November, 2020

Dear Jubilarians,

You have responded to the Lord’s call to ordained and consecrated life for many years and have reached another milestone in your service to God’s people. I offer you my sincere respect and congratulations.

Milestones mark progress in a journey. For each of you, that journey has been unique in its timing, types of ministry, experiences, graces received, challenges met and people encountered. Yet you have not walked alone. Others have walked with you, cherishing your friendship in Christ, benefiting from your help and often helping you to offer God faithful service. They join me in thanking God for you and in praying for your perseverance in joy and holiness.

Some of you are actively engaged in pastoral ministry, others are officially retired but “helping out” in various ministries, and still others, for reasons of advanced age or poor health, offer your prayers and sufferings to God for the rest of us. However you serve, draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation [Isaiah 12:4], the source of refreshment for all who serve the Lord. Whatever your age or condition, trust God: They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles’ wings; they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint [Isaiah 40:31].

Keep the matter of vocations to the ordained ministry and consecrated life close to your heart and in your prayers. We must support and pray for married and single people as well, but ask the Lord to raise up men and women for our own vocations, which do so much good for the laity, as they themselves attest.

May God pour out His blessings upon you and keep you in His care!

Fraternally in Christ,

Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

Dear Fathers, Sisters, and Deacons:

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston celebrates your spirit of commitment and dedicated service to the Lord and His Church as we honor all of you in this year of Jubilee. Your faithful presence and ministry have made a lasting impact on the good people of West Virginia. The Church has grown because of your love. Our Diocese remains grateful for your collaboration in building up the Kingdom of God. May the Lord continue to bless you with good health, happiness and peace.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr.
Episcopal Vicar for Clergy

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May you be richly blessed in this year 2020 as you celebrate your Jubilee! Let it be a whole year of rest and restoration for body, mind and spirit! The dynamic of Covid-19 may actually have assisted in this time of remembering and reflection about what is most important these days. We celebrate God’s abiding compassion and uncondition- al love for us wherever we are on this journey of Faith. May God’s presence fill you with hope and renewed energy for the Gospel and its continuing invitation to each of us here in the Church of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Sister Ellen Dunn, OP
Delegate for Consecrated Life

Deacon Thomas Trunzo
Father Patsy James Iaquinta
50th Anniversary

Father Patsy James Iaquinta was ordained to the priesthood on May 2, 1975, by Bishop Joseph H. Hodges in his hometown of Clarksburg at Immaculate Conception Church. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and St. Charles College. He completed his philosophical and theological studies at St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore.

Following his ordination, Father Iaquinta first served at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg. From 1974 to 1976, he served as associate pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Moundsville. He served as temporary chaplain at the Mount St. Joseph Mother House in Wheeling in 1976, and then went on to become associate pastor of St. Teresa Parish in Morgantown that same year. The following year Father Iaquinta was appointed to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Westover. He became pastor of the parish in 1979 and served there until 1990. From 1990 to 2004 he served as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield, and was appointed dean of the Bluefield Deanery in 1993.

From 2004 to 2009, he served as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Fairmont. Father Iaquinta retired from active ministry in July 2009.

Father James Bernard McCafferty, SM
50th Anniversary

Father James Bernard McCafferty, SM, was ordained a priest on Sept. 12, 1970, for the Marist Fathers by Bishop William M. Cosgrove at Holy Name Church in Cleveland, Ohio, where he is originally from. He is a graduate of St. Joseph’s in Bettendorf, Iowa, and the Catholic University of America in Washington. For his theological studies, he attended Marist College and St. Paul’s College in Washington. He went on to attend the American University in Washington for advanced studies.

For a time after ordination, Father McCafferty served as a teacher and dean of students at St. Mary’s Manor. From 1971 to 1975, he served as associate pastor at Holy Family Parish in Richwood. His next assignment was as administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Summersville from 1975 to 1977. Father McCafferty became pastor of the parish in 1977 and served there until 1980 when he left West Virginia for New Orleans to serve as associate pastor of St. Julian Eymard Parish.

