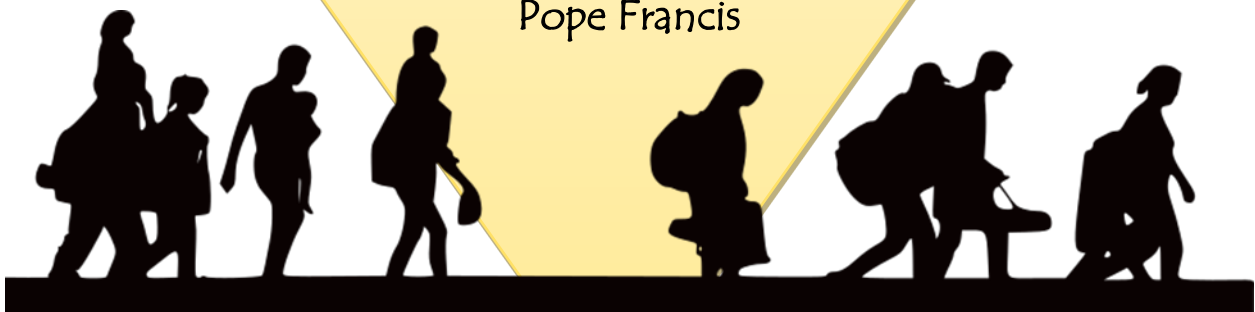
Sharings

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary USA Province
Volume 48 No. 1 Winter 2018



"Jesus was a 'migrant'
who reminds us of the plight of today's refugee."

Pope Francis



EDITORS' NOTES

As we enter this new year we view a world that is tense, plagued by natural disasters, war and ongoing violence in many countries, refugees seeking safety and a better life. We feel helpless, but we are encouraged by the words of Pope Francis –

From my point of view, God is the light that illuminates the darkness,
even if it does not dissolve it, and a spark of divine light is within each of us.

With a spark of divine light within us, we pray for peace.

Do you remember the old saying “variety is the spice of life?” We invite you to taste some of that spice as you read this issue of Sharings, travelling around ... New Mexico ... Vietnam ... Stickney, IL ... Millbrook, NY ... Brighton, MA ...RI ...

Enjoy!

*Nancy Cabraal, fmm, Maryann Alukonis, fmm
Nga Le, fmm & Anne Turbiní, fmm*

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NEXT ISSUE: SPRING



Our Deceased Sister



Mary Theresa Plante, fmm
(M. of St. John Vianney of Ars)

Born to Eternal life:
December 6, 2017

Eulogy

Circle the world with love..... Reach out and connect with others....somehow this seems to be one of the theme songs of the life of our sister Mary Theresa Plante. The words of Blessed Mary of the Passion are deep within the heart of each FMM, as we have heard many times...*"The world is our home."* And we know MT understood this whether she was walking the streets of Boston, New York, San Francisco, France, Rome, Japan, Brazil. There were no limits to what could be, there was no door that couldn't be opened, no challenge that couldn't be faced.

Hattie and Daniel Plante had 3 children, two sons and their daughter Mary Theresa who was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1931. I am sure that perhaps a few here present can recall how MT would say that Derek Jeter, former New York Yankees baseball player, was well known because he also was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Mary Theresa always had a way of pulling you into the conversation and she would say it with a smile on her face to see your response.

As we know, her father Daniel was a Chippewa Indian. Certainly the richness of her Indian heritage and culture had a significant impact on her life. From the stories she would share, we understand her deep love for nature and her connection with the universe. Mother Earth is sacred and when she was able to work in the garden with Jeanne, time and care took on a new meaning for all creation did speak to her. She taught *many how to walk gently upon the earth.*

M T understood the saying, *"What you have received freely give freely."* She was a fountain of knowledge willing to share what she learned. Often she would help students who were studying, be they fmm's or others, as she reviewed their papers. She would open their minds to discuss topics that were relevant. More than once some of the students acknowledged this and gave her an "Honorary degree."

