

Franciscan Voices

Living and Promoting Active Nonviolence and Peacemaking | December 2021

— In Memoriam - Sister Rosalie Noder —

Sister Rosalie Noder, who ministered in education, parish ministry, and served persons suffering from AIDS, passed away on October 17 at MercyOne Medical Center in Clinton, Iowa. Sister Rosalie was a Clinton Franciscan for 73 years.

Sister Rosalie was born October 19, 1930, in McNabb, Illinois, to Michael Joseph Sr. and Charlotte (Grasser) Noder. She had one brother, Michael Joseph, Jr., and one sister, Frances Ione.

She was baptized Phyllis Barbara on November 1, 1930, at St. Mary, Immaculate Conception Church in Mt. Palatine, Illinois. She attended McNabb Public Grade School and Swaney Grade School in McNabb; St. Mary's Grade School, Henry, Illinois; and Mount St. Clare Academy, Clinton, Iowa.

She entered the Sisters of St. Francis at Mount St. Clare Convent, Clinton, Iowa, on September 8, 1948, and received the name Mary Rosalie at her reception on

June 20, 1949. She made her first profession on August 13, 1951, and her final vows on August 13, 1954.

Sister Rosalie obtained an A.A. degree from Mount St. Clare College, a B.S. in Education from Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, and an M.M. in Ministry from Seattle University, Seattle, Washington. She was also certified as a liturgical minister through the Liturgical Institute, Diocese of Chicago, and San Anselmo, Rome.

Sister Rosalie's early ministry was in education, teaching primary and intermediate grades in Lourdes, Fonda, and



Sister Rosalie Noder
1930 - 2021

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— Laudato Si' Action Platform —

Answering Pope Francis' call to join Catholics around the globe in a seven-year plan of integral ecology to care for the Earth and its inhabitants and to avert the climate crisis, the Sisters of St. Francis Laudato Si' Action Platform team has spent the last few months preparing steps on how to build a better future caring for each other, our Creator, and all creation.

"It is exciting to know that we are a part of a bigger, global collaborative movement that will involve the entire Catholic Church over the next seven years," said team member Laura Anderson, Director of Digital Outreach and Advocacy for the Franciscan Peace Center. "In our first few meetings, we began by reflecting on actions that we have already taken, as well

as looking at possible collaborators and partners," she added.

Other volunteer team members include Associate Lanie Lass and Sisters Jan Cebula, Marilyn Huegerich, Ruth E. Westmoreland, Ruth Cox, and Sarah Martz.

Rooted in the corporate stand on Care of Creation, the Sisters of St. Francis released the following statement on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis:

The Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa, Sojourners, and Associates, called by the spirit of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si', join with Catholic sisters and brothers worldwide in committing to a seven-year transition to

Laudato Si' Action Platform continued on page 2



LAUDATO SI'
Action Platform

Laudato Si' Action Platform continued...

Integral Ecology as part of the global Laudato Si' Action Platform.

We recognize the interconnectedness of environmental, economic, political, social, cultural, and ethical issues, as stated in our corporate stand on Care for Creation. We accept scientific evidence that climate change is happening and is caused in great part by human activity.

We acknowledge that achieving the vision of a healthier and more just world requires a transformation of our culture, spirits, and practices, deepening our understanding of our relationships with the Creator, Creation, and each other.

We pledge to be faithful stewards of Creation and work collaboratively to reduce our impact on the environment and in solidarity with those on the periphery of our society.

Our commitment is grounded in our mission of living and promoting active nonviolence and peacemaking.

The next step was for the Laudato Si' Action Platform team to create an action plan covering seven focus areas: a response to the cry of the earth, a response to the cry of the poor, ecological economics, adoption of

sustainable lifestyles, ecological education, ecological spirituality, community engagement, and participatory action.

Community discernment about the action plan began at the fall community gathering of Sisters, Sojourners, and Associates on October 16. Breakout groups reported on ways to move forward on the various goals and themes.

The team will be carefully weighing all of the ideas as they begin formulating the Laudato Si' Action Plan.



In Memoriam continued...

Danbury, Iowa; Chino and Oildale, California; Oak Lawn, Toluca, and Chicago, Illinois.