He returned to West Virginia in 1983 as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Coalton, where he served until 1996. He was then appointed to Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon for the next 10 years. From 2007 to 2014, he served as pastor of Mater Dolorosa Parish in Paden City, Holy Rosary Parish in Sistersville, and the Mission of St. Lawrence in Middlebourne. Father McCafferty retired from active ministry in 2014.

Sister Francesca Lowis, SAC, our parishioner, on your 60th anniversary as a Pallottine Missionary Sister

Father James McCafferty, SM, our former pastor, on your 50th anniversary as a Priest of the Society of Mary
Father John Patrick McDonough
25th Anniversary

Father John Patrick McDonough was ordained to the priesthood on May 13, 1995, by Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. He was born in Bluefield. Father McDonough completed his undergraduate studies and theological studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in 1990 and Master of Divinity in 1995. He is currently the pastor of St. Mary Parish in Star City.

For the first three years of his priesthood, he served as associate rector of the Co-Cathedral in Charleston. This was followed by a year as associate pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg. He served as pastor of Our Lady of the Hills Parish in Elkview from 1999 to 2000, and then at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Oak Hill from 2000 to 2006. During this time he was also appointed as temporary administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Summersville from 2001 to 2002. From 2006 to 2011 he was pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Charleston.

Father McDonough became pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in New Martinsville in 2011 and of St. Joseph Parish in Proctor in 2015. He served those parishes until 2017 when he left for three months to serve as a military chaplain in Alaska. Later in 2017, he became pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in White Sulphur Springs, St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Ronceverte, and the Catholic Center of St. Louis in Lewisburg. In March of this year, he became temporary administrator of St. John University Parish in Morgantown and served there for four months. On July 29, Father McDonough was appointed pastor of St. Mary Parish in Star City.

Happy 25th Anniversary of Priesthood to our Pastor

Father John McDonough

May you continue to be sustained by His grace, and may your life in God’s service always be filled with joy.

From all of us to you, Fr. John McDonough!

Congratulations on 25 years of Priesthood! From your former parishioners at St. Vincent de Paul in New Martinsville, and St. Joseph in Proctor.
Thank You

From the staff and residents of Welty properties: Welty Home, Good Shepherd, Welty Apartments, Braddock Apartments and Welty Town Homes.

Father Patsy Taquinta 50 years
Father James McCafferty, SM 50 years
Father John McDonough 25 years
Deacon Thomas Trunzo 25 years
Sr. Gabriella Wagner, CSJ 85 years
Sr. Mary Florence Burke, CSJ 75 years
Sr. M. Annette Crnkovich, SAC 75 years
Sr. Anna Marie Cole, CSJ 70 years
Sr. Mary Alice McMaster, CSJ 70 years
Sr. Eva Marie Slag, CSJ 70 years
Sr. Ellen Dunn, OP 60 years
Sr. Mary Rebecca Ridler, RSMI 60 years
Sr. Barbara Kupchak, CSJ 60 years
Sr. Francesca Lowis, SAC 60 years
Sr. Marguerite O’Brien, CSJ 60 years
Sr. Frances Kirtley, OSF 55 years

May God bless you richly for your lives of service.

GOOD SHEPHERD NURSING HOME
304.242.1093
www.weltyhome.org

Welty
Home for the Aged
Deacon Thomas E. Trunzo

25th Anniversary

Deacon Thomas E. Trunzo, originally from Pennsylvania, was ordained to the diaconate on Aug. 27, 1995, for the Diocese of Peterborough, Ontario. He is currently serving at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling.

He is a 1971 graduate of West Virginia University, where he received a Bachelor of Science. He completed theological studies at St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto, Ontario, in 1993. He also has a Master of Business Administration from California Coast University in Santa Anna, Calif., which he received in 1983.

