



SISTERS OF
THE HOLY
FAMILY OF
NAZARETH //
VOL 12 //
// NO 3 //
WINTER 2018

Nazareth CONNECTIONS

FAMILY IS THE HEART OF OUR MISSION



Welcome our new
service corps
volunteers

STORY ON PAGE 8



Sr. Kathleen with our affiliates

Joy

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Dear Friends of Nazareth,

Words are one of the essential tools we use to communicate. Words are powerful, filled with emotions, and they evoke memories. Take, for example, the word “joy.” Perhaps you are reminded of a joyful heart, a joy-filled spirit, a joyous celebration.

Have you ever asked yourself, “What is the source of joy in my life? When do I feel most joyful?”

In the Letter to the Galatians 5:22, we read that joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, a gift that is freely given that we receive from God through the Holy Spirit, a gift that is freely given to each person. Joy is not the absence of pain and difficulties as St. James reminds us: “Count it all joy when you meet trials of various kinds” (James 1:2). Joy is knowing and experiencing the presence of God in our lives. Joy is trusting when you want to doubt, accepting what you want to reject, and celebrating when you want to fear.

Scripture reminds us of the joy that Jesus experienced during his years of public ministry and how he encouraged his disciples and the people he met along the way to rejoice always. This is evident at the conclusion of the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son in the Gospel of Luke with the invitation: “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep, my son, or my coin, that was lost.”

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus manifests his joy when he exclaims, “...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents...” and in Matthew when he proclaims, “Rejoice and be glad for your reward in heaven will be great.”

As we enter the sacred time of Advent, the Church invites us to prepare our hearts, to wait in anticipation, and to be joyful as we get ready to welcome Jesus on Christmas Day. This time of preparation includes Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of Joy, celebrated on the third Sunday of Advent, reminding us that the joyful

celebration of Christmas is near at hand. Advent gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the source of our joy and how we share it.

This Advent, let joy permeate our lives. May others see us as joy-filled, joy-full and joyous, as ones who experience a genuine encounter with Jesus Christ.

Joy is...

Jesus Others You

The source of our joy is not in what we have. It lies in “Emmanuel,” the name which means “God is with us” (Matt. 1:23).

Lovingly in JMJ,
Sister Kathleen Maciej

HOW ARE YOU CALLED TO LOVE?

We invite you to pray with us, to listen to God’s call with us and to love with us as we find God in ordinary experiences. Learn more about our community life, our ministries and our mission at nazarethcsfn.org/join-us. Or contact Sr. Emmanuela Le, CSFN, National Vocation Director, at 972-641-4496 x111 or vocations@nazarethcsfn.org.





VOLUME 12 // NUMBER 3 // WINTER 2018

Nazareth Connections is published three times a year by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in the USA.

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ON THE COVER:
Sr. Maria Kruszewski, CSFN, with HFSC Volunteer Kaliana Villa during the volunteers' commissioning ceremony

Prayers for our new affiliates

by Sr. Gemma Pepera, CSFN

Gabrielle (Gabri) MacInnes and Kayla Danks became Affiliates of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN) on September 29 at St. Frances of Rome Convent, Tyler, TX. Gabri, 22, comes from Minnesota, but her parents recently moved to North Fort Meyers, FL. She graduated in May from the University of Dallas with a degree in psychology. Kayla, age 20, grew up in Wichita Falls, TX. She is a student at Tyler Junior College.

