



Franciscan CONNECTIONS

Summer 2014

Dubuque Franciscans Receive New Novice

By Jessi Russo

On Thursday, June 26, the Sisters of St. Francis received **Reyna Badillo**, of Dubuque, as a novice at Mount St. Francis. During the ceremony, she was officially named Sister Reyna and received the rule, constitutions, and directives of the congregation.

Sister Reyna was asked by **Sister Cathy (Kate) Katoski**, president, what she needs from the congregation. She replied, "Drawn by God's love and mercy, I have come here to learn your way of life. I ask you to teach me to live in poverty, obedience and celibacy; to persevere in prayer and penance; to be of service to the Church and to all the people; to be one with you in heart and mind; and to live out the Gospel every day of my life. Teach me your rule and help me to learn to love as Jesus commanded us."

During the ceremony **Sister Pat Doody**, candidacy director, and the members of the



Sister Gwen Hennessey (left) congratulates Sister Reyna after her reception ceremony on June 26 at Mount St. Francis.

community where Sister Reyna has lived expressed their support for Sister Reyna's reception: "We have walked with you and know of your hopes, dreams and desires to grow as a member of this Franciscan congregation. We support your request to begin this novitiate year and rejoice with you."

"I am privileged to walk with this gifted and generous woman," said Sister Pat. "Her decision to continue discernment of her call to religious life is an act of courage and faith."

When Sister Kate presented Sister Reyna to the Franciscan community, the chapel erupted in applause.

"We are all inspired by the

faith and trust that Reyna has placed in our congregation and in God who calls her forward into community and ministry," said Sister Kate.

Sister Reyna's ministry while living with the Dubuque Franciscans was serving as a secretary with the *Asociacion de Religiosas Hispanas*.

In late August, Sister Reyna will begin a nine-month study program at the Common Franciscan Novitiate in St. Louis. This program will involve time for prayer, study, ministry, and community life. Major areas of study focus on the history and charism of the Franciscan tradition and an understanding of vows and religious life. ■



Sister Reyna signs the reception book.

Dubuque Franciscans Celebrate 150 Years

By Jessi Russo

On June 8, the Sisters of St. Francis began “150 Days of Celebration” in honor of the 150th anniversary of their founding.

The Dubuque Franciscans’ roots are in Herford, Germany, where foundress Mother Xavier Termehr, cared for orphans and nursed the sick. Other young women asked to join her in this work and the congregation was founded on November 4, 1864. Political changes resulted in the passage of laws in 1875, which called for religious communities to either disband or go into exile. The entire community of 18 professed sisters, seven novices, and four postulants chose to exile to Iowa City, Iowa, where they opened the first Catholic orphanage in the state.

Dubuque Archbishop Hennessy requested that the congregation move to Dubuque to open and staff an orphanage. They arrived in Dubuque in December 1878.

During the 150 days from June 8, 2014, to November 4, 2014, the sisters will celebrate in variety of ways:

- By reflecting on 150 events from their history that have been compiled into a new book. Each day features a reflection about a moment in Dubuque Franciscan history written by sisters and associates.;
- By visiting parishes in July, August, and September where they have served;
- By visiting and praying at every gravesite of all the deceased Dubuque Franciscan sisters. In June, the sisters took turns visiting each grave to pray

