



SYLVANIA
FRANCISCAN
VILLAGE

DECEMBER, 2017

In This Issue

[Dinner and a book](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[From the Director](#)

[Associates in Joyful Service](#)

[Sister Gretchen shares more than Recipes](#)

[Coming: Ted Talks](#)

[Christians Volunteer at the Islamic Food Bank](#)

Franciscan Tidbits



By Sister Joan Jurski

Giving Thanks in a Spirit of Joy

Some say that joy is the simplest form of gratitude. St. Francis easily comes to mind as a person of both joy and gratitude. His life personified one of thanks for all creation in a spirit of joy. For him all things were "gift and good." He walked about the

From the Director



As we enter the Christmas season, it's hard not to get caught up in the commercial side of the holidays. Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals are intended to make us feel that we are getting the best bargains for our gift shopping. Yet, I find as I get older, the best gifts are not found on Black Friday or Cyber Monday, nor are they even for sale. The best gifts are those of the heart where we are mindful of the needs of others...spending more time with an elderly family member, inviting a lonely neighbor to dinner, sharing our talents for the benefit of others. As you read this month's newsletter you will get to see the joyful giving of the Sylvania Franciscan Village, a joyful giving that occurs not just at the Christmas season, but year-round, as villagers, whether Associates, participants of the Muslim Christian Dialogue, or a volunteer in Sister Gretchen's Kitchen, share their talents as gifts to others. My prayer for you this Holy Season is that you, too, may experience the joyful gift of giving from the heart.

Sophia Lloyd
Director, Sylvania Franciscan Village

Sylvania Franciscan Associates give joyfully all year long

Umbrian hills in a spirit of joy, greeting others with a "good day, good people." His relationship with God gave him a sense of freedom. One of the beautiful poems of praise and gratitude to come out of that time is Francis' poem, The Canticle of Creation. In 1224, Francis began to express his recognition of all creation as Brother and Sister. All creation, sun and moon, stars and fire, water and earth - all were seen as brothers and sisters. At the end of his life in 1226, in bodily suffering, he added his final thanks for Sister Bodily Death. As Sisters of St. Francis, we are fortunate to have artistic depictions of the Canticle on the grounds. You can find striking art pieces, created by our Sisters, on the cloister walk of Madonna Hall.



Our prayer is that all who visit feel the joy of and serenity of Saint Francis.

"Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks, and serve him with great humility." - St. Francis

Dinner & A Book



Associate Advisory Council Members: Mary Kiplinger, Kathy Faist, Associate Dee Resnick, Sister Karen Zielinski

This past year over 70 Sylvania Franciscan Associates contributed their gifts in a variety of ways, benefiting local programs such as Bethany House and the Labre Project as well as the poor living in Appalachia, Puerto Rico and Africa.

While spirituality might be at the core of the service hours they give, socialization is a happy by-product. Getting involved with the Toledo Area Associates Networking Group (TAANG) brought Associates together from different religious communities for two [service days spent sewing dresses and shorts for needy children](#). The Sisters of St. Francis in Sylvania hosted the events.

"I've heard from just about everyone that the best part was spending the afternoon with some old friends while making new ones. They loved getting to talk with the other Associates as well as so many of our Sisters who came out to help sew," says Sister Karen Zielinski, Associate Co-Director.

Channel 13, Channel 11 and The Blade all covered both service days, which had the unintentional effect of bringing in unsolicited - but very welcome - donations toward the project. Sister Karen used the funds to purchase new sewing scissors for everyone.

For more information on the Sisters of St. Francis Associate Program, contact Associate Co-Director, Sr. Karen Zielinski at kzielinski@sistersosf.org or 419-824-3543.

SOSF Associates' list of good deeds for the year includes:

Connect with the community through this powerful shared reading experience. Register for "Dinner & a Book" and stop by to pick up your copy of the featured book: ["Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust," by Immaculee Ilibagiza.](#) You'll have plenty of time to read the book before we get together on February 12 for a delicious dinner and book group discussion. [Click here for a description of the book.](#)

**Monday, February 12,
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
\$10 per person
includes book and
dinner.
[RSVP's required.](#)**

Get your book soon!
Books are available in
these locations:

- All Good Things Art & Gift Shop in Madonna Hall
- Lourdes Hall Room #211
- Sylvania Franciscan Village Office in Regina Hall

Please RSVP to Elizabeth at ereiter@sistersosf.org or 419-824-3515

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out upcoming lectures, classes, special events,

- Cooked and delivered six casseroles to [Campus Ministry's Labre Project](#) monthly. Some Associates also helped distribute the warmed dinners to the needy.
- Two TAANG service day sewing events where 701 care kits were packed for El Salvador, and 51 dresses and nine boys' shorts were sewn for Appalachia, Puerto Rico and Africa.
- Supported Lourdes University Fellowship Masses by providing desserts for four services.
- Two Associates create weekly ["Franciscan Friday"](#) messages for social media to help inspire and educate with reflections all things "Franciscan."
- Hosted a picnic fundraiser for [Bethany House](#) and collected approximately \$750 worth of household goods.
- Associates donated an auction item to the Annual Gala Fundraiser and many contributed their talents to making the event a success.