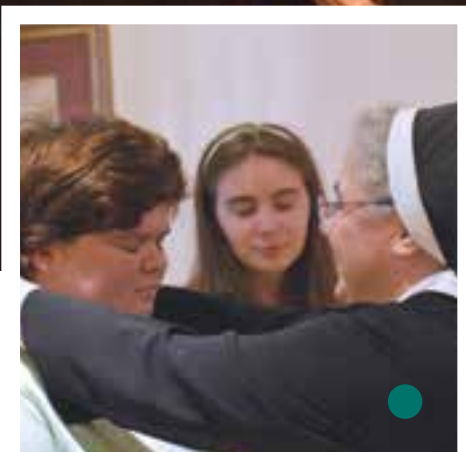
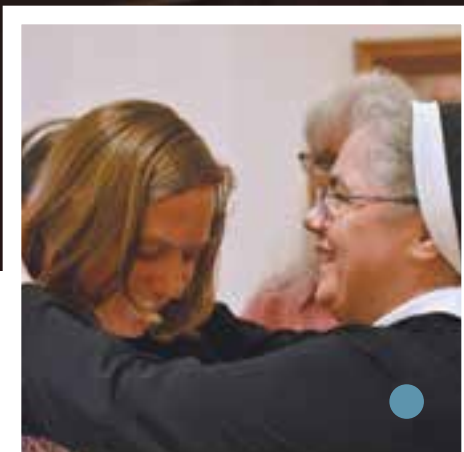
The affiliacy ceremony commenced in the convent's community room with several readings on the family and the lighting of a candle after each reading. Then, CSFN Vocation Director Sr. Emmanuela Le welcomed the candidates and asked them what they sought. Gabri and Kayla responded together that they wished to search

the possibility that God is calling them to religious life as a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Sisters, in response to Sr. Emmanuela's request, shared the statement of our charism and declared their readiness to pray for the Affiliates and to support them on their journey. Sr. Malgorzata Majszczyk, Superior of St. Frances of Rome Convent, standing in for Provincial Superior, Sr. Kathleen Maciej, entrusted the Affiliates to their director, Sr. Gemma Pepera. Sr. Malgorzata, then, gave each affiliate a candle which, later, glowed on the altar in the chapel for the remainder of the day. That was followed by Gabri's and Kayla's reception of the medal of the Holy Family/Mother Foundress, a framed picture of the Holy Family and copies of *Christian Prayer* and our *JMJ Manual*. All present greeted the new Affiliates.



In addition to the sisters of St. Frances of Rome Convent, Srs. Malgorzata, Sylvia, Gemma, Michaela, and Josephine, Sr. Emmanuela, Sr. Marietta Osinska and Sr. Mary Paul Haase from Grand Prairie, TX participated in welcoming Gabri and Kayla. Kayla's parents, John and Brenda Danks, and her brother and sister, Jacob and Samantha, were also present.



● Srs. Mary Paul Haase, Sylwia Kubiak, Gemma Pepera and Monika Brulinska during Affiliate Ceremony

● Affiliates Gabri MacInnes and Kayla Danks (2nd row, center) surrounded by CSFNs and Kayla's family

● Gabri with Sr. Malgorzata Majszczyk

● Kayla with Sr. Malgorzata Majszczyk

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR GABRI AND KAYLA AS THEY DISCERN THEIR CALL TO RELIGIOUS LIFE AS A SISTER OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH.

Laboure Society recently featured Gabri in a video about her discernment process. The video is available online at labouresociety.org/gabri-macinnnes.



AN AFFILIATE? WHAT'S THAT?

by Sr. Michele Vincent Fisher, CSFN

I was THAT kid. The kid who was always hanging out at the convent. I was the kid who gave up recess to clean the convent, ran errands for Mother Superior, took my prom date to meet the Sisters and dragged the nuns to Girl Scout Camp in the pouring rain. While I was pretty sure I wanted to be a Sister when I grew up, I was not quite ready to take the plunge and ask for an application form. This went on from the time I was eight years old until one cloudy day in the middle of finals week during my sophomore year in college when my roommate yelled down the corridor that I had a phone call (the days before cell phones, when everyone used the pay phone in the hallway!) Dragging myself out of my beanbag chair, still in sweat pants and slippers from the all-nighter I just pulled to study for the day's exams, I meandered down the corridor to see who was calling me. IT WAS GOD. Yeah...really...it was...hidden in the lovely voice of my dear friend Sr. Angela Cresswell, CSFN. She was calling to "check in," asking about my latest adventures and as always, asking how Jesus and I were doing. And then it happened. Midway through the conversation, Sister Angela popped