If you had the chance to see any of her pictures, MT also put on the graduation cap to remember these moments. *Lives were touched in such a meaningful way.*

During her religious life, MT had been missioned to Kennedy Memorial Hospital, Cardinal Hayes Home, and Fruit Hill, working in the printing press. Lives were touched, friendship was woven into the fiber of her being that tells a story of wonder, hope and faithfulness. In her life she strived to *"approach everyone with a humble heart, ready to learn and to receive as much as to give, with the attitude of Christ, respect, acceptance of persons, openness and service."* (Const. Chap.4 # 39) In every stop along the way, she *lived with the sisters God gives us and witnessed by her life, their lives that community is possible, challenging but possible.* I am sure many remember moments when you knew you had received the gift of her friendship.

While she was a student at St. John's University in Queens, NY, she lived in Roslyn, NY and again we recall how even though she had to rest after her classes, she never let this get her down. MT enjoyed studying and when she received her degree in Medical Technology, it became a valuable tool that she would use again and again. Throughout her life, MT was faced with many health issues and often as she reviewed the lab reports she received, she understood what they meant and she was able to speak with the doctors about treatment etc.

With the availability of today's technology, MT joined "chat rooms on the internet." She not only spoke with other persons who had some of the same medical conditions as her, she also listened and let them know what resources were available etc. Above all **HOPE** was available and she encouraged them to keep going forward. In her time, *Mary of the Passion understood the importance of using Communications and in various parts of the world, the FMM's Annals were published which touched the lives of many people.* In her own way, MT discovered the world that was opened to her, to each of us through the development of technology. Through various mediums of Communication, *MT was able to reach out, to listen and be present to others.*

In 1980, MT had a sabbatical year, which at that time, was no ordinary sabbatical. She planned her whole agenda, mapped out where and what she wanted to do. She wanted to take the time to deepen the spirituality of Mary of the Passion. So she headed off to Rome and France and as the saying goes, *"She did it her way."* She never stopped learning, she was open to new things that perked

her interest, even the “French Revolution” which she took as an online course. MT communicated with other participants from all over the world who were also studying about the French Revolution. For friends and community members this often resulted in a lively conversation around the table or in the corridor. She had passion for what she learned.

In 1989 she became the first representative of Franciscan International at the United Nations. She worked with several others who also came to Franciscan International in the early years. Together they were able to obtain NGO status for the organization. This opened the door for FI representatives to attend sessions. MT would read up on specific topics and also make valuable interventions concerning the issues facing the United Nations. MT had a vast knowledge of the workings at the UN that she was also able to help other religious organizations obtain NGO status. *“What you have received freely give freely.”*

She opened doors and helped others to obtain what they needed. While an active member of Franciscan International she attended several international meetings. The longer she was involved at the United Nations, she would say, that the United Nations is like a university of knowledge. *The more she received, the more she shared.* Certainly while MT was here at Fruit Hill, she would post significant news items for the sisters to read, ponder and hopefully discuss.

During the war in Liberia, she read a small article in the New York Times that the US would assist US citizens to leave the country. Without hesitation she contacted Rome and got the ball rolling for the evacuation of our fmm sisters. Through her tireless efforts she was also able to help other sisters who were not US citizens to be evacuated. It took some time but persistence paid off and eventually she was able to receive approval for transportation for them to be airlifted out to safety and as they say, *the rest is history.*

The wisdom of the Native Americans echoed in her life, **be still and listen not only to words that are spoken but to all of creation.** In the writings of Mary of the Passion we read: *“Make of my heart and of the Institute a burning flame which kindles the whole earth.”* During her lifetime, Mary Theresa kept the fire burning and passed it on to so many. To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven. Thank you, Mary Theresa, for walking the journey of love with us.

Noreen Murray, fmm

Our Deceased Relatives & Friends

Cecile T. Brooks, the mother of Rosie Brooks, fmm

Ruth, sister of Jeanne Mera, fmm

Dave Freda, brother of Rosemary Freda, fmm

James Hurley, cousin of Emilie Duchaney, fmm

Gerry Salvador, brother-in-law of Gina Chua, fmm

James Trapp, cousin of Mary Griffin, fmm



In

Thanksgiving

Over the years our trips from Fruit Hill to visit our Sisters at St Antoine's have changed since St Antoine's opened their new building.