The sweetness of sharing



Volunteer Pat O'Shea Remley and Sister Gretchen baking cookies for the Christmas Bake Sale.

The office spaces in Regina Hall are regularly perfumed by the sugary scent of cookies baking and pies cooling as Sister Gretchen Faerber and her volunteers bake up storeloads of goods for either charity or fundraising efforts.

She holds bake sales near Christmas, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter and Halloween. The Halloween bake sale netted a profit of \$500.00, which she donated to US Together, a non-profit group that works to relocate and house refugees in Ohio.

Sister Gretchen also contributes two beautiful baskets of goodies to the Lourdes University Luminations event in April, four baskets for the Gala Fundraiser Auction in September, and this month she's sending

volunteer opportunities and more.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE SFV CALENDAR](#)

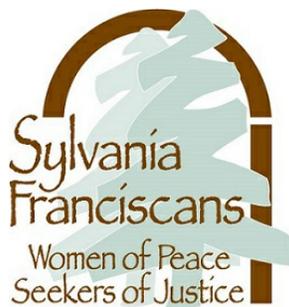
SYLVANIA FRANCISCAN VILLAGE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania

Lourdes University

Sylvania Franciscan Ministries

QUICK LINKS:



[Sisters of St. Francis](#)



LOURDES UNIVERSITY

[Lourdes University Calendar](#)



[All Good Things Art & Gifts](#)

extra candies over to Campus Ministry to add to the meals the Labre Project distributes.

She doesn't do all of this alone. Head volunteer Cindy Petretich has grown to be Sister Gretchen's right hand since she began helping out during Easter of 2013. Spending days in the kitchen gives Cindy "a sense of purpose" since she was put on disability in 2012.



Sister Gretchen and Cindy packed welcome bags for incoming 2017 Lourdes University students.

"I love it when the people start to smell all these good things and they pop their heads in to say hello and find out what we're baking. It's nice to be able to talk to different people and the Sisters are so nice," Cindy says. "I also like it that Sister Gretchen lets me taste test," she adds with a laugh.

Altogether there are a dozen volunteers who help bake, although the kitchen isn't big enough to accommodate more than a couple at a time. Prior to the Christmas bake sale, it was common to find Sister Gretchen and an 'elf' or two working well into the night to produce everything they need.

Somehow they produced 275 dozen cookies, 175 fruit cakes, 30 enormous pies, 165 jars of jam, 250 breads and mini-breads, candies and confectioneries and 36 of her famous Polish Coffee cakes. (With dozens of coffee cakes on back order.)

Recognizing Sister Gretchen and the Sisters of St. Francis' generosity to others, this past summer Smucker's decided to "adopt" their mission by supplying the kitchen with large quantities of flour and powdered sugar.

Judging by her list of orders to get ready by Christmas time, she'll need every last cup of it.

COMING IN 2018:



[Bethany House](#)



[Sophia Center](#)

TED TALKS ON TUESDAY

TED Ideas worth spreading

On the second Tuesday of each month, come join the discussion about a specific thought-provoking [TED Talk](#). Bring your lunch to the Franciscan Center Board Room, watch the TED Talk

and engage in stimulating conversation about important ideas of our day.

Tuesday, January 9, Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Social Justice: Is it still relevant in the 21st century? - Charles Robbins

Franciscan Center Board Room

This is a free event and all are welcome.

Questions? Email: Sophia Lloyd, Director, Sylvania Franciscan Village, at sloyd@sistersosf.org

Christian Muslim Group volunteers to help feed the hungry together



Jeanne Dery and Sister Mary Peter Kaminski pack lunches at the Islamic Center to feed the hungry.

Christians and Muslims found another similarity in

their faith traditions - the mandate to feed the hungry.

Members of the first Christian Muslim Dialogue group volunteered on Saturday, November 11 at The Islamic Center of Greater Toledo in Perrysburg to pack lunches for the Islamic Center Food Pantry.

On the second Saturday of every month the Islamic Center Food Pantry takes a mobile food truck out to deliver food to the needy, stopping first at Toledo Masjid Al-Islam in downtown Toledo and then Helping Hands of St. Louis in east Toledo.

They chose Saturdays because the soup kitchen and other ministries are only available throughout the week and they hoped to fill the void.

The Islamic Food Pantry was filled with delicious aromas, volunteer Sister Mary Peter Kaminski reports. Volunteers packed 150 brown lunch bags with containers of hot savory chicken, vegetables and a warm roll, plus a piece of fruit and a slice of homemade pumpkin pie.

Every last bag is needed.

"I asked what they do with the leftovers. It turns out they've never had anything left," Sister Mary Peter said.

[As reported by WTOL](#), Razi Rafeeq says "Our faith requires us to feed the needy. The saying of the prophet is, 'One is not a believer when you have a neighbor who goes to sleep hungry.'"

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink," says Sister Mary Peter Kaminski, sharing the words of Mathew 25:35-40.

After all, this is how we are going to be judged, she adds, quoting: "truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

For more information about participating in future Christian Muslim Dialogues, contact Sophia Lloyd, Sylvania Franciscan Village Director at 419-824-3533.

[Sylvania Franciscan Village](#) | slloyd@sistersosf.org | <http://www.sistersosf.org>
6832 Convent Boulevard
Sylvania, OH 43560