the question: "Would you like to become an affiliate with us?" You see, Sr. Angela and I knew each other for over six years. She was my former teacher and a faithful pen-pal after she was transferred from my high school. When I moved to Philadelphia to attend college, Sr. Angela was a frequent visitor and, on several occasions, took me to visit one or another Nazareth convent, introducing me to her "sisters." She saw what God was doing with me and took the risk to invite me to take a deeper look. And so without hesitating, I asked her: "An affiliate? What's that?"

Sr. Angela said that an affiliate was someone who wanted to look more closely at the possibility that God might be calling her to religious life by actually coming and living among the Sisters, sharing in their life of prayer and community while at the same time either finishing her studies, keeping her career or sharing in one of the existing ministries with the Sisters. It is a wonderful way to build a relationship and to find structure and support to nurture one's budding vocation.

Being an affiliate provided me with everything I needed to feel connected, supported and well-nurtured in my faith and discernment...

According to our Congregational tradition, the period of affliacy (usually six months to two years) provides the opportunity of coming to know oneself better, learning to live in a group as well as coming to know the community, customs and traditions of the Congregation. If the affiliate feels called to make a greater commitment to the Congregation, then affliacy can also be a time of gradual transition from the secular life to a readiness to begin postulancy. An affiliate may reside in a house of the Congregation



or be a non-resident. If she wishes to pursue further formation or entrance into the Congregation, she must live for some time in a house of the Congregation along with the affiliate director.

In case you were wondering, I said "yes" to that lovely invitation, completing my final two years as a college student, spending one

same time, offering me the freedom to continue to discover who God was calling me to be. Indeed, this was a most precious gift!

For more information on our Affliacy program, contact our Vocation Director, Sr. Emmanuela Le at vocations@nazarethcsfn.org or flag down your favorite Nazareth Sister! Carpe diem! And don't miss the story of our two newest affiliates on page 4!

Sr. Michele entered the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in June 1989.

weekend a month with my Sisters, going to daily Mass and talking with my director on a regular basis. Upon graduation, I packed up and continued my Nazareth adventure, moving to Puerto Rico and completing my year as a resident affiliate before becoming a postulant and eventually entering the Congregation.

Being an affiliate provided me with everything I needed to feel connected, supported and well-nurtured in my faith and discernment, while at the

- Michele (center), before she became a sister, with Srs. Teresa Mary Lukaszewski (left) and Angela Cresswell (right)
- Michele (right), as an affiliate, with her parents
- Michele (back row, center) as an affiliate during an inter-community gathering with CSFNs, SSJs and CDPs.
- Sr. Angela Cresswell (middle) with Michele (left) and an unidentified affiliate



Meet the newest Holy Family Service Corps volunteers

On October 1, four new volunteers were commissioned for one year of service with the Holy Family Service Corps (HFSC) in Pittsburgh, a volunteer program that is an extension of the mission of Holy Family Institute (HFI) and the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth to further God's love through service to the family. HFSC volunteers have opportunities to interact with sisters, learning through their lives the core values of faithful listening, loving relationships and discovering

God in the ordinary experiences of daily life while serving in one of HFI's ministries in the Pittsburgh area.

HFSC ties together the gifts of prayer, service and community to offer its volunteers a powerful opportunity to be the change they want to see in the world. Volunteers live communally while earning the opportunity for an education grant at the conclusion of their service.

During the October commissioning ceremony, each volunteer received a special candle and blessing from HFI staff. They were also assigned their Sister Companion, a CSFN who journeys with the volunteer and shares Nazareth hospitality while assisting with the challenges that might arise during the year.



