



# Heritage Happenings

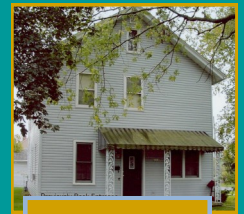
Archives Office

November 2019

Lest We Forget...



**November 2019:** In the upstairs of “Little Nazareth”, despite their efforts to maintain a “spirit of quiet”, excitement fills the air. It is early November 1869 and in just a few days Father Joseph Fessler will come and begin their first official Retreat in preparation for their Reception and the Founding of their new community...Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. What names will Father Fessler bestow upon them? Their new habits and veils are all ready for wearing. New cords have been fitted and the rosaries they have learned to make are ready to be hung off the cord. Now they just need to prepare their inner hearts and minds for this special day which has finally come after three years of waiting and preparing. What will the days to come bring? Father has already been talking about the need for a bigger convent if they expect to grow. Some young girls have already approached Mary Doyle asking what they must do to join her...this house will not hold too many more people. Another move is already on the horizon!!



Little Nazareth Today



The day finally arrives. It is November 9, 1869. A special ceremony is held in the upstairs of “Little Nazareth”, too small, too crowded for any guests to be present. Father Fessler prays and then gives each young woman her new name: *“Rosa, you will now be called Sister Odelia; Theresa, you will be known as Sister Gabriella; Mary Ann, you will be Sister Hyacintha; Josepha, you are now Sister Coletta; and you, my dear sister, will no longer be called Sophia but Sister Seraphica. Now let us pray...”*

Left to Right:

- Sr. Hyacintha (No Photo)
- Sr. Odelia
- Sr. Gabriella
- Sr. Coletta
- Sr. Seraphica



**Franciscan Sisters of  
Christian Charity  
November 9, 1869**

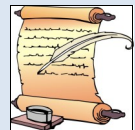


## Celebrating Founder’s Day Events over the past 150 years.

**1909:** 40th Anniversary...Mother Alexia requested Mother Gabriel to present a history of the community

**1910—1938:** No information on celebrations that were probably held

**1939:** 70th Anniversary...Sisters sent in photos of their mission’s church, school and convent. Those who came before 1900 wrote down stories about the early days.



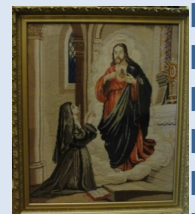
**1951:** 82nd Anniversary...Play entitled “Our Beloved Mothers” acted by Sr. Colette Hoadley as Mother Odelia, Sr. Xaveria Wittman as Father Joseph Fessler, and Sr. Clarita Ryan as Mother Euphrosine.

**1952:** 83rd Anniversary...play performed about a Little Angel who came to the convent exploring

**1953:** 84th Anniversary...Five Acts Play: 1) Rich Young Man and Jesus; 2) Christians with Peter and Stephen living community; 3) Pachomius and Monastic Life; 4) St. Benedict, St. Augustine, St. Francis, St. Dominic and their work; 5) Novitiate and Community Life

**1955:** 86th Anniversary... Play: “Foundresses” tell their personal histories via “A letter home”

**1956:** 87th Anniversary... play titled “Love Is My Name” based on God’s love. History of the devotion to the Sacred Heart and Margaret Mary Alacoque



**1957: 88th Anniversary...**Another play called "The Canticle of Brother Sun given by "The Sentinels of the King" on the life of St. Francis and the Canticle.

**1958: 89th Anniversary—Novices :** "Laborers of Love" No program filed.

**1959: 90th Anniversary...**Play : An angel brings Francis to a recreation in the convent. They sing favorite songs, tell stories about the community's history and about St. Francis.

**1962: 93rd Anniversary...**Play called "The Weak Plant Deepest". Story of Sister Constantia whose mother wanted her to come home so bad that she even took her to court. In the form of a ballad with five scenes.



**1963: 94th Anniversary...**Play entitled "Look Forward Angel: based on life of Sister Eulogia Wahl. Four scenes: with her family before entering the convent; with family day of Reception; her first day of teaching children; and lastly on death bed taking her vows.

**1964: 95th Anniversary...**Novices: Wheat of the Field  
No information on the program they did. Does anyone remember??

