



## **Grounded in Our Mission**

*living and promoting active  
nonviolence and peacemaking*

**Sisters' Retirement Fund Appeal  
Fall 2022**





**“Within a tiny acorn, a mighty oak is waiting!  
Great things always start small, so embrace  
beginnings and take joy in the journey.”**

**- Pearl Sanborn**

# *Grounded in Our Mission*

We, the Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa, are grounded in our mission of living and promoting active nonviolence and peacemaking.

We are committed to developing our understanding of, and strengthening our witness to, our corporate stands which address the death penalty, nuclear disarmament, immigration reform, human trafficking, care of creation, and basic human rights and income inequality.

On the following pages, some of our retired sisters have shared how they are grounded in our mission and journey toward a *Laudato Si'* future by:

*sowing seeds...*

*tending to...*

*growing...*

*being rooted in...*



We have 32 sisters - making up 74% of the congregation - who are enjoying their retirement years after providing a lifetime of service to others. These women have faithfully served God's people for so many years, and are still active in volunteer and prayer ministries.

We have taken steps to provide our aging members with a worry-free retirement by making cost-effective choices and being good stewards of our resources. Additionally, it is with the **loyal support of our donors** that we are able to provide a simple, comfortable retirement while sustaining community life and ministry.

## *Sr. Hilary Mullany*

**I commit to tending** to my use of water. As I hear of whole areas of farmland going dry, and rivers and creeks shrinking in size and disappearing, I realize how prized water is. St. Francis refers to "Sister Water" as precious and pure. Water is essential to life and its value is inestimable for all living things.



## *Sr. Martinelle Bonnell*

**I continue to grow** as a promoter of peace and justice. I am somewhat limited in "actions," but I do send emails and write some letters for advocacy. In these, I can promote peace and justice.



## *Sr. Phyllis Morris*

**I am rooted in** the rich soil of our blessed state of Iowa. I come from parents who were likewise children of this Midwest paradise. They cultivated in us, their children, the cherished values of our Midwest culture: hard work, truth, creativity, and dedication to the common good -- dedication to God, family, and neighbor, near and far. There can hardly be a more solid grounding from which to minister, wherever or with whomever we are called. For all of this, I am grateful, and I am blessed.



## *Sr. Teresa Kunkel*

**I continue to grow** in knowing and responding to the needs of marginalized persons by reading about racism, providing food to the homeless or near-homeless, and corresponding with the incarcerated. We are all ONE, brothers and sisters, needing and helping each other. In such a wealthy country as the United States, every person should be treated with respect and dignity as one would treat oneself.



## *Sr. Jane McCarthy*

**I commit to tending** to the immigrants that I know, and I hope to continue meeting other immigrant brothers and sisters in the future. This way, other people will learn more about their stories and be able to extend possibilities to them.



## *Sr. Joan Theiss*

**I sow seeds of** compassion when I see another's need. After recognizing it, I let it touch my heart and respond as best I can.



## *Sr. Mary Lou Carlson*

**I continue to grow** in community life. I returned to Clinton last year after serving in Southern California since 1985. I pray with our community, share meals together, and have fun playing cards.

I now have time to further my research of women in the Bible. I still do “Exploring Scripture” every Thursday by Zoom with my group in San Diego. I am blessed to be here!



## *Sr. Carmel Jacobs*

**I am rooted in** the belief that I am one with all creatures, intimately connected to the goodness of God in all things.

I commit to working on my Christian vocation as a peacemaker. This will mean working against my own selfishness/self-centeredness, against a tendency to be judgmental, letting go of wanting to hold a grudge, or the tendency to exclude because of prejudice. I pray that I may see each and every person with the eyes and heart of Christ.



## *Sr. Judy McKenna*

**I continue to grow** in my awareness of God's presence all around us — through one another, the various flowers, animals, the beauty of the orchard, the clean air, the sun, and the moon.



## *Sr. Ida Green*

**I continue to grow** in compassion through volunteering at hospice. Before the pandemic, I visited patients who were in the final stage of their earthly life. Presently, I work in the hospice office doing mailings. As I apply labels to letters that are going to families who have recently lost a loved one, I pray specifically for that family knowing that they are grieving their loss, asking God to bring them comfort and peace as well as send my own care and concern to this family.



## *Sr. Barbara Rosener*

**I sow seeds of** justice and mercy for the elderly and infirm that are neglected and often homebound or in nursing homes. I continue to call and visit with those I worked for previously. I listen to the cares and concerns of those grieving over their declining health.





## *Sr. Donna Burke*

**I am rooted in** my desire for our country to hold onto the freedom established in our outstanding Constitution. The Constitution holds high values which, when practiced, guarantee equality and human rights for each person. Let us not lose our treasured democracy. I am constantly bringing awareness to family, friends, and others of the possibility of losing this freedom.



## *Sr. Patricia Weldon*

**I commit to tending** relationships and collaborations aligned with our mission. I have been working with the Sisters Collaborative for Border Ministries and the Hilton Foundation Grant Program. I also serve on the board of the San Diego Catholic Worker, which provides food and clothing to homeless persons.



## *Sr. Maria Zeimen*

**I am rooted in** our mission of active nonviolence by focusing energy toward issues and changing systems. I try not to put energy into judging, blaming, or criticizing people. I continue to grow in compassion by volunteering weekly at Garden Center Services' workshop for people with intellectual disabilities, recognizing that we have seeds to plant in each other's lives.