Andrea

“I was attracted to HFSC because of the incredible work that HFI does in their community and their deep commitment to offering others an experience of God’s goodness,” explains Andrea Waclawek, one of the most recent volunteers to be commissioned for the year-long program. “I loved the combination of

continuing to receive formation while learning more about how Catholic nonprofits can enliven Catholic Social Teaching.”

Originally from Buffalo, NY, Andrea is a recent graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a master’s degree in theology which she earned through the University’s Echo Graduate Service Program, a two-year program which allows students to receive an MA in theology while serving in a variety of ministries. During her studies at Notre Dame, Andrea served in campus ministry at Purdue University. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in religion from Denison University in Granville, OH and is an avid soccer fan.

During her year of service with HFSC, Andrea will work in HFI’s Journey of Hope program, assisting with the needs of unaccompanied immigrant children from Latin America. Amazed

by the children’s resilience, openness, and care for one another, she says each day she learns so much from the children about what it means to be human. “It has been such a profound blessing to find the Lord in this work. I hope that I can be a face of God to these children, as they have been to me.”

Andrea’s Sister Companion on this journey is Sr. Geraldine (Gerri) Wodarczyk (pictured). “As someone who wants to continue to serve the Catholic Church, I am so grateful for the wealth of experience and insight that Sr. Gerri brings to our relationship,” Andrea says. “She has served in such diverse capacities throughout her life, which encourages me to be more faithful to the gentle nudges of God, even when those nudges ask me to serve in unexpected and challenging ways.”



Angelina

A graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education, Angelina Hernley is HFSC’s first Teaching Fellow. The Teaching Fellows Program is a service and education opportunity that enables participants

to earn a tuition-paid master’s degree in secondary education or special education from Duquesne University while serving at Nazareth Prep or HFI’s Specialized Learning School. Currently, Angelina is teaching cultural literacy and college and career prep along with a blended learning block at Nazareth Prep.

“During my time at Nazareth Prep, I have experienced a tremendous amount of support and collaboration from administration and my fellow teachers,” explains Angelina. Though she admits, the non-traditional schedule at Nazareth Prep seemed rather foreign at first, but she has adapted. “The non-traditional weekly class schedule mirrors college life and fosters independence in students while still supporting them as they grow.”

A native of Bethel Park, PA, Angelina sees the Fellows Program as an opportunity to grow both academically and professionally while experiencing community life with the other volunteers and getting to know her Sister Companion, Sr. Audrey Merski (pictured).

“Sr. Audrey is a truly intuitive and amiable individual,” says Angelina. “She has quickly become a crucial part of my career and personal development.”

In addition to the support she receives from Sr. Audrey, each week Angelina meets with the other HFSC volunteers, Kaliana, Andrea and Krystal, to share a meal, read scripture and pray together. “I am so happy to have found friends who have become my family,” says Angelina.



Kaliana

Kaliana Villa grew up in Des Moines and spent three semesters as an undergraduate living and studying in Spain, South Korea and Greece. She will spend her HFSC volunteer year serving families in HFI's In-Home Family Services, a program that

ensures Pittsburgh area parents have resources and support to provide a nurturing environment for their children. She will also assist in HFI's Journey of Hope program.

After graduation from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls with a bachelor's degree in psychology, Kaliana embarked on a 40-day pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago in Spain, the oldest Catholic pilgrimage in existence, walking 500 miles from the French border to Santiago de Compostela in western Spain.

Her travels across the globe have prepared her, though, for living in a different area of the U.S. "Being new to Pittsburgh has been an interesting transition. I am always looking for new things to try or ways to meet people in this area."

Bringing her multi-cultural heritage and Spanish-speaking expertise to HFSC, Kaliana, a Cuban American, is looking forward to helping people change and grow.

"I really feel like the work I am doing here is going to be making a huge difference in the lives of people in the community," she said.

Sr. Maria Kruszewski (pictured) is serving as Kaliana's Sister Companion, guiding her through the transition of living in Pittsburgh and serving at HFI.