Our first group of sisters who went, were our sisters who were in the Infirmary and needed 24/7 care. A big group went up at that time.

Each week our faithful volunteer Maria Costantino took any sisters who wanted to go on Tuesday AM and we would meet all the sisters after Mass while they were in a group having coffee and something sweet.

Maria did this for many years.

At this time with the Assisted Living Program we have on the activity program two trips a month up to St. Antoine's after dinner and Cyndee Christensen, our Activity Director takes up to four sisters who would like to twice a month. Now we visit the sisters in their rooms and it's nice to have the one on one with them. They are happy to see us and ask about Fruit Hill etc.



On the first Sunday of each month and also on Special Holidays Sr. Anne Dundin, fmm would put a paper up so we could sign up and she would take

3 or 4 up to visit our sisters. Also Anne would take different roads so we get to see different parts of RI and she would name off places if we did not see this or that.

One thing I did hear at St Antoine's is that our sisters are lucky to have sisters who come to see them each day and live just across the road. Two sisters live there and do pastoral ministry with not only our sisters but with other residents, families and staff.

The sisters are very well taken care of and the staff is happy to see us stopping in to visit them. The Staff always have a big smile when they see 4s in the hallways.

Maryann Alukonis, fmm

Thanksgiving cards – artists & recipients from Fruit Hill to St. Antoine's



Las Cruces, NM Thanksgiving Celebration

Thanksgiving is a feast of remembering God's gifts of all good things especially for friends and family, and was celebrated a week before its given date by Marie-Paule and the parishioners of San Jose, in Fairacres, New Mexico. Two couples, Sheila Patenaude and I were invited to join in the festivities. We enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving meal at the church hall. The parishioners and Marie-Paule had lovingly set the tables and served turkey with all the trimmings and many desserts.

Close to 75 people joined us as members of the parish youth group served us. Before dessert Sheila and I were gifted with framed certificates of thanks for our work in the diocese. One of the couples was recognized for their many years of service.

Marie-Paule was the ever gracious hostess helping to serve coffee, pie and cake. All of us left with full stomachs and feelings of contentment.

Nancy Cabral, fmm



Fruit Hill Christmas Party for Staff and Residents

On December 13, 2017, the FMM Center held its annual Christmas party for staff and residents in Lourdes Hall. Everyone gathered before noon for delicious hors d'oeuvres of guacamole on small pieces of toast; tortilla chips whose tasty dip had a touch of jalapeño; and punch, soda, or coffee.

At noon, Sr. Lois Pereira welcomed everyone by offering a moving opening prayer about the coming of Christ as hope and light for our suffering world. Attendees sat at several tables, each with



tasteful Christmas centerpieces and a gift bag for each one. The gift bags had been lovingly prepared the week before by Lois, Conchy, and Kyong-Ha and contained Christmas mugs filled with mints and hard candy!



Then the festive banquet was served: roast beef, twice-baked potatoes, asparagus, carrots, rolls, and a tossed green salad with Asian pear slices, blue cheese, raisins and currants. The dessert treat was three or four kinds of cake plus ice cream. Yummy!

During the meal, Sr. Noreen Murray joined the large group, accompanied by Fr. Elias, the Greymoor Atonement Father who had worked at the UN Franciscans International with Sr. Mary Theresa Plante for several years. As a close friend, he came to be with us for her wake Memorial Service scheduled that evening, and to celebrate her funeral Mass the next day. How happy Mary Theresa would have been to see everyone having a Christmas party to start off her funeral rites!

Next came entertainment for the event, led by Joe Natale (whose last name means "Christmas"), husband of our very helpful nurse, Maureen Flanagan, RN. Joe conducted a Christmas quiz show of various religious and secular questions. Anyone who knew an answer could raise his/her hand to answer, and at the end the number of responses was added up and gifts given to responders. First prize went to Sr. Elizabeth Ann, and other prizes went to Regina, Bill, and Matt from our staff as well as to Frances Martin, former staff member, and also to Sisters Rosemary Freda, Christine Sanchez, and Kyong-Ha Yim.