**1965: 96th Anniversary...** Program title "The Call" presented by Mirrors of the Beatitudes. Based on life of Father Fessler , Theresa Gramlich and the call to religious life.



**1966: 97th Anniversary...**Novices: Prophets of Peace. Presentation based on parts of the Mass matched up to parts of the call to religious life.

**1967: 98th Anniversary...**Presentation called "Shades of Reality" resented by The Spirits of Love. SONG: "To Dream the Impossible Dream". Each of the stanzas were used to refer to the life of Christ, that of Francis, to the world of that day and to our role as religious. "This is our quest!!"

**1968: 99th Anniversary...**Novices: Lovers of Life (1968) and Believers in Love (1969) Program titled "Here I Am" utilizing "shadows" reading, interpretive dance, choral reading, Vespers Service. The choral reading was based on uniqueness, greatness, diversity of each Sister.



**1969: 100th Anniversary...**Mass of Thanksgiving; Open House; Slide presentation of Community history given by Sister Teresita Kittell; Sr. Teresita's rendering of "Community"

**1970: 101st Anniversary...** Novices: Believers in Love (1969) and Sharers of Life (1970)

**1971: 102nd Anniversary...**Choral reading with songs, flute music, the Canticle of St. Francis, History of Francis' call and ours as religious Novices: Flames of Life (1971) and Sharers of Life (1970)

**1972: 103rd Anniversary...**Program that evening: Inspirational choral reading by Flames of Life (1971)and Echoes of Unity (1972). SONG: Pass it on. Story of the Grape Tendril.

**1973: 104th Anniversary...**Novices: Echoes of Unity (1972) and Pilgrims of Hope(1973) Focus of the program was on "Joy-Humility-Simplicity." Play focused on Francis's devotion to Mary, the Rosary, and Mary's Grotto.

**1974: 105th Anniversary...**Novices: Pilgrims of Hope (1973) and Reflections of the Son (1974). Program: Reconciliation: Francis and Instruments of Peace." Focused on German Sisters coming to our community.

**1975: 106th Anniversary...**Novices: Reflections of the Son (1974) and Poor Suns (1975) Program: Born To Build: Beginnings in Poverty."

**1976: 107th Anniversary...**Novices: Poor Suns (1975) and Love's Brides (1976) Program: Unless a Grain of Wheat" — Reflections on each of the Mother Superiors as an Evening Prayer

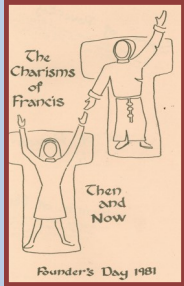
**1977: 108th Anniversary...**Novices: Love's Brides (1976) Gifts of the Spirit (1977) Program: Journeys Ended, Journeys Just Begun." Focused on coming of the German Sisters and results of the 1881 Fire. Super that evening everyone sat according to reception crowd and shared memories of meals long past.



**1978: 109th Anniversary...**Novices: Gifts of the Spirit (1977) and Seeds Unfolding in His Light (1978) The theme was "Alverno Joys" . A narration on the History of the Community was done.

**1979: 110th Anniversary...**Novices: Seeds Unfolding in His Light (1978) , Son's Horizons(1979) Theme: "Refining His Silver" — History of St. Francis and then our Community's History

**1980: 111th Anniversary...** Novices: Son's Horizons (1979) and Handmaids of the Lord (1980) Theme: "Instruments of Peace" Short playlets acting out stories based on verses of the song.



**1981: 112th Anniversary...**Novices: Handmaids of the lord (1980) and Beloved of Christ (1981) Theme: "The Charisms of Francis Then and Now" - short plays acting out charisms with song and poetry.

**1982: 113th Anniversary...**Novices: Beloved of Christ (1981) and Servants of Francis (1982) Using scenic slides like a picture album told stories about Clarks Mills , Mother Gabriella on her way to Potosi; First Hospital—few patients; Peru send off ceremony, etc.

**1983: 114th Anniversary...**Novices: Servants of St. Francis (1982) and Joyful Hearts United in Christ (1983) Theme: Harmony In the Spirit of Francis — Music and slides based on the Canticle of Creation

**1984: 115th Anniversary...**Novices: Joyful Hearts united in Christ (1983) and Servants of the Trinity (1984) Theme: Apostolic Religious: Our Continuing Vision. Play based on Education History of the Community

**1985: 116th Anniversary...**Novices: Servants of the Trinity (1984) and Witnesses of Christ (1985). Theme: "Inspired From Within, Inspired From Without." OMNIBUS used for source materials along with constitutions.