Krystal

In her work at Nazareth Prep, Krystal Hanna says she has found her greatest joy in building trust with the students so that she is seen as a respected resource to help them with challenges they may be facing. Currently pursuing her degree in human development and family studies at Penn State University,

Krystal has spent her undergraduate years not only doing odd jobs in food service and sales to support herself but also volunteering with LifeLink PSU, an organization that assists college-aged, special needs students with academic, vocational and social skills along with enrichment and recreational activities.

Originally from Orlando, FL, Krystal was attracted to Nazareth Prep's innovative academic model along with the opportunity to have a direct impact on students' lives and to wear multiple hats during her service year.

As she learns to interact with the students, Krystal has Sr. Janice Fulmer (pictured) as her Sister Companion to help guide her. "Sr. Janice is just wonderful," she said. "I receive moral support and good jokes [from her] when we get together. She blesses me with her humble wisdom coupled with years of experience."

Krystal also enjoys the community living she experiences with the other volunteers, especially the support they offer each other. "It is nice to have designated Mondays as our check-in days and days where we spend time together to keep our little family close-knit," she says. "The only thing we need to work on is a chore chart."

Interested in finding out how you or someone you know can be a part of the Holy Family Service Corps? Visit our website at nazarethcsfn.org/service-corps or email Sr. Michele Vincent Fisher at sorellamichele@aol.com.

Oktoberfest 2018



A big thank you to Sr. Clare Marie Kozicki, CSFN, and her committee for organizing yet another successful Oktoberfest fundraiser. A total of 261 Sisters and friends gathered for delicious German food, lively music (performed by the Johnny Wagner Band), raffles, a silent auction...and, of course, the pleasure of spending time together.

To our Sisters, just being with friends and benefactors is the best part of any gathering. We enjoy the chance to get to know each of you better, learn about your families, and share a laugh or two. Just know that the time you take to visit with us or attend a fundraiser is priceless.

Pictured above: Srs. Catherine Fedewa and Sr. Karen Kellerski.

Pictured right: Sr. Phyllis Siedlecka



Paint the world with colors

Sr. Theresita Donach, known as “Sister T” among those she meets and serves, recently began a new ministry at Saints Philip and James Parish (SSPJ) in St. James, NY on Long Island. She is currently serving as Pastoral Associate in the parish and working alongside long-time friend Fr. Thomas (Tom) Haggerty, Pastor.

Stepping into this new role, Sister T accepted the Holy Spirit’s invitation to move out of her comfort zone. In the conversation below, Sister T and Fr. Tom share their thoughts on what it means to say “yes” to God’s invitations and why we often are resistant to stepping out of our comfort zone.





Sister T: You know Fr. Tom, it is interesting that you called me when you did several months ago. At the time, I was sitting and praying, asking the Holy Spirit what I am to do next in my life. I believe your phone call was definitely an invitation from the Holy Spirit. What is your idea about invitations from the Holy Spirit?

Fr. Tom: I like what Jesus says in John's Gospel that he will send us the Spirit to remind us of all he has told us. And just what is that? That we are created in love and for love as imagers of the Divine Creating God. The Spirit

“The truth is, I knew I needed more help. I believe in the witness of religious life and I remembered you living yours with joy and openness. I wanted to give the same to the good people here.”

reminds – prompts us – to remember how our words can bring goodness into being and to remember the many times God has in fact come disguised as our lives, into our lives. Pope Francis said, “By thinking everything is black and white, we sometimes close off the way of grace and growth.” The Spirit's invitations are to remember and paint the world with colors.

Sister T: I love that quote. Life and ministry need to be filled with color. So here I am at Saints Philip and James in St. James, Long Island adding color to my life. However, there are times when we are not sure if we are being called by the Spirit. Is it our wants and

desires? How do we know it is from the Spirit? What are your thoughts?