Following his ordination, Deacon Trunzo served as permanent deacon at St. Anthony’s Church in Courtice, Ontario, from 1984 to 2000. He did liturgical work for the Diocese of Peterborough from 2000 to 2001, and then served as permanent deacon at St. Mary’s Parish in Lindsay, Ontario, from 2001 to 2002.

Deacon Trunzo began his ministry in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston as campus minister and religion teacher at Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg in August 2004. From 2004 to 2007, he served in pastoral and liturgical ministry at All Saints Parish in Bridgeport. From 2007 to 2012, he served as pastoral associate at St. James the Apostle Parish in Clarksburg, Sacred Heart Parish in Salem, and St. Patrick Parish in West Union. He also taught at Fairmont State University and St. Mary Central Grade School in Clarksburg.

Deacon Trunzo is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He and his wife Beth were married Feb. 21, 1981. They have five daughters: Jennifer, Valerie, Kate, Sarah and Rachel. They also have 10 grandchildren (four boys and six girls) ages 8 months to 16.

To our Priests, Religious, and Deacon celebrating Jubilee anniversaries:

We offer our prayers and heartfelt congratulations at this special time. Thank you for your dedication to and care of God’s people in our Mountain State.
Sister Gabriella Wagner, CSJ
85th Anniversary

Sister Gabriella Wagner entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in Wheeling in 1935. She earned a BSEd degree from Duquesne University and an MTS degree from Catholic University of America. She ministered in education throughout the diocese: Clarksburg, Fairmont, Grasselli, Huntington, Moundsville, Thomas, Weston, and Wheeling. Following her retirement as an educator, she served as Treasurer of the SSJ Retirement Foundation for more than two decades. Sister Gabriella currently resides at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling, where she celebrated her 85th Jubilee on July 1, 2020.

Sister Mary Florence Burke, CSJ
75th Anniversary

Sister Mary Florence Burke entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in Wheeling in 1945, having been taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph for twelve years. Throughout her years of consecrated life, she says the joy of living in the house of the Lord, participating in daily Mass and receiving the Holy Eucharist, the rosary, prayers, and other devotions have been a blessing.

Sister Mary Florence is retired and currently resides at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling where she stays active in prayer ministry. “Life has been replete with its unforgettable joys and tragedy. I have played a role in the lives of children for nearly seventy years, and I treasure the memories, the pictures, and the daily tidbits (thanks to modern technology) that keep me in touch with their lives and those of their offspring. My teaching career has enabled me to appreciate the diversity of religious beliefs and international cultures. In celebration, I thank God for my gift of life and health, and for my ability at ninety-three to continue to serve my local CSJ community through prayer and action. My thoughts are centered: ‘Every sunrise is God’s message to me. Every sunset brings His message to a close. That message is God’s Word to me for that day. My response to that message is my response to God.’”

Sister M. Annette Cnkovich, SAC
75th Anniversary

Sister Annette Cnkovich was born in Gary, West Virginia, the daughter of the late George and Antoinette (Visick) Cnkovich. Sister’s educational background is in Elementary and Early Childhood Education, attending and obtaining her Undergraduate Degree and Master’s Degree at Catholic University, and Duquesne University respectively. Sister Annette entered the Pallottine Missionary Sisters in Huntington, WV making her First Vows on August 15, 1945 and her Final Vows on August 15, 1951. Sister Annette spent most of her life as a Catechist, as well as an elementary school and kindergarten teacher. Her educational ministries were carried out in Ashkum, IL, Spring Lake, MI, Laurel, MD, and at Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Fatima Schools in Huntington, WV. Sister organized and taught in the kindergarten program at Our Lady of Fatima from 1978 to 1993. Following her retirement from teaching, Sister Annette, believing that her work for the Lord was not over, continued to minister to others by serving as patient visitor, receptionist, customer service representative at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Huntington until September 2009. Sister now resides at the Sisters’ Infirmary at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Huntington, WV, where she continues serving her sisters as Eucharistic Minister for those living in the Infirmary community.