**1986: 117th Anniversary...**Novices: Witnesses of Christ (1985) and Joyful Followers of Mary (1986) Theme: Inspirations for Excellence. Slide presentation on teaching, education and skit

**1987: 118th Anniversary...**Novices: Joyful Followers of Mary (1986) and Seraphic Lovers of Christ (1987) Theme: "Behold Your Mother" The Marian Year. Marian devotions of the community through stories, artwork and music.

**1988: 119th Anniversary...**Novices: Seraphic Lovers of Christ (1987) Theme: Cornerstones. Prepared a prayer service with each cornerstone focused on with a reading and song.

**1989: 120th Anniversary...**Theme: "Alverno" Novices: Obedient Listeners of the Good Shepherd (1989) Special Evening Prayer. Program: Slide presentation on Alverno —the building of the Motherhouse and building up of each of the rooms, halls, areas. Very informational.

**1990: 121st Anniversary...**Novices: Obedient Listeners of the Good Shepherd (1989) and Companions of the son (1990). Prepared Commentaries for Morning and Evening Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Liturgy for the Day. Program: Play based on needs during decades. Ended with slide show of photos.

**1991: 122nd Anniversary...** Theme: "Portraits of Hope: Mother Gabriel to Mother Agna" Novices: Companions of the Son (1990) and Spouses of the Holy Spirit (1991). Prepared Evening Prayer and Liturgy. Program: focus on each Mother Superior including her gifts to the community and some of her words of wisdom; songs were sung in between.

**1992: 123rd Anniversary...**Novices: Spouses of the Holy Spirit (1991) and Servants of the Sacred Heart (1992) Prepared Evening Prayer and Program. Focus on Novitiate over the years 1868 to 1992: studies, lessons, songs learned for profession, reception.

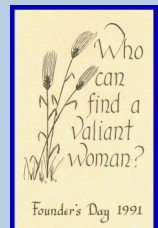
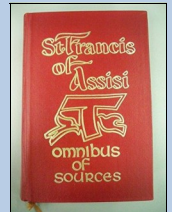


**1993: 124th Anniversary...** Novices Servants of the Sacred Heart (1992) and Burning Hearts for the Crucified (1993) Prepared an Evening Prayer. Program focused on first 50 years of our Founding with special highlighting of the 25th year in 1894, and 50th Jubilee in 1919. Poem written by Sr. Aquilina Acker "Our Convent Rose Garden". Song about Father Oswald, Father Fessler, and the Founding Sisters.

**1994: 125th Anniversary...**Novices : Burning Hearts for the Crucified (1993) and Children of the Divine Light (1994). Theme: "Our Jubilee years, Part 2: All Roads Lead to Rome". Prepared an Evening Prayer for the Old Cemetery. Program: highlighted experiences of sisters between 75th and 100th Jubilee Years. Poem: Francis, the Bookworm, by Sister Mary Nugent.



**1995: 126th Anniversary...**Theme: "Remembering the Past" Novices: Children of Divine Light (1994 and 1995) Program: Snippet stories from the past delivered in broken German as they told it. Set words to songs for each story.





**1996: 127th Anniversary...**Theme “50 Years of Mahalo (Thank You)” Novice: Healer Through Christ Crucified (1996) Program: Combination of Morning prayer with Liturgy in honor of John Lateran.

**1997: 128th Anniversary...** Theme: “Imitation of Christ Through the Vows” Novices: Healer Through Christ Crucified (1996) and Servant of the Risen Lord (1997) Program Focus: Living the Vows: Scripture and Christ; Francis and the Third Order Rule; Foundresses and Sister Patricia Doyle.



**1998: 129th Anniversary...**Theme: “Our Missions in Arizona” Novices: Servant of the Risen Lord (1997) and Adorer of Jesus, the living Bread (1998) Prepared program for Morning and Evening Prayer. History of Arizona Missions Play.