Fr. Tom: You again bring me to the Scriptures. Paul this time... signs of the Spirit are joy, peace, patience, gentleness.... invitations to hope.

Sister T: Well, joy and laughter have certainly been a part of each of my days here at SSPJ, as well as living with my wonderful Sisters in Wading River, NY. Do you believe that people can speak the invitation of the Spirit to you, kind of like what you did for me? How did you get to that place of asking me to join you at SSPJ?

Fr. Tom: By remembering the ministry time we shared in the past and having hope to build on that and all the many possibilities here in SSPJ – not in theory but in relationship. The truth is, I knew I needed more help. I believe in the witness of religious life and I remembered you

living yours with joy and openness. I wanted to give the same to the good people here. We have not had a religious in the parish for decades.

Sister T: Thank you for your kind words. I have been truly blessed. At times, I know we can resist invitations from the Spirit. I am glad I said “yes.” There can be situations when we say “no” and I truly believe that it can be because we are afraid to move out of our comfort zones. Do you agree?

Fr. Tom: Sure, and I think further that the choice always comes down to the questions: do we want to

bleed or curse.... bring light into the darkness, joy into the sadness, hope into despair? In short, do we want to surrender into God's hands and as instruments of God's peace (I'm now looking at a card on my desk) “dance as though no one is watching you, love as though you have never been hurt before, sing as though no one can hear you, live as though heaven is on earth”?

Sister T: Well then, we need to keep on dancing. Before we finish, another thought that came to mind is that like most people we want to be in control. So if I say “yes,” what does that really entail? I must be truthful: when I said “yes” to your invite, I didn't know all that would be happening, but I believe we need to take the chance. Growth takes place with change and change is constant, but it brings life. Together, I pray that we continue bringing color to SSPJ.

Sr. Theresita entered the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in 1963. To read more of Sr. Theresita's reflections, subscribe to her weekly email “Wednesday Reflection” at nazarethcsfn.org/news-and-events/receive-our-newsletters.



● Sister T and Fr. Tom during a recent visit to SSPJ School

● Sister T and Fr. Tom from a photo 30 years ago at St. John Nepomucene Parish, Bohemia, NY

Sanctuary in the Holy Family

by Sr. Michele Vincent Fisher, CSFN

It was just another Saturday afternoon when I turned on the Chicago news and the breaking story about a shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh was just being broadcast.

Eleven lives were brutally ended by an angry gunman. My heart felt like it was at breaking point. When will it be enough? When will we begin to change? Within minutes, Facebook was filled with posts of prayer and posts of blame. As a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth, taking these situations to prayer, my mind went elsewhere.

A friend of mine posted a video recorded at a Shabbat Service at a synagogue in 2015. The cantor, Julia Cadrain, sings a most powerful rendition of the Quaker hymn “Sanctuary,” first in Hebrew, then in English. Before she sang, she prefaced the song with the following words:

“There’s a verse that we read this week in Parashat Terumah that says ‘Ve’asu li mikdash veshachanti betocham,’ which means ‘Build for me a Sanctuary that I may dwell among them.’ (Exod. 25:8) It says ‘them,’ meaning God may dwell among them—the people—rather than ‘it’—the Sanctuary. This is the idea that God isn’t contained within any particular physical space, but rather exists in the spaces between people and in the relationships we have with each other.”

Then she sang:

“LORD, PREPARE ME TO BE
A SANCTUARY, PURE AND
HOLY, TRIED AND TRUE.
WITH THANKSGIVING, I’LL
BE A LIVING SANCTUARY
FOR YOU!”

Sanctuary: A consecrated place. A place of refuge and protection. The space where Love becomes incarnate. This is what the Holy Family embodies for us – a living sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. Our Nazareth spirituality is rooted in this love, in the Holy Family, the sanctuary of Love incarnate. And so as I pray, I ask: “Lord...how can I be a living sanctuary? How can my heart, with its mix of sinner and saint, become a place of refuge and protection?” Is this not what the world most needs from me, from you?

