



FRANCISCAN Prints



Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception • "A Caring, Praying Presence" • West Peoria, Illinois

Fall 2013

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2013 Rolan Johnson Christmas Ornament



Order form at www.westpeoriasisters.org

Joy to the World is the title of Rolan Johnson's 1995 Christmas card and the inspiration for the nineteenth annual Limited Edition Collectible 2013 Christmas ornament. Each two-sided, 24kt gold-plate on brass framed ornament comes in a gift box with a numbered certificate of authenticity. Custom designed and produced exclusively for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception, these ornaments are a major fundraiser to benefit their Retirement Fund. The sisters are grateful for your purchase of these beautiful ornaments and appreciate the generosity of the underwriters and retailers. *Ornaments are available now.*

2013 RETAILERS:

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Morton Community Bank Locations
Assumptions Book Store - Macomb
Bronze Frog - Peoria
Frames Plus/Hallmark - Peoria
Harp & Thistle Imports Ltd. - Peoria Heights
Immaculate Conception Convent - West Peoria
Kay's Hallmark - Peoria
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From the President...

It seems so quiet at Immaculate Conception Convent. The congregational meetings are finished. Retreats are over, and the sisters are renewed to *BEGIN* another year of bringing God's compassionate presence to all. Most vacations have been taken, and the sisters are ready to *Begin* their assigned ministries for another year. The hustle and bustle of summer at the motherhouse has given way to the *Beginning* signs of a different hustle and bustle in the life of the community.

As you read through this issue of Franciscan Prints you will notice organizing, planning, and *BEGINNING* seem to be a daily occurrence.

- *Beginning* June 6, a new leadership team was installed for a four-year term
- *Beginning* in October, the 2013 ornament will go on sale
- *Beginning* any endeavor is so dependent on our volunteers. Can we ever thank them enough?
- *Beginning* our fundraising projects is so dependent on our generous benefactors. We ask God to bless them.
- *Beginning* July 7th, Sister Vilayphon started her canonical year. We are so blessed.

The sisters *BEGIN* and end each day in community prayer. We promise to bring you and your intentions to our loving God. It is our way of expressing our gratitude to you for all you do.



Sister Paula Vasquez



MASS & INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS



Left to right: Sister Betty Jean, Sister Paula, Sister Jean Marie, Sister Janice, Sister Anna Marie

A Eucharistic Celebration and Ceremony of Installation for our new leadership team took place Sunday, June 2. Our celebrant, Abbot Philip Davey, O.S.B., family and friends of our community, and all the sisters gathered in the Immaculate Conception Convent. The music for this Liturgy was from the Mass of Wisdom, the gift of the Spirit for which all leaders pray.

In his homily, Abbot Philip spoke of the call to sacrifice and to service as members of a religious congregation, a call which is given especially to those chosen for leadership. Sister Paula Vasquez, president of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception received the keys and seal of the community. As president, she renewed her commitment to live the Gospel as a follower of St. Francis and to lead the congregation to greater service of the people of God, making God's compassionate presence known.



Abbot Philip and President Sister Paula

As Christ called others to assist Him in spreading the Good News, other sisters were elected to assist the president in her duties to guide and govern the community. Sister Betty Jean Haverback, vice-president; Sister Jean Marie Ciuffini, secretary; and Sister Janice Keenan and Sister Anna Marie Flanigan, general members, accepted the call of the Spirit to serve the sisters as members of the council to assist Sister Paula. The new leadership team began a four-year term of praying, listening, planning, and decision-making for the future of the community.

As with all Franciscan celebrations, a joyful reception followed.

SISTER VILAYPHON WELCOMED AS NOVICE



The Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception welcomed Darlene Santibout as a novice in their community during a prayer service on July 7, 2013. She is now known in religious life as Sister Vilayphon.

Born in Laos, she was raised a Buddhist. After immigrating to the United States and eventually settling in California with her mother and two sisters, Sister Vilayphon went through the RCIA process and was baptized at the Easter Vigil in 2001. She entered the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception, also known as the Heading Avenue Franciscans, last October.

Sister Vilayphon will continue to live at St. Joseph's Convent in Peoria for the next 12 months. During this canonical year of

formation she will spend time growing in her relationship with God through prayer and study, exploring religious life and Scripture, the constitutions of the Heading Avenue Franciscans, the Franciscan Rule, the religious vows and the New Testament.