Sister Annette shared: “A key moment in my religious life was my trip to Europe in 1975, accompanied by my sister, Sister Marguerite and Sister Mary Michael. We spent eleven days in Rome and were privileged to attend an audience with Pope Paul VI. We visited the four major Basilicas, the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Trevi Fontain, Vatican Gardens, the Sistine Chapel and the church of our Founder, St. Vincent Pallotti, San Salvador in Onda. We also made a pilgrimage to the church of St. Francis in Assisi. We visited our Sisters in Switzerland and the Motherhouse of our Congregation in Limburg, Germany. We then had the added privilege of visiting Ireland as guests of the Pallottine Fathers. I am very grateful to my community for that Jubilee Voyage to visit the places of our spiritual roots.”

Celebrating 85 Years of Religious Life

Sister Gabriella Wagner, CSJ

Our prayers and congratulations on your Jubilee!

Knights of Columbus Carroll Council #504 of Wheeling

The Cathedral of St. Joseph wishes

Sister Mary Florence Burke, CSJ
a Happy 75th Anniversary as a Sister of the Congregation of St. Joseph. Thank you for your many years with our parish!

Best wishes and God’s blessings to all as you celebrate your jubilee anniversaries!

Fairmont Catholic Grade School
Sister Mary Alice McMaster, CSJ
70th Anniversary

Sister Mary Alice McMaster entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in Wheeling on August 22, 1950. She has served the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston most of her religious life. She has been involved in child-care, health-care and parish ministries. She retired from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in 2010. After her retirement she continued to volunteer at the parish.

Sister Mary Alice currently resides at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling. She continues to make hospital calls, send cards and stays connected with friends.

“My seventy years have been Spirit filled and I am grateful for all graces and blessings bestowed on me. May God continue to lead me where he wants me to be.”

Sister Anna Marie Cole, CSJ
70th Anniversary

Sister Anna Marie Cole entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in 1950. She received a BS Degree in Education from Duquesne University and MA in Reading from West Virginia University. She served students and faculty in diocesan schools located in Beckley, Benwood, Bridgeport, Charleston, Clarksburg, Follansbee, Huntington, Moundsville, Wheeling, Williamson, and Bristol, VA. She has also ministered in pastoral care at Wheeling Hospital and on the staff at Paul VI Pastoral Center in Wheeling. Sister coordinated the religious education program at St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling.

Sister Anna Marie currently resides at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling and provides support services in her community there.

Congratulations to our Jubilarians and all those in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston celebrating this year. We thank you for sharing your lives and ministry with the people of West Virginia.
THE REGION’S LEADING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER
SINCE 1850

CELEBRATING 2020 JUBILARIANS

PRIESTS
25th Anniversary
- Father John McDonough

50th Anniversary
- Father Patsy Iaquinta
- Father James McCafferty, SM

DEACONS
25th Anniversary
- Dea. Thomas Trunzo

RELIGIOUS
85 Years
- Sr. Gabriella Wagner, CSJ

75 Years
- Sr. Mary Florence Burke, CSJ
- Sr. M. Annette Crnkovich, SAC

70 Years
- Sr. Anna Marie Cole, CSJ
- Sr. Mary Alice McMaster, CSJ
- Sr. Eva Marie Schlag, CSJ

60 Years
- Sr. Ellen Dunn, OP
- Sr. Mary Rebecca Fidler, RSM
- Sr. Barbara Kupchak, CSJ
- Sr. Francesca Louis, SAC
- Sr. Marguerite O’Brien, CSJ

55 Years
- Sr. Frances Kirtley, OSF

WHEELING HOSPITAL

Sister Eva Marie Schlag, CSJ
70th Anniversary

Sister Eva Marie Schlag (Mary Evelyn) entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in Wheeling in 1950. She received degrees of BEd from Duquesne University and MSAdm from St. John University of Cleveland. She taught in parochial schools in Clarksburg, Fairmont, Weston, Huntington and Wheeling. She also served as principal in Clarksburg and Wheeling and provided clerical services at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling.