**1999: 130th Anniversary...**Theme: “Unfolding Wisdom” Novices: Adorer of Jesus, the Living Bread (1998) and Handmaid of the Sacred Heart (1999). Prepared an Evening Prayer. Program: Focused on interviews with Mother Odelia for Channel 2 Novitiate News, honoring St. Francis Xavier Grade School in Petosky, Michigan where Sisters have served for 108 years.



**2000: 131st Anniversary...**Theme: “Sharing a Scrapbook: a Place of Their Own” Put on by Musicians this year as no novice received into Novitiate in 2000. Play dedicated to Sister Regine Dolores and the Conservatory; History of Music.

**2001: 132nd Anniversary...**Theme: “Fishers of Men” Novice: Defender of Truth (2001) Prepared Founder’s Day Evening Prayer. Program: Narration—History of our Mission in Peru.

**2002: 133rd Anniversary...**Theme: “Dying and rising Together” Novice: Vessel of the Holy Spirit Program: Focus on life’s trials, misfortunes, and God’s grace carrying us through them: History of the Amalgamation and difficulties between the two groups.

**2003: 134th Anniversary...**Theme: Menus from Deceased Sister Homemakers. Sisters prepared a binder of menus for week of November 3 to the 9th. Recipes of the Sisters were highlighted. Human interest stories were included about homemakers: Sisters Benedict, Alexine, Irenaeus, Lambert, Clotilda, Electa, Reinhardt.



**2004: 135th Anniversary...**No Founder’s Day Program on file. No novices this year. Sister Lois Ann Gosch, Sister Natalie Binversie, and Sister Karen Suhr dressed in earlier habits and visited around the Motherhouse.

**2005: 136th Anniversary...**Theme: How things Were / How Things Have Changed. Presenters: Sisters Caritas Marie LeClaire and Sister Veronica Schad. Program: The purchase of land for the Motherhouse. Slide presentation and a visual “tour” of the outside of the Motherhouse, its rooms inside and the changes over time.

**2006: 137th Anniversary...** Theme: History of the Community. Sisters presented a narrative of our history with songs sung in between changes. Songs: The Divine Call (by Sister Ephrem and Sister Davidica); God Has Chosen Me; Seek Ye First; The Summons; and Happy Happy in Our Franciscan Way.

**2007: 138th Anniversary...** Theme: Francis Receiving the Rule in St. John Lateran and our Beginnings. Presenters: Sisters. Program: Play focusing on watching the History Channel—St. Francis and how his rule came about; Heritage of Hope on FSCC (Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity).



**2008: 139th Anniversary...**Theme: Journey, St. Paul Hope, Founding, Community goals. Songs: “If You Want Your Dream to Be” and Alverno Joys. Skit performed with Power Point Presentation: Paul’s Journeys; Father Oswald, Father Fessler, Foundresses Journeys; Missions Served At; Cemeteries. Sisters put on the presentation.

**2009: 140th Anniversary...**Theme: Cornerstone of Life Novices: Mirror of the Radiant one (2008) and Witness of Divine Joy (2009). Morning and Evening Prayer Prepared. Cemetery service held.



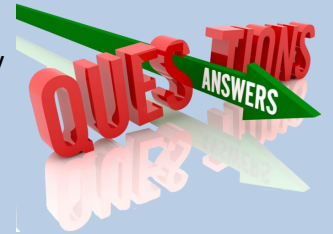
**2010: 141st Anniversary...**Theme: “History of Health Care Ministry in the Congregation:” Novices: Witness of Divine Joy (2009) and Proclaimers of the Kingdom (2010). Program: Power Point presentation on Health care...Hospitals...etc. Cemetery Service was also held on Monday evening, November 8, 2009.

**2011: 142nd** Anniversary...Theme: "To Be or not to be...the call to radical poverty and humility as embraced by our founding sisters. Novices: Proclaimers of the Kingdom (2010) and Lovers of the Word Incarnate (2011). Program: The beginnings of the German and American communities and their embodiment of a radical living of the gospels is discussed as well as our call to be a disturbing presence to the 21st century in the manner of these Sisters and St. Francis.

**2012: 143rd** Anniversary...Theme: "Legacy of Faith". Novice: Lover of the Word Incarnate (2011) Power Point Presentation that focused on Year and Faith and the New Evangelization. Focused on each Mother Superior and elements of her faith.