Besides Fr. Elias and the current staff and residents, Sr. Jackie La Vie from Millbrook had come, in order to attend Mary Theresa Plante's funeral the next day. Also present at the Christmas party were long time volunteers such as Maria Constantino and her sister Rose, who for many years had been our receptionist

at Fruit Hill. In addition, everyone was overjoyed to welcome back Sofia, who worked 24 years for us before she retired due to illness. Lois presented a retirement gift to her, accompanied by the grateful thanks, love, and prayers of all the Sisters. Now that she is recovering, Sofia was happy to be able to return and greet so many whom she had generously and lovingly served over the years.



The annual Christmas party ended in a spirit of joy and unity, bringing together many from all over the world, not only our FMM Sisters representing our in-



ternational charism, but also our devoted and loving staff at Fruit Hill, who come from many places besides the USA, such as Haiti, Nigeria, Guatemala, Armenia, Liberia, and the Cape Verde Islands. We thank God for this opportunity to join them in Christmas joy and to thank them for the many ways they serve our older Sisters and Adult Care Center.

Sheila Patenaude, fmm



My mission experience in Vietnam

In September 2016, I was given an opportunity to go for a mission experience in the country of my birth, Vietnam. Immigrated to the United States at the age 11, my memories, knowledge and experiences were limited, and yet an unknown stirring calling in my heart for this place, a place which has formed parts of my identity. Even ab-



sorbed within me an American culture for 25 years lived in the United States, I longed for the return to this familiar place and yet at the same time unfamiliar and somehow strange to me overtime. This psycho-spiritual journey somehow reminded me of the Israelites' experience in the Exodus. This was my sensation at the time when Sr. Noreen Murray, FMM asked me to pray and discern for a place, when I expressed my desire for an overseas mission experience to deepen my sense of the FMM Charism, particularly on the aspect of Mission.

The feeling of being sent for overseas as a missionary was a wonderful excitement; and paralleled to that was the feeling of anxiousness and the fear of an unknown also waiting. The truth I have learned from this experience as well as other experiences in life when looked back is: God is Presence and only if I embrace God with openness and genuineness, God will enter with Graces. God is ever-present and waiting for me, even before I arrived to Vietnam or anywhere; the question remained at how did I embraced this God?

I was welcomed to the Province at the Provincial Community in Ho Chi Minh City for adjustment, orientation, and also to temporarily help a group of young temporal vows religious sisters with English as they prepared for their overseas experiences and studies for more than a month. Then after dialogued on what my experience would be like in Vietnam, I was sent to an FMM Community not too far from the Centre City to share community life with our sisters and the impaired/blinded children for two months. The initial plan for me was to teach English and Reflexology to these children, yet the agenda did not work out due to scheduling and so my presence and kindness were all it needed. I was a bit disappointed and yet I gave in to the God

of surprises, and indeed God has taught me so much about God's immense love for those whom God chose. Vice versa to what I think I could give to the children, I soon discovered that the children have so much to teach me on how to live life with an attitude of trust, joyful simplicity, gratitude and giving, as I observed their way of living. These children whom I felt sorry for because of their handicap have taught me by their living witness, of how to embrace my own poverty, handicap and to live my vows in an utmost gratuitous manner of my ability. I have come to a greater affirmation that God truly has great love, can bring peace and does wondrous things for those whom he chooses, if one opens and welcomes Him. I am still amazed at the gifts and talents that these children have and at awe at how can they recognize voices, touches, and even footstep of each sister.

After two months with the children, I was then being sent to a community where our sisters dedicate their services and presence to the peasant farmers in the urban area through Eastern healthcare treatment. The people who come to us are mostly non-Catholics, little education or none, and mostly farmers. The people have little understanding of what it meant to be a religious sister with questions asked, sister do you have any children, or why do you stay single" etc. yet possess a generous heart of God. The sisters in this community have truly lived without concerns about their daily bread because God amazingly provided through these peasants some days with live chicken, varieties of vegetables and fruits; therefore, life is simply of total dedication and services. I shared life with the sisters in this community for about a month, and had put myself up for challenge when accepted to assist the sisters with client in-takes at the clinic. I scrambled with embarrassment and in humility when I couldn't understand what the people said or write in proper spelling, when they communicated in their colloquial language/accent, and yet I had learned much and created moments for everyone to laugh. After a month at the health care clinic, I had some time visiting my relatives for Lunar New year. I got to see my hometown, where I found no trace of familiarities due to its infrastructure developments and modernizations since my last visit in 2003. I felt like a stranger to the place where I called "hometown", yet this opportunity enabled me to reach out and connect with my extended families. To my surprise, I was received with open arms and they had made me feel very much at home. I had a remarkable week with the families where I was well fed with traditional food and experienced again certain authentic customs and traditions

embedded in the culture for the Lunar New Year celebration.

