

Franciscan Voices

Living and Promoting Active Nonviolence and Peacemaking | December 2022

In Memoriam - Sister Mary Paul Hummer

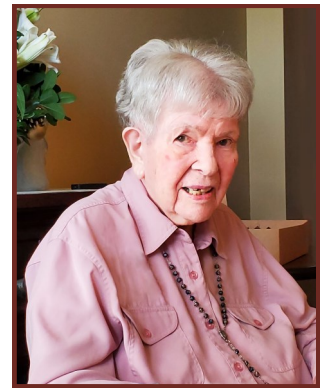
Sister Mary Paul Hummer, a Clinton Franciscan for 74 years, passed away September 19, 2022, at The Alverno in Clinton, IA.

Mary Paul was born on December 3, 1921, in Iowa City, IA, the youngest child of Paul and Mary Katharine (Kerby) Hummer. She was baptized on August 20, 1922, at St. Patrick Church, Marengo, IA. She had one brother, Charles, and one sister, Mary Marcellina.

She attended Marengo Public Elementary School and St. Mary Elementary and High School in Iowa City, IA, graduating in 1939. She took courses from the University of Iowa, Iowa City; received an A.A. degree from Mount St.

Clare College, Clinton, IA; a B.A. degree in History from the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN; and earned an M.A. in English from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN.

She taught in rural schools near Fort Atkinson and Sabula, IA, before entering the Sisters of St. Francis at Mount St. Clare Convent, Clinton, on September 8, 1948. At her reception on June 20, 1949, she retained her baptismal



**Sister Mary Paul
Hummer**
1921 - 2022

Hummer continued on page 2

In Memoriam - Sister Joyce Zarnik



Sister Joyce Zarnik
1941 - 2022

Sister Joyce Zarnik, educator and musician, passed away on November 15, 2022, at The Alverno in Clinton, IA. She would have celebrated her 60th Jubilee as a Clinton Franciscan in 2023.

Joyce Beverly was born on July 22, 1941, in Chicago, IL, the eldest child of Joseph and Josephine (Battaglia)

Zarnik. She was baptized Joyce Anne at St. Benedict Church in Chicago on September 14, 1941. She had four sisters, Geraldine, Gloria, Paulette, and Christine.

She attended Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Clare of Montefalco elementary schools and Gage Park High School in Chicago, graduating in 1959. She received an A.A. degree from Mount St. Clare College, Clinton, in 1963.

Joyce entered the Sisters of St. Francis at Mount St. Clare Convent, Clinton, on September 8, 1963, and received the name Sister Mary Labouré at her reception on June 13, 1964. She later resumed her baptismal name. She made her first profession on August 12, 1966, and her final vows on June 5, 1975. Among her novitiate classmates were Sisters Ruth E. Westmoreland, Jeanne d'Arc Untz, and Eileen Golby.

Zarnik continued on page 8

— Hummer continued... —

name. She made her first profession on August 13, 1951, and her final profession on August 13, 1954. Her novitiate classmates were Sisters Karlene Hughes, Marie de Lourdes Davenport, Rosalie Noder, and Michelle Cale.

Sister Mary Paul held a permanent professional Iowa certificate to teach in both elementary and secondary schools.

She spent most of her active ministry teaching English, French, Latin, and history as well as elementary classes. In Clinton, she taught at Sacred Heart School and Mount St. Clare Academy serving also as librarian.

Other locations in which she ministered were Denison, Vail, and Victor, IA; Chicago, IL; Maysville, KY; Reedley, Gardina, and Lemon Grove, CA; Philadelphia, PA; Muskegon, MI; and Freeport, Grand Bahama.

She retired to Mount St. Clare Convent in 1982, moved to The Canticle in 1997, and transitioned to The Alverno in 2017. She remained at The Alverno until her death on September 19, 2022.

She was an avid learner and enjoyed reading and sharing ideas with others. When her health allowed it, Sister Mary Paul volunteered her time at Prince of Peace Parish and the Victory Center in Clinton, always happy to share her gifts wherever needed.