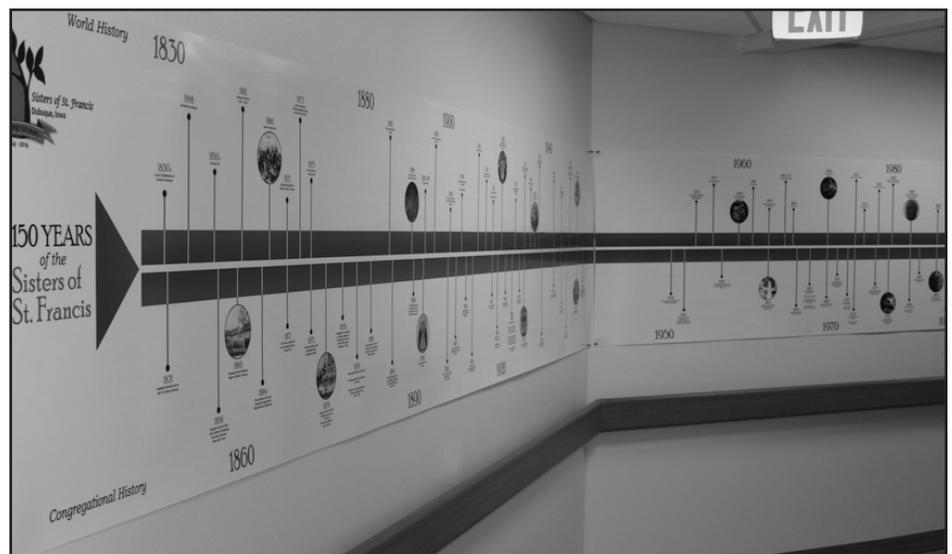


Sr. Mary Kenneth Hemann prays at the grave of one of the Dubuque Franciscan sisters.

this special prayer: “*In the name of Jesus and of his Church, we gather in the spirit of our foremothers, the Sisters of St. Francis, who rest in peace in this holy ground. We believe that all the ties of friendship and affection which knit us together in life do not unravel with death. We are confident that God remembers the good they have done. Thank you Sister, for being such an important part of our 150 years in ‘desiring to put forward your best effort to that portion of God’s children who were unprovided for.’ (Mother Xavier) Blessed are you who have died in the Lord; may you*

rest from your labors, for your good deeds have gone with you. Sister, may you rest in peace.”;

- By compiling and displaying a timeline of the history of the congregation in relation to the world’s history. This is currently displayed in the lower level of Clare House at Mount St. Francis;
 - By hosting a presentation by **Rev. Udo Tielking** from Herford, Germany, on Saturday, October 4, at 2:00 p.m. at Clare House;
 - And by gathering for a public celebration from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, October 5, 2014, at Loras College.
- The sisters also invite the public to celebrate their 150 years of prayer and service by pledging to serve others. Pledge forms are available at <http://www.osfdbq.org/celebrations.php>. You can commit to any type of service for 150 hours, 150 minutes, or even 10 acts of service for 15 minutes from June 8, 2014, to November 4, 2014. ■



The timeline displayed at Clare House.

Sr. Erika Professes First Vows

Sister Erika Calderón Cruz professed her first vows as a Dubuque Franciscan Sister on Saturday, February 8, in San Marcos Church in Gracias, Lempira, Honduras. **Sisters Nancy Schreck and Pat Farrell** participated in the celebration of vows with Sister Erika in Honduras.

“This love of God expressed in service, which responds to the deep questions of my heart, has led me to deepen my decision through personal and community prayer,” said Sister Erika during the ceremony. “I wish to embrace and continue this spiritual journey, living in relationship with the word of God.”

The daughter of **Gabriel and Marta Calderón Cruz**, Sister Erika is a native of Pinal, San José, Honduras. She was

received into the congregation as a candidate in 2010. She made contact with the Sisters of St. Francis community after meeting **Sisters Nancy Meyerhofer, and Brenda Whetstone**, who have been ministering in Honduras since 2005. As a candidate, Sister Erika was involved with the youth group and the music ministry of San Marcos parish. In December 2011, she was received into the congregation as a novice. In 2012 and 2013, she attended the inter-congregational Franciscan novitiate course in Lima, Peru, studying scripture, religious life, theology, Franciscan traditions.

“Erika is a beautiful, deeply spiritual young woman,” said **Sister Nancy Schreck**. “I have witnessed her desire to be of service especially among people



Sr. Pat Farrell (left) presents Sr. Erika Calderón Cruz with a San Damiano cross at her first vows ceremony in Gracias, Lempira, Honduras.

who are poor.”