After some festive days with my extended families, I was again on the move to the Pre-Novitiate Community, located in the Central Coast of the country, via 8-10 hours by bus from Saigon/HCM city, being exposed to another region and culture. Our community is located in a small ward, roughly 5-10km to a mountainous village where reside a group of Raglai ethnic minority, one of the 54 ethnic groups in Vietnam, of which I belong to the largest ethnic group, Kinh (Vietnamese), 80% of the population. I was enthralled by this educational fact. Three months at the pre-novitiate community was a time of joy for me. Beside accompanying and teaching the Pre-novices English, I gave my presence to Raglai girls at our boarding house and went up to the village with the pre-novices to teach catechism to the children on the weekends. The time I had with the pre-novices was also a chance for me to "return" and "ruminate" my vocational call from the beginning and my journey with God.



with Pre-novices

Though I was very much on the move to different communities within this one year and it was somewhat a challenge to contribute or settle, nevertheless, I received many graces and have learnt much from this experience. Overall, I am thankful to God and to my FMM sisters in the US-Vietnam Provinces for creating this opportunity for me to be in touch with my roots, to live and learn, to become more childlike and to enter into a greater trust in the Lord. Importantly, this experience once again reminded of God's love and providence as well as bring about an affirmation within me regarding my vocation and my call to the FMM.

Thuy Nguyen, fmm

Stickney, IL

A Response to Diverse Needs

Renew My Church has started to open our senses of responding to the diverse parish needs. Aside from aligning the resources of the church to the mission of evangelization, it also makes us aware of encountering diverse ethnicities of our parishioners, the appreciation of the richness of each one's culture, recognizing our gifts and talents that we can offer to respond more to needs of evangelization.

Last October 15, 2017, a group of parish leaders organized what we call INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. They invited various ethnic groups of the parish to prepare at least one menu and let the parishioners have a cupful taste of the food. There were 15 ethnic groups in St. Pius X Parish who responded to the call and shared their favorite dishes and their menus.



The

festival brought

fun, much interaction, appreciation of the food and a creativity to use different decorations and costumes. Each sister in the community, as you see in the photos, excitedly organized their fellow countrymen and cooked their favorite dish also. The creative event brought FUN Fund-drive Raising. Coming and working together made us aware of the bigger sense of a church. It made us develop our relationships among leaders and parishioners, neighboring parishes, and even crossing parish lines.

Lately, Renewing My Church, needs also longer response to other URGENT needs. In my spare time while working as Business Manager in St. Donatus, I found that there are many undocumented persons, also in our neighboring parishes, who needed ESL (English as the Second Language). Without hesitation, I offered an hour or two to teach. As teachers of ESL not only teach them but we encounter them in a deeper sense as we converse about their daily lives, what is happening around them and sometimes we get involve with their problems. We call the program "CORAZON CORAZON" (heart to heart). In short, it is through heart by informal education, that we connect to persons, esp. those in the furthest margins of society and lives are transformed. This program is in partnership with Catholic Charities, who

***emulating the Good Samaritan
continuously helps our
brothers and sisters whether young,
not so young or elderly
achieve lives worthy of their God-given dignity.***

Alicia Alambra, fmm

Savina and Elfriede took no time to eat their cupcakes and crumbled them up on their plates instead. Who has the bean? All of us looked at each other, "Did you get the bean?" "No" resounded throughout the room. Did someone eat it by mistake? There hung the question? No one seemed to remember chewing a nut.

