



Here's what we'll look like on your phone's home screen!

## Be Inspired... Be Connected... Download Our App!

The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart now have their own cell phone app! Whether you have an Android or an Iphone, you now have an even quicker, more convenient way to send prayer requests, see the latest events, register for programs, check Mass times, and more! Reflections and other new content will continually be added to the app. Look for **Church by MinistryOne** in your app store today!

[Read More...](#)



## Slowing Down Our Life

The American culture we live in values speed and getting things done quickly. Doing is more valuable than being, thus our hurried pace. The more we do, the faster we do it and that makes us feel harried and disconnected. I often wonder why we continue to live in this way if it makes us feel agitated and hectic. When we hurry through life we miss the simple wonders around us. Rushing through activities can diminish the quality of our work and relationships. So how can we solve this dilemma we are in? ...

[Read More...](#)



Sr. Norma Janssen,  
Former  
Associate Director



## Associate Leadership Announcement

*A fond farewell...  
and a  
Spirit-filled  
New Beginning*



Sr. Christina Fuller,  
Associate Director



Associate Pat Tomich,  
Assistant  
Associate Director

## Associate Leadership Announcement

After 10 years as the Associate Director and many years as a liaison, Sr. Norma Janssen has asked to share this blessing with another and will be stepping down from this role. We are grateful for her service in leading these men and women who are called to share our charism.

Sr. Christina Fuller will become...

[Read More...](#)

## Youth Revival (Part II)

We hope you enjoy this second in a series of three reflection by Madeline Herbert, a member of our Young Adult Group that gathers on Zoom monthly. New members are always welcome.



[Youth Revival II](#)

[Zoom Gathering](#)

## Children's Orphanage in Gboko, Nigeria Welcomes First Four Children Home

"Joyfully, I would like to share that the Children's Paradise Home received four children this third week of December 2023! God is so good! These are my blessed Christmas gifts. I am very happy to become a mother at last! Praise the Lord!"

— Associate Warren Tsafa

## World Day of Peace, January 1, 2024

The Vatican has published Pope Francis' Message for the 57<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace to be celebrated on January 1, 2024, with the theme "**Artificial Intelligence and Peace.**" The Pope said, "We must make sure that Artificial Intelligence is put at the service of peace in the world, rather than being a threat, and that it make a beneficial contribution on humanity's future. I have dedicated the Message of the World Day of Peace to this."

[See Video](#)

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND PEACE

The Message of  
Pope Francis





The Holy Spirit told Simeon, whose eyes were growing weak, that he would not die until he had seen the Anointed of the Lord. On that day, "he took the child in his arms, blessed God in these words: 'Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant... for my eyes have witnessed your saving deed...'" (Luke 2: 26-30). Though Simeon had poor eyesight, the Holy Spirit caused him to realize that he was in the presence of the Messiah.

*Lord, you appear to me so many times throughout the day, but I fail to see you. Help me to open my eyes. Do not let me miss the opportunity to recognize your Divine presence in my life each day!*

- Sr. Dominic Dybel



## Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about modern day slavery, how to identify it and prevent it. The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart are members of the Alliance to End Human Trafficking, a collaborative, faith-based national network founded and supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters.

On January 11, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, join the [Alliance](#) and the [Blue Campaign](#) in taking photos of yourselves wearing blue and share them on social media with the hashtags [#WearBlueDay](#) and [#EndHumanTrafficking](#).

[Novena to End Human Trafficking](#)

[Get Action Alerts](#)

[Prayer Calendar and Flyer](#)

[20 Ways to Help Fight Human Trafficking](#)



## Heartfelt Thanks

The Sisters are still smiling, remembering moments from "A Santamental Christmas" on Dec. 9. We thank all the families who attended, Healing Hearts Comfort Dogs, Santa, the Tau Singers and all the many helpers behind the scenes. We hope you enjoyed the morning together as much as we did! Here are some of our treasured photos from the event!

[See Photos](#)

## Scripture Reflections

Thursday Scripture Reflections via Zoom and In-Person continues on Thursdays **at 10:30 a.m.** No registration is required—either come to the Assisi Center (stop at the Motherhouse front desk for directions) or submit the form below to receive a Zoom link for the next gathering. Looking forward to seeing you!



[Zoom Signup](#)

## Spiritual Direction Offered at St. Francis Woods

Share ordinary life experience and be guided to listen for how the Divine is speaking through the twists and turns of your faith journey. Spiritual Direction is an hour-long session, usually scheduled monthly and offered either in-person or over Zoom. The fee is \$55.00 per session or \$40.00 per session for anyone on retreat at The Portiuncula Center for Prayer on campus.

Norma Janssen, OSF 815.545.0183  
Joyce Shanabarger, OSF 815.464.3803

Janice Keenan, OSF 815.469.4883  
Mary Shinnick, OSF 815.464.3807

Nancy Roberta Schramm, OSF 224.565.1460  
Mary Barbara Hassler, OSF 847.502.6637



## Three Job Openings at St. Francis Woods

Explore the three job openings currently available on St. Francis Woods' campus.

[Learn More](#)


## Franciscan Spirituality Program

At any time, new registrants can join the monthly conversation already in progress about Franciscan spirituality using the book (purchased by registrants), *In the Footsteps of Francis and Clare* by Roch Niemier, OFM.

[Register](#)

## Explore Self in Series of Reflections on the Enneagram

Explore self in this series of monthly reflections, "Becoming the Person God Created Me to Be." Registration is ongoing for this program which is based on the Enneagram. The upcoming sessions are January 22, February 26 and March 25. Register once for as many sessions as your schedule allows. We hope you'll join us on the fourth Monday of each month, **7:00-8:00 p.m.** There is no cost for this program series.

[Learn More](#)


## Associate Applications Accepted Online

Learn more about the Associate relationship and orientation classes.

[Learn More](#)


## Curious About Religious Life?

Explore what life is like as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart. A visit to St. Francis Woods may be arranged with complimentary accommodations. Vocation companioning is offered for discerning God's call. Call Sr. Maria Brizuela at 815.464.3873.

[Come & See!](#)

## Prayer Requests

Your private prayer intentions will be held lovingly in prayer by our Sisters and Associates.

[Prayer Request](#)


## Mass Cards

We have a beautiful selection of Mass cards available at our front desk for the living as well as for the deceased. Stop by or call our front desk at 815.469-4895, ext. 0.

## Portiuncula Center for Prayer

Explore our programs and day retreats, or choose a hermitage where you can have a private retreat in simplicity and solitude on this beautiful 50-acre campus we call St. Francis Woods.

[Programs & Retreats](#)
[Hermitages](#)


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