



FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART, FRANKFORT, IL

St. Francis Woods Campus News

October 2025

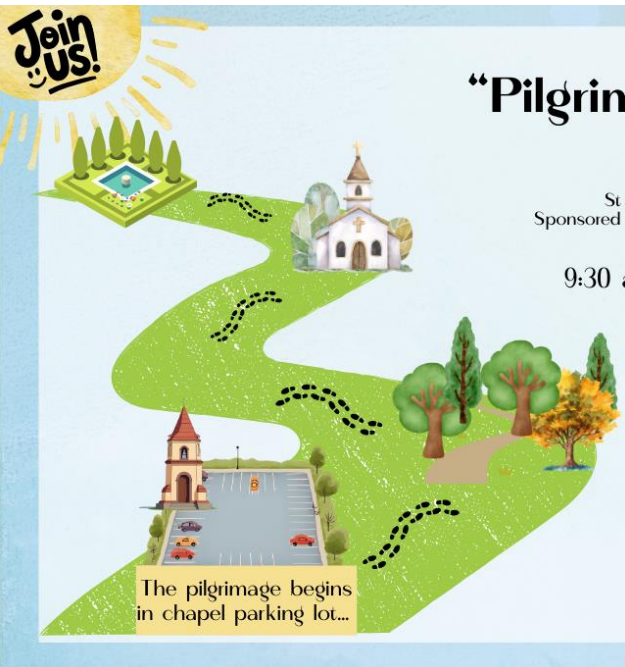
Issue 263

"SET ABLAZE THE FIRE OF GOD'S NEWNESS ... COMMUNITY, CHURCH, COSMOS"

CHANGE IS COMING: HOW WILL WE RESPOND? NATURE SETS AN EXAMPLE

The month of October should be called Super October. Why do you ask? Because first, there are many powerful saints that we celebrate throughout the month ...

[Click to continue reading a reflection by Sr. Mary Paul Shisler](#)



"Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation"

800 Steps | October 4, 2025

St Francis Woods, 9201 W. St. Francis Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423
Sponsored by Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart/ Laudato Si' Committee

9:30 a.m. Mass followed by 10:30 a.m. Pilgrimage

Join us as we journey, renewing our commitment to live in harmony with one another, Mother Earth, and the Cosmos.

Let this pilgrimage be a time of prayer and silence, and a time to enjoy one another's company as we celebrate creation.

*Rain plan: Journey will take place inside the Motherhouse building.

The pilgrimage begins in chapel parking lot...

"Blessing of Pets"

1:00 p.m., October 5, 2025

Celebrating the Season of Creation: Blessing of Pets (and other items)



Sponsored by Franciscan Fire Committee
Event held outside the Motherhouse Entrance
St. Francis Woods
9201 W. St. Francis Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423

TRANSITUS OF ST. FRANCIS FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK SUPPER

October 3 at 4:15 p.m.: Saint Francis' Transitus in chapel
Potluck to follow.

Please RSVP by Sept. 30 for potluck only to indicate if you are bringing a side or dessert. Please bring it to the kitchen before Transitus begins.
Thank you!



RSVP for Potluck Only



"BE MERCIFUL, JUST AS YOUR FATHER IS MERCIFUL." LK 6:36-38

This is a powerful Gospel. It instructs us on how we are to be with each other: merciful, non-judgmental, forgiving, giver of gifts. It all seems so easy – if we do these things, the promises made to us are so great, yet we find it so hard to live these ways. Maybe it is because of our selfishness. We just want to have our own way. It is about me and not the other. So perhaps we need to frame it another way. Starting today, let me be merciful so I receive mercy. May I not judge, so I won't be judged, not condemn so I won't be condemned, forgive so I will be forgiven, and a giver so as to receive. If I trip up, Lord, help me start over again! – *Sister Dominic Dybel*

DONATIONS FOR MANTENO VETERANS HOME BEING ACCEPTED FOR VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11

To show our appreciation for the sacrifices of those who served our country, and in memory of our Sister Mary Shawn Mitchell to whom this cause was particularly dear, we are again collecting personal items, snacks, and other miscellaneous things that are needed by the residents at the Veterans Home in Manteno. **Between October 12 and Sunday, November 9, simply place your gift in the designated boxes in the front lobby of the Motherhouse or the downstairs chapel entrance. A list of requested items will be provided near the donation boxes and at <https://fssh.net/>.** In Sr. Mary Shawn's words: "May all the good you do for others come back to you a hundred-fold. Our Sisters ask God to bless your giving hearts!" – *Sr. Therese Carew*

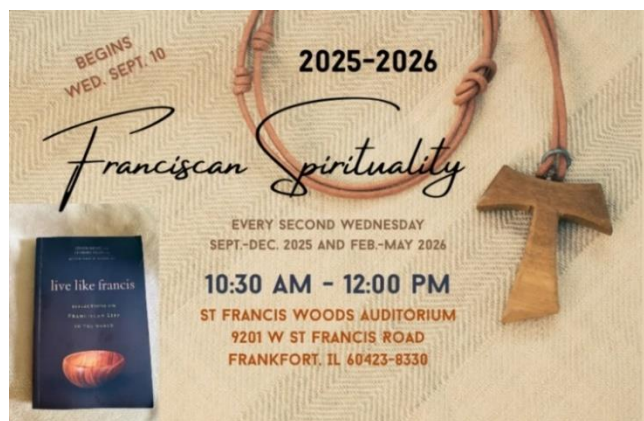


CONGRATULATIONS, SISTER GAYLE LYNN!

Sr. Gayle Lynn Rusbasan is now a certified Spiritual Director after completing the Spiritual Direction Preparation Program (SDPP) through the Franciscan Spirituality Center (FSC) in LaCrosse, WI. May the Spirit guide and bless her work and those she serves.

SISTER VIVIANE COMPLETES COURSE ON ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

In September Sr. Viviane de Sousa completed the course "Saint Clare of Assisi: Life and Writings," which began in August and was offered online by the Franciscan Institute of Theological Education. She writes, "It was a very enriching experience, in which I was able to learn more about the life story of Saint Clare, as well as her spirituality, through the study of her writings and, consequently, Franciscan spirituality. The teacher, a Capuchin Friar, worked with us on the texts in their original language, medieval Latin, providing a careful translation into Portuguese, and he taught with great enthusiasm. Although the texts we studied were few—part of the Testament and part of chapter 6 of the Rule—because he explored each passage in depth, the experience was very fruitful."



EXPLORE HOW TO LIVE LIKE ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

It's not too late to join the conversation as we delve into this year's book about Franciscan Spirituality, *Live Like Francis: Reflections on Franciscan Life in the World* by Jovian Weigel, OFM, and Leonard Foley, OFM (published by Franciscan Media, copyright 2016). Explore with us how to live like Saint Francis in today's society through participating in this year's Franciscan Spirituality Program. Please purchase and bring a copy to the sessions every second Wednesday of the month **September-May except January, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**, in the Motherhouse Auditorium. Please RSVP. Looking forward to our time for reflection and sharing!

[Register](#)

SAVE THE DATES

Dec. 13 at 9:00 a.m.: SANTamental Christmas 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (free family event)

Dec. 14 at 3:00 p.m.: A Franciscan Christmas Pilgrimage in the auditorium

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS EVERY THURSDAY

Join us each Thursday through May 7. No need to register. To attend by Zoom, click [here](#).