Sister Vilayphon will continue regular weekly service at Sophia's Kitchen, the sandwich program at St. Joseph Church.





Community Ministries

Sister Marion Lemon completed a 2-year study to become a spiritual director in the Diocese of Peoria. She serves in campus ministry at Western Illinois University in Macomb.



As coordinator of Mother of Peace Home, Sister Mary Ann Mehuis cares for five of our retired sisters. She shares pictures of the new diaconate class with Sister Marcelina Cassando and Sister Concepta Marie Nudo in the 2nd floor chapel.



Sister Diane Marie VandeVoorde serves as the Associate Director of the Permanent Diaconate Program in the Diocese of Peoria.

*Making God's
compassionate presence
known in our Ministries*

Sisters Janice Keenan, Irene Marie Fritch, Marion Lemon, and Vilayphon Santibout at the "Welcome Back Mass/Cookout" for WIU students.





Appeal for Vocations

The Vocation Appeal allows us to have our ad in Visions (shown below), a Catholic religious vocations discernment guide, and registration fees at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis where we will have a vocation booth and exposure to 10,000 young adults. The Appeal was also used for Back-to-School Vocations packets for students at Bradley University and Western Illinois University.



Volunteer Appreciation Brunch - April 24, 2013

A brunch was hosted by the sisters to celebrate the generous service of their volunteers. Without volunteers, we could not accomplish so much in so little time. The guest speaker of the April 24 brunch was Colleen McLinden, owner of IMPACT! Home Staging. It was a fun time and a chance to thank all our tireless volunteers.

VOLUNTEER

Whatever your skills and/or talents, YOU are a blessing and always welcome to help with our projects.

If you would like to volunteer your service, please call the Development Office at 309-674-2005 or email: joyce@westpeoriasisters.org





"YOUR TABLE IS READY" Dinner Auction 2013

Magical Moments

Pizza Party for Six with Fr. Dom...

Winners of the Pizza Party at our 2013 Dinner/Auction, Dr. James & Jenny Kenny and guests, were treated to a magical experience of tastes and techniques with world famous Fr. Dominic of St. Bede's Abbey!



May/June issue Peoria Magazine Art & Society

SAVE THE DATE!!
"Your Table is Ready"
Dinner/Auction
Saturday, February 22, 2014
Spalding Pastoral Center

To receive an invitation,
call us:
309-674-2005



In Memory Of...

Kindly remember in your prayers our deceased sisters, friends, and all those who have honored them with a memorial contribution during the period of April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013.

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Thank you for gifts received during the period of April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013, that remember special occasions and honor friends and loved ones at special times.

We regret any errors and omissions. Please notify the Development Office if your name is not listed correctly.

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There are different gifts
but the same Spirit;
there are different ministries
but the same Lord;
there are different works
but the same God
who accomplishes all of them
in everyone.
1 Corinthians



PRINTWORTHY...



Sisters participated in West Peoria's annual 4th of July parade aboard the 1975 Peoria Classic CityLink Bus.

West Peoria Residents' Mass was held August 11 at the Immaculate Conception Convent.

Henry, IL Daughters of Isabella potluck and check presentation for the sisters' Retirement Fund was held on September 11.



Sisters Mary Ann Mehuys, Mary Elaine Haertjens and Diane VandeVoorde explore the relics of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare in the Diocesan Museum's new exhibit on Franciscans in the Diocese of Peoria. The exhibit will run through December 15 at the Diocesan Museum located in the Spalding Pastoral Center.



Unveiling Ceremony of the 2013 Rolan Johnson Christmas Ornament was held September 28. Rolan's great-grandchildren assisted Sister Paula in unveiling.

Coming up...December 1, 2013 –
Advent Lessons & Carols at the Immaculate Conception Chapel.

Remember special occasions and honor friends and loved ones with a memorial or honorarium gift to the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception. For a special bequest in your will, please talk with your legal advisor. We thank God, as we thank you, for your support, whether spiritual or financial.

Prayer is our best and deepest expression of gratitude.

FRANCISCAN PRINTS is available on our website: www.westpeoriasisters.org under the "Development" tab.