Sister Erika continues her ministry with San Marcos as a Eucharistic minister to the homebound and sharing her gift of music with the church.

“I am discovering that I really maintain the beautiful desire to continue to do God’s will through the mission the sisters are developing in Honduras,” said Sister Erika. ■

Letter of Instruction to Family

by Sister Cathy Katoski, OSF, President and Director of Development

In our last two issues, we shared the initial points of a suggested “Letter of Instruction to Family.” Here we include points 10 through 16. We are most willing to send the full “Will Planning Worksheet” to anyone who wants a copy. The complete worksheet contains many other helpful suggestions in planning a will and discussing it with your family. Write, call or email: Sr. Cathy Katoski, 3390 Windsor Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001, katoskic@osfdbq.org or (563) 564-9411 ■

A letter of instruction to your family should include the following information. It should be kept with your other important papers.

(10) List of all bonds with serial numbers, denominations and names in which they are registered.

(11) List of all shares of stock, with names of companies, number of shares, in whose name they are issued and name and address of stockbroker.

(12) List of mutual funds, annuities, pensions, profit sharing plans and any other investments and location of pertinent documents.

(13) List of all credit cards with the name and address of the issuer and card number.

(14) List of monetary obligations, including

mortgages with name and address of bank or other lender, account number, name appearing on loan documents, amount of loan, monthly payment, collateral, if any, and whether there was life insurance on loan, and if so, name and address of insurer, with instructions to notify them and file claim immediately.

(15) List of all automobiles, with year, make, model, body type, color and identification (VIN) number. A copy of the declarations page of insurance could be sufficient.

(16) List and location of personal items and other personal property with sentimental value and the worksheet for disposing of those items. ■

Join us to celebrate 150 years!

Sunday, October 5
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Loras College
1450 Alta Vista St.
Dubuque, Iowa

RSVP to (563) 583-9786

Sisters of St. Francis Dubuque, IA

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Mission Statement of the Dubuque Franciscans

*Rooted in the Gospel and in the spirit of Francis
and Clare, the Sisters of St. Francis live in
right relationship with all creation.*



Sisters of St. Francis
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Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 13
Silver Jubilee

OCTOBER 4
Presentation by Rev. Udo
about Herford, Germany, 2
p.m., Clare House, 3340
Windsor Ave., Dubuque.

OCTOBER 5
150th Anniversary Event, 2-4
p.m., Loras College, 1450 Alta
Vista St., Dubuque.

OCTOBER 11
Associates Fall Gathering, 9
a.m. to 3 p.m., Shalom
Spirituality Center, 1001 Davis
St., Dubuque. Contact Lisa
Schmidt at (563) 583-9786 for
more information.

OCTOBER 24
Shalom Shenanigans Benefit
Dinner and Auction, 5:30 p.m.
to 9:00 p.m., Shalom
Spirituality Center, 1001 Davis
St., Dubuque. To purchase
tickets, call Shalom at (563)
582-3592.

Congregation Receives 'Spirit of St. Francis' Award

The Sisters of Saint Francis were this year's recipients of Briar Cliff University's Spirit of Saint Francis Award. Established in 2006, this award honors those exemplifying the Franciscan spirit of service, caring and openness to all through contributions to society and by leading a values-centered life. The award was presented at Briar Cliff's commencement on Saturday, May 17, at the Orpheum Theatre in Sioux City.



President of Briar Cliff University Beverly Wharton (left) presents the Spirit of St. Francis Award to Sisters Nancy Schreck and Margaret Wick. Photo courtesy of Briar Cliff University.

Among the Sister of Saint Francis' many local accomplishments in Sioux City are the founding of Briar Cliff; St. Anthony's Home, an orphanage; Villa Maria, which provided social service to the community with the guidance of Catholic Charities; Clare House, which assists women in their transition out of prison; providing education at Sacred Heart in Riverside, Saint Michael's Catholic School in Leeds, and Bishop Heelan Catholic High School; and serving at Mercy Hospital. ■