Can my eyes speak “sanctuary” as I glance at my neighbor with a gentle, loving look, inviting him or her to feel accepted, supported, wanted? Can my words speak “sanctuary” as I tone down my raw emotion and let softer speech pour from my lips? Can my mind speak “sanctuary” as I turn off negativity and focus on gratitude? Can my ears speak “sanctuary” as I listen deeply and thoroughly to another’s truth without needing to defend my own? Can my hands speak “sanctuary” as I use them to offer a gesture of tenderness, a handshake of welcome,

an embrace of peace? Can my feet speak “sanctuary” as I use them to carry me to places on the margin, where I may be challenged, ridiculed or persecuted for love’s sake? Can my heart and spirit speak “sanctuary” to all the spaces that exist between myself and others, the space where God dwells among His people?





SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH SAINT JOSEPH PROVINCE 2000

HOLY FAMILY.
BLESS AND PROTECT
ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE WORLD.
THAT THEY MAY FULFILL
THEIR SUBLIME VOCATION.

I pray that my answer is “YES.”

“Lord, prepare me to be a Sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living Sanctuary for You!”

To view the video Sr. Michele mentions in this reflection, please go online to bit.ly/SanctuaryHymn

Located in Pittsburgh, this sculpture, by Timothy Schmalz, shows three generations of love. The words on the pedestal are part of the daily prayer of the Congregation.



In Memoriam



Sr. Mary Corona Molenda
November 13, 1925 – October 14, 2018

Long before she received her veil and became Sr. Mary Corona, young Teresa Stella Molenda would put a towel on her head, line up all her dolls and pretend to be a Sister while teaching the dolls how to pray and how to count. Born in Argo, IL on November 13, 1925 to Joseph and Tekla (Kubska) Molenda, Teresa was the ninth of eleven children. Some of her fondest memories were helping the Sisters at St. Blase Parish in Summit, IL clean the school and the Church and helping to bring the Sisters' groceries home. These interactions were the beginning of Teresa's desire to answer the call to religious life.

Teresa attended St. Blase Elementary School. She became an aspirant with the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in Des Plaines, IL immediately after graduating eighth grade and attended Villa Nazareth

High School also in Des Plaines. On June 12, 1942 she became a postulant and professed final vows on September 1, 1951.

Sr. Corona received a Bachelor of Philosophy in Education from DePaul University and began her education ministry as a kindergarten teacher's aide at St. Hyacinth's School in Chicago in 1945. She went on to teach for 61 years in various schools in Illinois, Florida and Texas. She taught at St. Hyacinth, St. Susanna, St. Josaphat, St. Stanislaus, Holy Trinity, St. Adalbert, St. Hedwig, and St. Camillus in and around the Chicago area and at St. Brendan in Miami, FL before going to Texas where she ministered as a teacher from 1972 until 2006 at St. Andrew in Fort Worth, St. Thomas Aquinas in Dallas, and at St. Luke and Holy Family of Nazareth in Irving.

In Grand Prairie, TX, Sr. Corona also served as director of the Association of the Holy Family. In 2014, she retired as the director and began ministering to elderly Sisters in Jesus the Good Shepherd Convent in Grand Prairie. Every day she spent time with the Sisters, leading them in prayers and

exercises and guiding them through songs and poetry. Sr. Corona found great joy in helping these Sisters and believed that her days practicing to be a Sister with her dolls prepared her for this ministry.

Sr. Corona was also known for her annual recitations of "Twas the Night Before Christmas," enchanting the young and young at heart with her storytelling. (You may watch Sr. Corona's recitation of this classic holiday tale online at bit.ly/SisterCorona).

On the evening of October 14, a month shy of her 93rd birthday and in the 76th year of her religious life, Sr. Corona died peacefully at Jesus the Good Shepherd Convent in Grand Prairie, TX. Her funeral Mass was held on October 18 at the convent chapel. Interment was at the convent's cemetery.