## *Sr. Jeanne d'Arc Untz*

**I sow seeds of** peace through writing uplifting notes to persons living on the margins. The notes are placed in the sack lunches distributed at Share Our Sandwiches, a weekly program of our Franciscan Peace Center.



## *Sr. Deborah Schneider*

**I sow seeds of** compassion and love for the elderly and people with dementia. It is important to help them appreciate the beauty of nature and understand how they are a valuable and integral part of God's creation.



## *Sr. Ann Martinek*

**I continue to grow** in my realization of how much God is needed in my life. I am also aware of how others are a gift that God shares with us and how we are interdependent and all share Mother Earth. It is so important that we do all we can to reduce climate change and all other practices that are harmful to Creation.



## *Sr. Marjorie Wisor*


**I sow seeds** of justice for a free and unencumbered right to vote for every citizen. Our democracy means government of the people, by the people, for the people. It is imperative that each citizen has the right to vote.



## *Sr. Marilyn Shea*

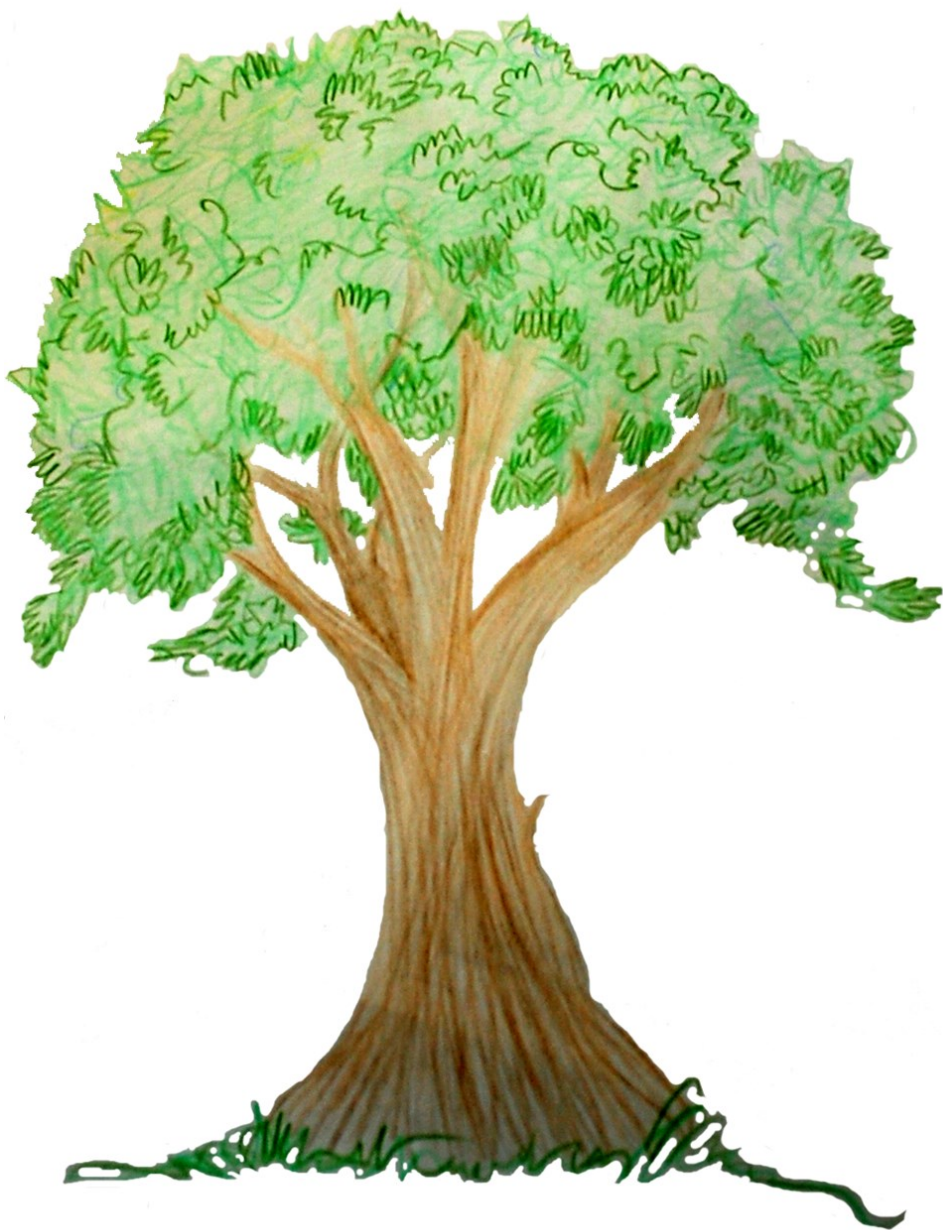
**I continue to grow** in awareness of God's presence in each person and in the beauty and diversity of the created world. When I encounter a person, look directly at him or her, and listen carefully, I grow in my ability to be truly present and realize that we are all connected. Through various volunteer opportunities, I try to be available to help meet the needs of persons in our community. For example, I volunteer weekly in the surgical waiting room at Mercy Hospital in Clinton. I have the opportunity to meet different people, be inspired by them, and be a source of encouragement for them.





**Prayerfully consider partnering with us to provide for the healthcare needs and living expenses of our aging members. Your tax-deductible contribution will directly benefit the sisters' retirement fund.**

*Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support!*



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