Sister Mary Paul is survived by nieces, Kathy (Doug) Lowe and Marcie (Robert) Anderson; nephews, Jim (Jane) Hummer and Frank (Sandy) Hummer; nephew-in-law, Terry (Rita) Ortman; and by the Sisters of St. Francis with whom she shared life for 74 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Charles (Virginia) Hummer; sister, Mary Marcellina Hummer; and niece, Teresa Ortman.

*"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith."*

2 Timothy 4:7

— Remembering Clinton Franciscan Associate —



**Maria Carmen
Pedroza**

Maria Carmen Pedroza, a Chicago region Associate for nearly ten years, passed away on July 8, 2022, in Oak Lawn, IL.

She was born December 28, 1953, the daughter of Alfredo and Beatrice Pedroza. She had one sister and one brother.

Maria Carmen became acquainted with the Clinton Franciscans through St. Gerald Parish in Oak Lawn. The Sisters of St. Francis served at St. Gerald's from 1929 to 2003.

"I have found the sisters and associates following the Franciscan way of life, especially active nonviolence and striving to be peacemakers, a mission I would like to be a part of," expressed Maria Carmen on her initial application.

Maria Carmen committed to the Associate Partnership Program of the Sisters of St. Francis on November 10, 2012.

"Being an Associate has opened my life to other view points and enriched it by helping me grow and, hopefully, be more true to the Franciscan way," she later stated during a recommitment.

— Rejoice! Rejoice! REJOICE! —

Reflection by Sister Ruth E. Westmoreland, Councilor

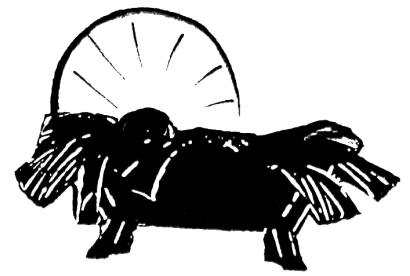
Here we are, the time of preparing ourselves for Christmas. Because this is my 60th Jubilee year, I have been reflecting a lot on my early days. This will be my 60th Christmas since I entered the convent and I have one memory I want to share with you because it has never stopped being special for me.

Back in those days we said a lot more communal prayer than we do today. One part of those prayers was called “Matins” and it was supposed to be said in the middle of the night, but we said it first thing in the morning instead. After a

wonderful awakening where the novices sang us to life on our Christmas in the convent, we went to the chapel. There, I heard a reading from Pope St. Leo. Let me share part of it:

“Let us rejoice. It would be unlawful to be sad today, for today is Life’s birthday... It would be unlawful for anyone to refuse

Rejoice continued on page 8



— 2022 Sharing Fund Grants Awarded —

The Sisters of St. Francis annually 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 the Leadership Team.

Twenty-nine organizations in Iowa, Illinois, California, Kentucky, Missouri, New Mexico, South Dakota, and the Washington D.C. area were the recipients of the 2022 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.](#)
- Clinton Trees Forever [Clinton, IA](#)
- Community Health Free Clinic [Cedar Rapids, IA](#)
- Crisis Center for South Suburbia (meals) [Tinley Park, IL](#)
- Cross Catholic Outreach [Washington, D.C.](#)
- Catalina McAuley Comedor (Peru) [Silver Springs, MD](#)
- Fishers of Men Ministry [Davenport, IA](#)
- Help Build Hope Housing Project [Orland Park, IL](#)
- Humility Homes and Services [Davenport, IA](#)
- Information Referral & Assistance Service [Clinton, IA](#)
- Interfaith Community Services [Escondido, CA](#)
- Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants [Chicago, IL](#)
- Interfaith Power & Light [Des Moines, IA](#)
- Iowa City Catholic Worker House [Iowa City, IA](#)
- Iowa WINS [Mt. Pleasant, IA](#)
- L’Arche Clinton [Clinton, IA](#)
- Lake Street Church of Evanston [Evanston, IL](#)
- Mater Dei USA [Unionville, MO](#)
- Migrant Farmworkers Assistance Fund [Kansas City, MO](#)
- The Pregnancy Center [Clinton, IA](#)
- Sisters Water Project [Dubuque, IA](#)
- St. Francis Mission [St. Francis, SD](#)
- St. Vincent Mission [David, KY](#)
- The Well Lexington, Inc. [Lexington, KY](#)
- Unity Christian Academy [South Holland, IL](#)
- YWCA Children's Center [Clinton, IA](#)