Sister Eva Marie is retired and currently resides at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling where she stays active in prayer ministry.

Congratulations
Sister Ellen Dunn, OP
on your 60th Jubilee

From your fellow Chancery and Catholic Charities West Virginia employees in Wheeling. Wishing you all the best!

Sister Ellen Dunn, OP
60th Anniversary

Sister Ellen entered Religious Life in 1958. As a member of the Dominican Sisters, St. Mary of the Springs, of Columbus, OH, she made her First Vows in 1960 and Final Vows in 1965. She taught Latin and French in Secondary Schools in Lancaster, Ohio, Osining, N.Y., and Columbus until 1969. Sister Ellen then served as Parish Director of Religious Education in Columbus for two years, before completing a Masters in Education from Notre Dame University in 1972. She then served as a consultant in Religious Education in the secondary schools, and worked in the Youth Ministry Office for the Diocese of Columbus for six years.

From 1978 to 1983, Sister Ellen was the Director of the Southern Ministry Center for the Diocese of Steubenville which covered areas from Marietta to Athens and Ironton, Ohio. After that time, she attended the Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass., and earned a Masters in Theological Studies in 1985. Sister Ellen then returned to the Columbus Diocese and started the Lay Ministry Program which served the parishes in its 23 counties. She was recruited by her Dominican Congregation to serve as Human Resource Director in 1988 and served its members for five years.

Following a sabbatical year, Sister Ellen came to West Virginia in the summer of 1994 to serve as the Pastoral Leader at Holy Family Catholic Church in Beech Bottom and Windsor Heights. During her years at Holy Family she taught part-time at Wheeling Jesuit University and also served in elected leadership for the Dominican Congregation in Columbus. From 2005 to 2007, she did pastoral ministry at St. John’s Wellsburg. In the fall of 2007, Sister Ellen accepted the position of Delegate for Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, where she currently serves.

Reflecting on a key moment in her religious life, Sister Ellen said, “During my six years in leadership with my Dominican Sisters, we began talking about some kind of ‘closer union’ among Dominican Sisters throughout the United States. We formed new networks and alliances amongst ourselves—from Akron to New Orleans to Great Bend (Kansas) to Oxford (Michigan) to Bardstown (Kentucky) and back to Columbus, Ohio. This was a very challenging and energizing endeavor and we spent nearly a decade in meetings, travel, conversations, and planning before the merger gave birth to a new congregation in April, 2009: The Dominican Sisters of Peace.

Sister M. Rebecca Fidler, RSM
60th Anniversary

Sister Mary Rebecca Fidler was born and raised in Harrison County, West Virginia. She is the daughter of the late Kester Farnsworth Fidler and Audra Marcelita Robey Fidler, sister of Lt. Col. Joseph Edward Fidler, Rebecca Alice Fidler Barnette and the late John Willis Harrison County, West Virginia. She is the daughter of the late Kester Farnsworth Fidler and Audra Marcel of the late Kester Farnsworth Fidler and Audra Marcel -Harrison County, West Virginia. She is the daughter of the late Kester Farnsworth Fidler and Audra Marcel.

Sister Rebecca was educated by the Sisters of Mercy in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1960 and has served in the medical field her entire ministry, as well as an education administrator.

Sister Rebecca began teaching at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Cedar Rapids in 1964. She has also taught at Mount Mercy College, the University of Iowa, and Salem College. While in Iowa she received her MD/Ph.D. from the University of Iowa College of Medicine. In 1990, Sister Rebecca moved back east to serve as the Director of the Cancer Center at Holy Cross Hospital in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and later ministered in West Virginia as a Medical Technologist at Roche Biomedical in West Milford and at the Laboratory Corporation of America, Fairmont. In 1999, Sister Rebecca began her work at the Susan Dew Hoff Memorial Clinic in West Milford, W.Va., serving as Director and CEO.