During the 1960s, Sister Rosalie felt called to become involved in the faith life of adults. She began to serve in parish ministry in 1969 at St. Francis de Paula in Chicago. In her fourteen years there, she began a food pantry, clothing center, senior citizen's club, and the first RCIA classes. Through her efforts, a religious education program that included a cluster of six other parishes was developed. She did further ministry at St. Gall's in Chicago, St. Patrick of Merna in Bloomington, and St. Charles Borromeo in Hampshire, Illinois.

Following a month-long study pilgrimage to Assisi and during a year of ministry in rural Hampshire, Sister Rosalie recognized a call to serve persons who were suffering from AIDS. In 1991, she became co-founder and first Executive Director of AIDS Ministry of Illinois in Joliet. She also served in positions such as Outreach Services Coordinator, Educator and Case Manager, as

she continued to meet the various challenges that her ministry involved.

She retired from AIDS ministry in December 2002, and volunteered at Catholic Charities of Joliet, Illinois, in the Foster Grandparents program until 2006. She then came to live at The Canticle in Clinton, where she actively ministered in any way she could. She volunteered as a reading tutor at Jefferson Elementary School and was involved in the Clinton Ministerial Association.

Even as her eyesight failed, her spirit of joy and compassion endured. She moved to The Alverno in July 2019 and remained living there until her passing.

At her request, her body was donated to the University of Iowa for scientific purposes, her final gift of self for the benefit of others.

Sister Rosalie was preceded in death by her parents, siblings, and brother-in-law. She is survived by the Sisters of St. Francis, one sister-in-law, one niece, and several nephews, cousins, and friends.

Sister Marilyn Shea Begins New Chapter in Life

After sixty-three years of active full-time ministry, primarily in teaching and administration, Sister Marilyn Shea began a new chapter of her life in June. No longer expected to report for work each day and fulfill specific roles, she is free to respond to the opportunities and needs that present themselves each day.

After serving nine years as General Secretary, Sister Marilyn is finding new ways to be involved in the community as well as continuing some of her usual volunteer ministries. She volunteers twice a month being present to those who are in the surgical waiting room at MercyOne Hospital, helps with projects for the Clinton YWCA, and provides a monthly meal to L'Arche Clinton. She also serves on the funeral luncheon team at Prince of Peace Parish.

"I am treasuring the opportunity to read more and to access conferences and discussions online. I am able to spend more time praying, reflecting, and simply being in the present moment," she explained about her new chapter in life. "I am looking forward to continuing to shift my perspective more toward being than doing and letting go of equating value with usefulness."

Sister Marilyn began her teaching career in 1958 at St. Boniface School in Clinton, Iowa. The next year, she taught at St. Gerald School in Oak Lawn, Illinois. "When I first went to Oak Lawn and was asked to teach over fifty sixth-graders, it seemed like an impossible task, but with the support of more experienced teachers and the encouragement of our principal, everything fell into place, and I fell in love with teaching and the children I worked with," she explained.

In 1967, she relocated to Riverside, California, where she

taught eighth-grade and served as the principal at St. Catherine of Alexandria School. "I was again inexperienced and not really prepared, but I had a wonderful secretary, excellent staff, and only 38 students. I learned that if we shared our gifts and worked as a team, anything was possible," she said.

With the completion of her M.Ed. degree in Educational Administration and Supervision, she served as principal at St. Kieran School, Chicago Heights, Illinois; St. Justin the Martyr School, St. Louis, Missouri; and Sacred Heart School and Trinity Catholic School, Clinton, Iowa.

She devoted three years to living and working with the BVM Sisters from Dubuque, Iowa, at an Adult Education Center in Hayti, Missouri, a program that helped single parents obtain their GED's by providing literacy training and parent education. "I was asked if I would be willing to add a childcare component to the facility. What an exciting and wonderful time it was! I had the chance to sing and dance uninhibited with children who accepted me unconditionally. I also came to appreciate a culture very different from my own," she added.

Sister Marilyn taught and supervised practicum and student teachers for many years at Ashford University and its predecessors. She transitioned into the role of General Secretary in 2012. "From my experiences in all of my ministries, I am most impacted by realizing the value of diversity of gifts in any school or organization and the importance of working as a team," she explained.