Laudato Si' Action Plan Updates

Our initial [Laudato Si' Action Plan](#) covers three focus areas: a response to the cry of the Earth, a response to the cry of the poor, and ecological spirituality. The Franciscan Peace Center shares the following updates:



LAUDATO SI'

Action Platform

Goal 2.2: Utilize outside consultant firm to evaluate the carbon footprint of vehicle fleet at The Canticle. Consider electric vehicles and charging stations. Implement an improvement plan by December 2022.

Caritas Vehicle Services, a consulting firm based out of Milwaukee, WI, evaluated the carbon footprint of all vehicles owned by the Sisters of St. Francis. Three main points were determined: 1) our Prius cars do best, even the older models; 2) with an aim of .63 pounds of carbon dioxide per mile considered by experts to be "good," we met that on 13 out of 24 cars; and 3) our truck had the highest emissions and a newer model would improve that number.

Significant study was done on electric vehicles and it was determined that - at this time - we would not purchase electric or plug-in hybrid cars. This area will be re-evaluated as costs and availability of electric vehicles continue to improve.

A new policy regarding car purchases was approved by the Leadership Team in September.

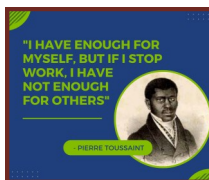
Goal 2.4: Complete an assessment of single-use plastic and educate ourselves on sustainable alternatives by December 31, 2022. A plan will be devised to reduce use of plastics by July 2023.

Single-use plastics include everything that is intended to be used only once before being thrown away or recycled. Examples include bottles, bread bag tags, straws, cutlery, shopping bag, etc.

Sisters, Sojourners, and Associates were encouraged to assess their personal use of single-use plastics by paying attention to what they were using for one or two weeks, and jotting down on a form what they used. The neighborhoods and other common areas at The Canticle were assessed and a plan was devised for each area on ways to reduce usage.

A collection of resources suggesting alternatives to single-use plastics, and examining their impact on the environment and animal and human life, is being shared monthly with the Clinton Franciscan Family.

Goal 4.5: Sponsor 3-5 public educational programs in 2022 about systemic racism and efforts to address it.



A six-week [social media campaign](#) launched in October that focused on illuminating the cause of canonization for six Black Catholic religious men and women. The cause of canonization, biographies, and beatification prayers for the Venerable Henriette Delille, Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, Servant of God Julia Greeley, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, and Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman were lifted up so that their lives of service could be recognized.

At the conclusion of the campaign, individuals were encouraged to [sign a letter to Pope Francis](#) urging him to immediately canonize the six Black candidates for sainthood by using the *santo subito* process.

November was Black Catholic History Month. Continuing to focus on canonization efforts, a public screening of the film [Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood](#) was held at The Canticle on November 16.

Additionally, during the week of Thanksgiving, information was shared with residents of The Canticle on the Black American experience of Thanksgiving. Programming focused on prayer and food traditions as well as how Thanksgiving traditions within Black communities began during the Reconstruction Era.

The Anti-Racism Common Read for the Clinton Franciscan Family continues to move forward. Participants have finished reading Howard Thurman's book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*. The group is now reading Fr. Dan Horan's book, *A White Catholic's Guide to Racism and Privilege*. Meaningful conversations that examine the group's personal experiences with privilege and racism are held weekly at The Canticle and online via Zoom.

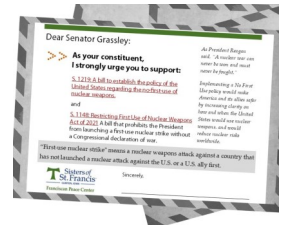
Goal 5.3: Hold at least 2 educational programs about trafficking in 2022.