We have a queen! Well, what to do? Sunday we would do it again using pieces of pantone instead. We knew to be careful this time as we would need to find the bean (nut) that would signal a new reign with a new queen. The food service came to our help again and cut a piece for each sister even for those of the community who were away. Again the tray was passed before us and once again we chose our piece. The sisters looked at each other with questioning eyes and careful bites. **WE HAVE A QUEEN!** All nodded as Anne Dundin the new queen held up the nut. The "prince" was claimed with joy. Finally Trinity had a queen.

Nancy Cabral, fmm



Transformation

Fruit

Hill Trinity Community

Where's the Bean? Who's the Queen?

Tradition has it that a queen of the community is chosen on Epiphany. As tradition dictates Trinity Community along with Queen of Peace and Holy Family were ready to herald a new queen. Mary Ann Alukonis the former queen brought the "prince" to the community room so that he could be claimed by the new queen.



Where's the bean? Cupcakes were made for the three communities by our food service. Luscious looking and hiding within them a bean (no, not really a bean, a nut); the treats were passed to the Trinity members. We set our eyes on the tray that passed before us and carefully chose one of the delicacies.

Last Fall after our last session on "Transformation," I went on my retreat. During one of my reflections on the Prodigal Son, I couldn't help but see how the Father in Jesus' parable was right on with "Generative Listening." For example when the younger son came to him and asked for his share of the heritage so he could take off, the Father could have questioned him and try to persuade him to stay. However he listened to him and gave him his share of the property.

When he returned after being hungry and probably tired of his new lifestyle, he lays it all out before his Father telling him of his unworthiness to be his son. Again the Father could have said, "I could have told you so," or "You only came back because you lost all your money." (as I probably would have said) But no, his "Generative Listening" was truly non judgmental, and he really understood what the other person was going through. When the older son questioned the reason for the Celebration, etc., again the "Generative Listening" of the Father was there. He could have said "Oh don't be so jealous" (that's what I would have said). But no, he beautifully said those touching words, "My Son, you are always with me,



and what is mine is yours.....we had to celebrate, for your brother was lost and now is found. He was dead and is now alive". Jesus certainly got His message across of what a wonderful Father we have in Heaven and how He listens to His children. It also showed me what "Generative Listening " is really all about.

Marie Cinotti, fmm



Millbrook, NY

Fred Apers said he didn't want any farewell parties when he retired, so although his retirement date was to be around the end of the year, the annual Christmas party for the staff of Hayes was the venue for the event. Fred's family joined retirees, employees and staff as did the Board and several



A scrapbook of memories



friends. Of course, Fred got emotional as he spoke of his 45 years here: some of the changes, both in population and regulations; his relationship with the FMM's; his plans for the future, tentative we all know, Fred is a go-getter and doesn't stay still long; his perseverance through the recent and difficult times (they love Fred in Albany!) when his love for the children here increased his trips to question and confront the cuts made in funding.

Sr. Noreen spoke of the Institute's gratitude to Fred for the long years of commitment to make these children's lives as healthy and happy as possible. After the party, Fred and Lois came to the convent where Sr. Noreen presented Fred with a statue of St. Francis, our gift to him in thanks for his care and commitment. Fred assured us that he is retiring only the CEO position but will be around to help with planning and development, his fortes.

Jackie LaVie, fmm

A New Day is Dawning..... Gratitude is the Word of the Day for a Life Given and Shared for Residents and Staff at Cardinal Hayes

Time goes by fast, when you are having fun!!! Fred we are all aware that you live each moment with enthusiasm, which you alone have and even in difficult times, it caught on. Of course as in any situation we are aware that there were also many challenges in your leadership role at Cardinal Hayes. But I am sure deep down you wouldn't have it any other way.

Gratitude

The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary are grateful for the gift you are, for the wonderful way you not only lived the "mission" of Hayes but you caught the "spark" which keeps the fire burning and enables each of us to sincerely say thank you.

Gratitude

As you began to think of retiring, you invited Cathy to come to Hayes, and work with you for two years. This insight Fred has given Cathy a good understanding of Hayes and also allowed her to collaborate with you on a daily basis.