**2013: 144th** Anniversary...Theme: "Founder's Day Forum" Novice: Vessel of the Holy Spirit (2013) Program: Forum—Questions were elicited regarding the history of our community. Questions were narrowed down to Missions, Individual Sisters, the Motherhouse, and General Community History. The four Sisters answered the questions by telling associated history using a presentation of slides.

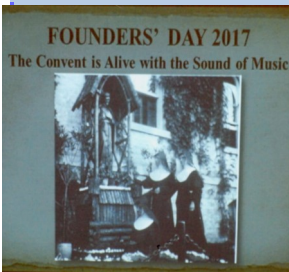
**2014: 145th** Anniversary...Theme: "Year of Consecrated Life—Living Stones, Holy People, Holy Places, Empty Chalices, Video from Founder's Day 1997; "The Imitation of Christ Through the Vows". Presented by Sister Estelle. No novices this year.



We are who we are because of those who have gone before us.

**2015: 146th** Anniversary...Theme: "We are who we are because of those who have gone before us" Power point Presentation by Sister Caritas Strodthoff. Traced founding of communities that led to our founding: Precious Blood Founding of Fathers and Sisters; Father Oschwald's Founding; Father Joseph Fessler's Founding of our Community.

**2016: 147th** Anniversary...Theme: "Evaluation of Music, and Prayer in our Community." Novice: Daughter Zion Program: Used narratives given by several sisters to describe the intertwining of music and prayer in our customs, our liturgy, Liturgy of the Hours, private prayer. Video taped interviews.



**2017: 148th** Anniversary... Theme: "The Convent is Alive With the Sound of Music" Novices: Lanterns of Merciful Light. Program: Video tape done of the history of music in our congregation. Songs composed by our Sisters and Dr. Singenberger were sung including: "Alverno Joys", "Our Little Portiuncula", "Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue", "O Thou Virgin Happy Bride", "Mary, Eternally Woman", "Our Love Song...God and I", "Be Little, Be Poor", "Consecrate Me".



**2018: 149th** Anniversary... Theme: "Reception Ceremonies" Novice: God's Love Program: A description of Reception ceremonies through the ages since our founding were described. Changes in the ceremony since Vatican II were reviewed and comparisons made to pre- and post- Vatican II.



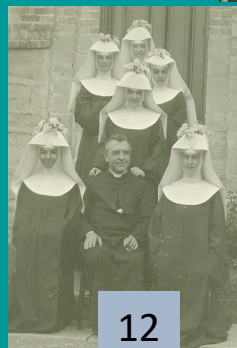
1. *English = God's Love*
2. *Vietnamese = Tinh yeu thien chua*
3. *Chichewa = Okwagala kwa Katonda*
4. *Croatian = Ima Abasi*
5. *Swahili = Upendo wa Mungu*
6. *French = L'amour de Dieu*
7. *Spanish = Amor de Dios*
8. *Filipino = Pag-ibig ng Diyos*



**2019: 150th** Anniversary Theme: "Celebrating 150 Years of Love" Novice: Daughter of Divine Trust Program: Mother Alexia visits the novices. "Our congregation is all about charity. That is why we are called the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity." Using the Gospel of St. Matthew 25: 31-46, the corporal and spiritual works of mercy are compared to the works of our Sisters through stories recollected by our Sisters.



~~Old Name~~  
New Name



1. Reception 1946
2. Sr. Marie Gressel—1950
3. Reception veil with flowers
4. Reception 1942 Procession
5. Procession into Chapel—1951
6. Placing Veil at Feet of Crucifix
7. Blessing of the New Habit Articles
8. Receiving the Blessed Cord—1960
9. Leaving to Change into New Habit
10. Returning to pew with new Candle
11. Receiving Name and Blessed Candle
12. Reception Group of 1918
13. Sr. Theresa Schleis - 1945
14. Mother Generose's Crucifix/Rosary Reception 1885
15. Sr. Anne Turba—Reception 1977
16. Sr. Joellen Kohlman, Sr. Helen Marie Paul—Reception 1982
17. Reception 2018: Candle with Symbol, Habit and veil

Blessing of the:  
Rosaries and candles  
Crown of Flowers  
Coifs and Wimples  
Scapulars and Cuffs  
Cords