On October 2, a "Just Food" event was held on The Canticle grounds to learn how food choices can bring justice to humanity and the environment in a nonviolent way. Fair Trade chocolate and locally produced cheese were sampled, and educational material focusing on migrant labor, local food production, and the "Theology of Cheese" were offered to those in attendance.



Goal 6.1: Contact staff persons of U.S. Senators and Representatives in 2022 regarding no-first-use policy and limiting presidential power to launch a nuclear attack.

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, members of the Clinton Franciscan Family participated in a postcard writing campaign in September to encourage their Senators and Representatives to support bills H.R. 2603, S.1219, H.R.669, and S.1148. If passed, these bills would create a policy to never be the first to use nuclear weapons and to limit the president's ability to launch a nuclear attack.



Goal 6.2: Research companies that support the production and use of nuclear weapons.

Examine our investments and purchases and create a plan to change our current practices as needed.

Our policy prohibits investing in companies that produce nuclear weapons, and our investment managers have been instructed to avoid investing in these companies. Working with our Finance Advisory Committee, a list of institutions that finance companies involved with nuclear weapons will be shared with our investment managers so they can avoid them.

Goal 7.1: Continue prayer vigils when executions are scheduled. Ongoing.

Members of the Clinton Franciscan Family continue to contact legislators to repeal state and federal death penalties, participate in vigils, and pray for stays of executions. Monthly execution prayers are also posted on the congregation's Facebook page and in the *Action Alert Digest*.

— Advent Events Planned in Clinton

Vespers, or evening prayers, is taking place each Sunday of Advent at 6:00 p.m. in The Canticle chapel. The 30-minute service deepens our Franciscan understanding of seeing "*LOVE is the Heart of the Matter*" through song, reflection, and prayer.

On the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, participants pondered [An Advent Reflection with Fr. Richard Rohr](#), published by the Center for Action and Contemplation. In the short video, Rohr shares the meaning of Christmas from a Franciscan perspective stating, "When we speak of Advent or preparing for Christmas, we're not talking about waiting for a little baby to be born. We're in fact welcoming the universal, cosmic Christ — the Christ that is forever being born in the human soul and history."



An Advent Day of Reflection will be held Saturday, December 3, at The Canticle from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Katie Anders, Coordinator of Spiritual Care for the Sisters of Charity, BVM, in Dubuque, Iowa, will facilitate. Entitled "*Being Fully Human*," participants will explore the example given to us by Jesus in the Gospels, spend time in reflection, and engage in practices that can guide us to a deeper understanding of who and how we are in the world.

Katie Anders, facilitator

— Faith in Reparations Letter Signed

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice and more than 2,000 Catholic Sisters and Associates - including members of the Clinton Franciscan Family - are calling on President Biden to establish a reparations commission via executive order before the end of 2022. The commission would initiate a federal study that develops reparation proposals for African Americans.

The [letter to the White House](#) reads, "*The Catholic faith tradition calls for confession, penance, and restitution when a sin has been committed. Telling the truth is, indeed, the only way we can begin to repair and redress the pain caused by slavery and our country's failure to repent for centuries of systemic racism.*" It

concludes by imploring President Biden to "*answer this urgent moral imperative to advance justice and build a better future for our country.*"

The letter follows a [previous letter](#) sent to the White House this past July by NETWORK and other faith-based organizations, including Jewish, Quaker, Muslim, Lutheran, Methodist, Unitarian, and Baptist partners asking President Biden to establish this commission.

The signed letter displayed during a prayer vigil outside the White House on November 17. Photo by NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice.



— “The Center” Podcast to be Launched —

Recording begins soon for the first episodes of “The Center,” a new podcast series created and produced by the Franciscan Peace Center. The podcast will focus on the origin story of the Franciscan Peace Center, the work and ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis, and the joint mission to promote peace and active nonviolence within our local, national, and global communities.

The podcast will also stretch and grow from this “center” by exploring how active nonviolence and peacemaking are necessary and transformative practices within everyday life.