Gratitude

You have seen many changes over the years but somehow it seems that you were always one step ahead of a new regulation or suggestion. You always have been an advocate for the residents and staff and this is very much appreciated.

Gratitude

You have shared your dreams and seen many of them come to fruition. Your efforts have helped to make so much, a life giving experience at Hayes for our residents, their families and staff. As you worked with donors and benefactors, you invited them to participate in the joy of helping others and they are also thankful.

Gratitude

For recognizing each one, residents, staff, board members etc. by name. You have helped each of us to remember the importance of acknowledging every person. This is a blessing and a gift that will keep giving and giving.

Gratitude

For Lois and your family who have shared this journey with you through the years and they have also become a part of our life and the Hayes community

So Fred, in the name of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary we offer you this gift as a token of our appreciation for a man who truly lives the Gospel values in his life. We hope you will be able to take some time and enjoy the moment. For we are sure, you will be back at Hayes to occasionally collaborate in some way in the future. So Fred this is not goodbye but farewell until we meet again.

*For all that has been thanks,
for all that will be Yes.*

Noreen Murray, fmm

Fred wrote to Sr. Noreen and the Sisters of the Corporation, the Sisters who represent the sisters of the province (December 19, 2017) -

Dear Sr. Noreen and Sisters of the Corporation:

In my early years as Executive Director of Cardinal Hayes Home, I was blessed with a special opportunity to journey to Assisi along with several FMM's and other representative administrators of your charitable works.

For me to walk in the "footsteps" of St. Francis and truly understand his special charism was an experience that will always resonate within me. I have often drawn strength from that very personal spiritual journey and my complete enjoyment in sharing special time with the FMM's. I truly believe this experience sealed my dedication to Cardinal Hayes Home.

I wish to thank you for your gift of the statue of Francis – particularly his attention to the wolf, lamb and bird. I feel the message in this statue is particularly relevant throughout my career at Hayes. The wolf represents independence, strength in body, wisdom and spirit. The lamb is quite vocal and known for gentleness and being part of the flock. The small bird in Francis' hand is able to fly away yet prefers the comfort and security in his presence.



To me, these special qualities of kindness, comfort and a welcoming spirit run deep at Hayes. Serving the children and adults in care at Hayes requires the faith of Francis and the ability to provide encouragement and support to others. In our own small way at Cardinal Hayes Home, we strive to walk with Francis.

Thank you, Sisters, for your lasting support and encouragement throughout my career at Hayes. It has been a privilege to serve this wonderful organization.

I am planning to continue my involvement on a part-time basis by focusing on future development and our fundraising needs. I'm sure my wife, Lois, will be thrilled to have me back at Hayes on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

Fred Apers



The following was published in Leadership Messages of Franciscan Children's, November 15, 2017.

Celebrate Founder's Day

Join us today in recognition of the founders who formed our mission at Franciscan Children's.



Today, Franciscan Children's is a vibrant and bustling home to children in Boston and beyond that need comprehensive post-acute care.

In 1939, Father Richard J. Cushing, future Cardinal of Boston, dreamed of a hospital for all children with special health care needs. The Kennedy Family did too, and with their support, the doors to Kennedy Memorial Hospital opened in 1949.

The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary were founded by Helene de Chappotin, also known as Sister Mary of the Passion. The sisters lived in the Hospital and served as nurses, physical therapists, pharmacists and child specialists. Their dedication to providing personalized care to children is the foundation of our mission today.

Every November, Sister Mary and the Sisters are remembered. To honor her and the other founders that brought us to this point, we celebrate Founder's Day in November each year.

Since 1949, we have expanded beyond medical care to include mental health care, specialized education and dental care.

Every day, we come together to contribute to the founding mission of Franciscan Children's.

To provide a compassionate and positive environment where children with complex needs, and their families, receive innovative and excellent care.

Together, we can build upon the foundation of hope for a world where all children can reach their fullest potential and live their best life.

We hope all staff will join us for a free lunch served by leadership to celebrate Founder's Day at Franciscan Children's during The Week of Thanks on Thursday, November 30.



From Blessed Mary of the Passion ...

May we offer ourselves like Mary,
that the Spirit might carry out the Father's work in us
for the Life of the world.

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