In 2008, Sister Rebecca was selected by Pope Benedict XVI as a recipient of The Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross or Papal Cross for her achievement in affecting the lives of people in rural communities in a singular manner through her ministry work at the Susan Dew Hoff Memorial Clinic. The Papal Cross is the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity and religious by the Papacy.

In recent years, Sister Rebecca has stepped back from the Susan Dew Hoff Dental Clinic (also known as the Colombo Resource Center) recognizing that it was time to support leadership of the clinic for the future. Never one to retire, Sister Rebecca maintains contact with the current director, supporting their ministry and its important service to the working poor.
Sister Barbara Kupchak, CSJ
60th Anniversary

Sister Barbara Kupchak entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in Wheeling in 1960. She earned a Diploma in Nursing from Wheeling Hospital School of Nursing in 1966, after which she practiced nursing at St. Francis Hospital in Charleston and St. Mary’s Hospital in Clarksburg. In 1969, she earned a Bachelor’s in Nursing from Loyola University in Chicago, and in 1974, earned a Master’s degree in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

After graduation, she returned to Wheeling to work as a counselor/therapist for children at Catholic Charities. After 4 years, she was invited to teach at the newly established Nursing education program at Wheeling Jesuit College, a four year BSN program established by Sister Mary Byrne, CSJ. During this time she began her PhD in Nursing at the University of Texas in Austin, receiving her PhD in Psych/Mental Health Nursing with a focus on Geriatrics in 1987.

In 1985, while still a student in the PhD program, she was invited to teach at West Virginia University’s Master’s in Nursing program and helped create a Master’s program for Family Nurse Practitioners. While at WVU, she was given the opportunity to teach for a semester as visiting Professor of Nursing at Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China. In 1998, she was invited to present workshops and teach a course in Rural Health Nursing at the Royal College of Nursing, Melbourne, Australia. While a teacher at WVU, Sister Barbara was honored to be given the designation of a Distinguished Practitioner of Nursing and made a Fellow in the National Academies of Practice.

After 30 wonderful years at WVU, Sister Barbara retired from West Virginia University as a Professor Emeritus. She currently resides at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling where she stays active in prayer ministry and volunteer work.
Congratulations to

The Clergy & Religious of the
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Celebrating their Jubilees

85th Anniversary
〜 Sister Gabriella Wagner, CSJ

75th Anniversary
〜 Sister Mary Florence Burke, CSJ
〜 Sister M. Annette Crnkovich, SAC

70th Anniversary
〜 Sister Anna Marie Cole, CSJ
〜 Sister Mary Alice McMaster, CSJ
〜 Sister Eva Marie Schlag, CSJ

60th Anniversary
〜 Sister Ellen Dunn, OP
〜 Sister Mary Rebecca Fidler, RSM
〜 Sister Barbara Kupchak, CSJ
〜 Sister Francesca Lowis, SAC
〜 Sister Marguerite O’Brien, CSJ

55th Anniversary
〜 Sister Frances Kirtley, OSF

50th Anniversary
〜 Father Patsy Iaquinta
〜 Father James McCafferty, SM

25th Anniversary
〜 Father John McDonough
〜 Deacon Thomas Trunzo

The Intelligencer.
Wheeling News Register
theintelligencer.net
Congratulations
Sr. Francesca Lowis, SAC
for the celebration of her 60th Jubilee

Ophthalmology
304-472-2100
Building B
10 Amalia Drive

Orthopaedics
304-473-6810
Building B
10 Amalia Drive

Rheumatology
304-473-2318
Building B
10 Amalia Drive

ENT & Audiology
304-460-7935
Building C (1st Floor)
94 West Main Street

Urology
304-460-7472
Building C (1st Floor)
94 West Main Street

Specialty Clinics
Sister Francesca Lowis is the eldest daughter of the late Josef and Maria (Kleinen) Lowis; she was born in Dremmen, Germany. Sister's education was an international one; attended Elementary school in Germany, High School in England, having her Undergraduate and Graduate education in Washington, DC, and St. Louis, MO, respectively. Sister Francesca’s Undergraduate Degree is in Elementary Education and her Graduate Degree is Religion and Education.