The first two episodes will feature Sisters Jan Cebula, LaVern Olberding, and Maria Zeimen. They will focus on the experiences and motivations in the late 1980s and early 1990s that planted the seeds that led to our corporate mission of living and promoting active nonviolence and peacemaking and the launch of the “Center” following the 2000 Chapter.

While the retreats focused on nuclear disarmament, the sisters discovered early within their contemplation, resistance, and activism that the social violence that incubated nuclear weapons and warfare was also the root cause for most forms of social violence.

When interviewed for an August 1991 article in *The Catholic Messenger*, the sisters are quoted as saying:

“The focus of the retreat is on the building of a Church that will resist evils directly and indirectly associated with nuclear weapons. This includes militarism and variations of violence that include sexism, racism, patriarchy, the wasting of the environment and other species, and neglect of the poor.”



Sr. Donna Burke; Sr. Ida Green; Rosemary Lynch, OSF; Sr. Jan Cebula; Sr. Mary Smith; Sr. Maria Zeimen; and Fr. Louie Vitale, OFM, at a Nevada Desert Experience retreat in June 1991.

Since the initial seeds for the “Center” were planted, the concept sprouted and developed from a metaphorical place in quotation marks to the Franciscan Peace Center as it is today, a space where a staff of three lay persons work to spread the good news of peacemaking and active nonviolence in society.

As the Franciscan Peace Center works toward reaching new audiences, it has become evident that efforts should expand as technology evolves. Creating and producing a podcast will help in these efforts, while allowing the Franciscan Peace Center to learn and grow within the Franciscan charism and corporate stands of the Sisters of St. Francis.

Watch for the first episode of “The Center” to be streamed on major podcast platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Google Podcasts, on Thursday, January 12, 2023!



Zarnik continued...

Sister Joyce received a B.A. in Education from Marycrest College, Davenport, IA, and an M.A. in Education with an emphasis on media from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA. She held a permanent professional teaching certificate in Iowa as well as a catechetical certificate and a certificate in MS DOS computers from California State University, San Bernardino, CA.

She served 40 years in the ministry of teaching at schools in Epworth, Clinton, and Fonda, IA; Macomb and Chicago, IL; and Riverside, CA. She served as an Administrative Assistant in the Mission Development Office of the Medical Missionaries of Mary in Chicago, where she ministered from 2006 until her retirement in 2021.

Sister Joyce's talent in both voice and guitar enriched many liturgical services with the

Sisters of St. Francis and the schools where she served. She was a member of the "Singing Sisters" who recorded the album *Come Along* in 1972. More recently, she was a member of "Circle of Song for Women," a non-auditioned chorus in the Chicago area that uses their voices to send healing, compassion, and joy into our world.

Sister Joyce had a gift for accepting people where they are and in seeing the interconnectedness of all.

She is survived by her sisters, Geraldine (Richard) Jakl, Paulette Heredia, and Christine (Glenn) Wagner; many nieces and nephews; and her Clinton Franciscan Family with whom she has shared life for 59 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Josephine, and sister, Gloria.

Rejoice! continued...

sharing in our rejoicing... Rejoice if you are a saint, for you are drawing nearer to your crown! Rejoice if you are a sinner, for your Savior offers you pardon! And if you are a pagan, rejoice, for God calls you to life!

Well, that pretty much covers everyone. What a concept — **unlawful to be sad**. In today's world we see much cause for sadness. The horrors of war, climate crises, immigrants begging to be given a chance, mass starvation, child abuse, trafficking, domestic violence. It just goes on

and on. But, on the day of Life's birthday - it is not just unlawful to be sad - it is okay to be rejoicing.

Actually, it is not just okay to be rejoicing, it is the best possible thing to do! So REJOICE, REJOICE, REJOICE — it is Life's Birthday!!!

Rejoice. Rejoice. Rejoice.

Images: Christmas crib by Sister Carmel Jacobs, OSF, and "Rejoice" by the late Sister Mary of the Angels Klein, OSF



843 13th Avenue North
Clinton, IA 52732-5115
(563) 242-7611
www.clintonfranciscans.com