Sr. Marilyn Shea

Remembering Clinton Franciscan Associate



**Bernie Koch
1953 - 2021**

Bernadette "Bernie" Koch, former employee and a Clinton Franciscan Associate for six years, passed away on November 16.

She was born April 5, 1953, the daughter of Karl and Kay Spittler. She married David Koch on April 20, 1974.

Bernie started as a cook at The Canticle in December 2008. She later transitioned to housekeeping until her retirement in 2020.

She committed to the Associate Partnership Program on October 4, 2015. In her application,

she wrote, "I have seen such compassion and care given to others by these sisters and I want to learn how to achieve inner peace by putting others first."

Bernie was an active member of Prince of Peace and volunteered as a lector and eucharistic minister. She loved helping others, sewing, reading, gardening, and spending time with family.

She is survived by a daughter, son, four sisters, five brothers, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and one sister.

2021 Sharing Fund Grants Awarded

Each year the Sisters of St. Francis distribute grants from the Sharing Fund to organizations that benefit people who are poor, powerless, and oppressed; change attitudes or sensitize people to the causes of injustice; promote constructive change in institutions and structures affecting the well-being of people; or promote peace and justice. Individual sisters nominate the organizations and/or agencies in October. Then a committee reviews the nominations and offers their recommendations to Leadership.

Thirty organizations in Iowa, Illinois, South Dakota, Kentucky, New Mexico, and Washington D.C. were the recipients of the 2021 Sharing Fund, including:

- Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry – Aurora, IL
- Café on Vine – Davenport, IA
- Center for Action and Contemplation – Albuquerque, NM
- Churches for Middle East Peace – Washington, D.C.
- Cross Catholic Outreach – Washington, D.C.
- Help Build Hope Housing – Orland Park, IL
- Helping Hands Ministry – Orland Park, IL
- Humility Homes and Services – Davenport, IA
- Information Referral & Assistance Service – Clinton, IA
- Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants – Chicago, IL
- Interfaith Power & Light – Des Moines, IA
- Iowa WINS – Mt. Pleasant, IA
- Lake Street Church of Evanston – Evanston, IL
- Mater Dei USA – Iowa City, IA
- Migrant Farmworkers Assistance Fund – Kansas City, MO
- Multicultural Ministry, Diocese of Davenport – Davenport, IA
- Nonviolent Peaceforce (Chicago) – St. Paul, MN
- Oaks of Mamré Catholic Worker – Davenport, IA
- Pillars Community Services – Hickory Hills, IL
- Sisters Water Project, Dubuque Franciscans – Dubuque, IA
- St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Charities – Orland Park, IL
- St. Francis Mission – St. Francis, SD
- St. John Vianney Haiti Committee – Bettendorf, IA
- St. Vincent Mission – David, KY
- The Arch – Clinton, IA
- The Well Lexington, Inc. – Lexington, KY
- Unity Christian Academy – South Holland, IL
- Willis Dady Homeless Services – Cedar Rapids, IA
- YWCA Empowerment Center – Clinton, IA
- YWCA Children's Center – Clinton, IA

Job Openings

Help advance a world based on social justice, equity, a healthy environment, and peacebuilding! We are hiring a full-time **Director of Strategic Planning** and full-time **Director of Programming** for our Franciscan Peace Center.

Along with the Director of Digital Outreach and Advocacy, this three-person team will create a dynamic future for the Franciscan Peace Center, living and promoting active nonviolence and peacemaking through advocacy and programming.

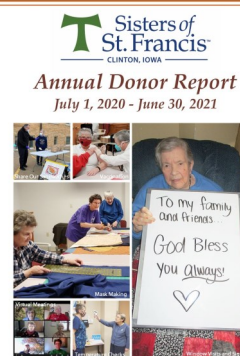
Job descriptions are available on our [website](#).

Annual Donor Report

Listing the names of our benefactors is one way to show appreciation to the many friends and family that have supported our congregation. The Annual Donor Report for the fiscal period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 is now available on our [website](#).

Also included are the names of those who have blessed our congregation by including us in their estate plan.

Thank you for your generosity!



Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic while living and promoting active nonviolence and peacemaking



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