Donations in memory of a deceased sister may be mailed to Development Office, Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, 310 N. River Rd., Des Plaines, IL 60016. Please include a note with the name of the Sister in whose memory you are giving. Donations may also be made online at nazarethcsfn.org/support-us/donate.

PRAY THE HOLY FAMILY NOVENA WITH US

The Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated on the Sunday between Christmas and January 1. This year the feast falls on December 30. Since 1989, friends of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth have joined us in praying the special Holy Family Novena, written by Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, for the nine days leading up to this feast.

We invite you to join in spirit with this worldwide time of prayer and to use this Novena at any time of the year. To order copies of the Novena, available in English, Spanish and Polish, please use the form on page 19, on our website at nazarethcsfn.org/donate/request-holy-family-novena or call our Development Office at 847-298-6760 x 137.

You may also download a copy of the Novena on our website at nazarethcsfn.org/prayer/holy-family-novena.



ORDER OPLATKI FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION

We are once again pleased to offer our friends and family oplatki for the Christmas season. Oplatki ('oplatek' is the singular form) are paper-thin wafers of unleavened bread, embossed with symbols from the Christmas story. Our oplatki (2 x 4 inches) are baked by our Sisters in Nowogrodek, Belarus.

Oplatki are shared on Christmas Eve with the head of the table saying a prayer, thanking God for the family's blessings and asking forgiveness of anyone he or she has injured. A piece of oplatek is broken off, shared; the oplatek is passed on and the ritual repeats itself. This symbol of unity is made available to you with the sincere prayer that you will find peace of mind and heart as you recall the sacred mystery of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

You can order these special wafers using the form on page 19, online at nazarethcsfn.org/donate/request-oplatki, or by calling our Development Office at 847-298-6760 x 137.



JOIN THE "FRIENDS OF THE SISTERS" MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

I agree to make a contribution of \$_____ per month.

___ Please bill my credit card each month. I have provided my credit card information for my monthly donations below.

Account No.: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

___ Please transfer my monthly gift from my checking account using the automatic payment plan. I've enclosed a check for my first monthly gift.

I authorize my bank/credit card company to transfer the amount indicated on this from my account on a monthly basis. I understand that a record of each donation will be included on my year-end summary and that I can cancel my donation at any time.

Name (signature required)

Date Signed

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Please complete this form and return it to:

CSFN Development Office, 310 N River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016-1211

You may also call 847-298-6760 x.143 to make a donation.

REQUEST NOVENAS AND OPLATKI

Please send me the Holy Family Novena booklet.
How many? ___ English ___ Polish ___ Spanish

Please send me oplatki (size: 2" x 4"). Quantity: _____

Enclosed is a donation of \$_____.

Please make checks payable to the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please complete this form and return it to:

CSFN Development Office, 310 N. River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016-1211

You may also call 847-298-6760 x 143 to request Novenas and oplatki



Sisters of the
Holy Family of Nazareth
310 N River Rd.
Des Plaines, IL 60016
www.nazarethcsfn.org

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JOIN “FRIENDS OF THE SISTERS” MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

There is now a simple, convenient, and safe way for you to donate monthly to the Sisters without the need to write a check every month. First, decide on a monthly gift amount that fits your budget. Then, complete the authorization form on page 19, allowing your bank or credit card company to transfer this amount directly to the Sisters on a monthly basis. Your monthly gift helps support our retired Sisters.

If you want to change or stop your gift, or if you move, change banks or get a new credit card, just pick up the telephone and call us. We can quickly make any changes.

To join “Friends of the Sisters” complete and mail the form on page 19 or call Katherine Barth, Development Director, at 847-298-6760, ext. 143.



We, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, are called to extend the Kingdom of God's love among ourselves and others by living the spirit of Jesus, Mary and Joseph whose lives were centered in the love of God and one another. We witness to this love through dedicated service to the Church, especially in ministry to the family.