Sister entered the Pallottine Missionary Sisters in Germany, at their mother-house in Limburg, Germany, making her First Vows in 1960. After First Vows sister ministered in Bensberg, Germany at Vinzenz Pallotti Hospital, until she was sent to America in 1965, where she made her Final Vows in 1966. Her desire was to go to Africa as a missionary, however God had other plans for her. She ministered in Education, Retreat Ministry, and Healthcare in Maryland, Missouri and West Virginia. While in St. Louis, sister held several positions, Community Action Coordinator, Superior, Teacher and Novice Director.

At the current time, Sister is a Council member of the Province Leadership Team, and Province On-Going Formation Director. Sister Francesca holds the position of Vice President of Mission Integration at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Buckhannon. She also serves on the Board of Trustees of St. Joseph’s Hospital, Pallottine Health Services and Pallottine Foundation of Buckhannon. As an active member of Holy Rosary Parish, Buckhannon she serves on the parish liturgy committee.

Sister Francesca’s hobbies are art and photography. The words that Sister Francesca holds close to her heart are “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.”
Happy Anniversary
Sr. Frances Kirtley, OSF!

Charleston Area Medical Center
Sister Frances Kirtley, OSF
55th Anniversary

On August 18, 2020, Sister Frances Kirtley, OSF, celebrates her 55th anniversary of her first profession as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity at Stella Niagara, New York. She observes 58 years in religious life. Her ministries include Elementary Education, Nursing and Pastoral Care.

Noting God’s surprises in her life, Sister Frances shares, “As early as the 4th grade, I first felt God’s call to serve Him in some special way! I began attending morning Mass at St. Anthony Church and stayed after school to walk one of the sisters to their convent. I enjoyed being with them. My mother drove them to appointments as they didn’t have a car.

In 1958, I attended Charleston Catholic High School. When my 17th birthday came, I knew in my heart that God was calling me to religious life. When I told my mother that I wanted to become a sister and in the Franciscan community at Stella Niagara, New York, she asked if I could enter a community closer to home? I replied that I had grown up with the Franciscans and that was where I wanted to enter.

I received my first degree in Elementary Education and taught 2 years. However, I knew that I didn’t want to teach school the rest of my life. God placed a desire in my heart to care for the sick and serve as a nurse. Back to college at Niagara University, I received my bachelor’s degree in nursing. I loved nursing and expected that to be my lifelong ministry. I returned to Charleston to work at the Charleston General Hospital. After 8 years, I saw that the hospital did not provide any type of spiritual care. I was blessed to get a Master’s Degree in Pastoral Studies at Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT, and open the Pastoral Care Department on November 1st, 1980.

After 46 years of service at the Charleston Area Medical Center, I retired on January 4, 2019. With deep gratitude, the Spiritual Care Department now has several chaplains and I am now a CAMC volunteer. God has certainly blessed me throughout my life. I have enjoyed all of my ministries and am very grateful for good health to continue serving the sick and their families wherever I am!”

Sister Marguerite O’Brien entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in Wheeling in 1960. She earned a BS degree in Chemistry from Wheeling College, an MS degree in Pathology/Clinical Chemistry from The Ohio State University, and an MA in Liturgy from Notre Dame University. Her earliest ministry was as a science teacher in Huntington. She entered the health care field as a medical technologist and as director of medical technology programs at Fairmont State and Wheeling Colleges. She was a resident counselor for many years at Wheeling College as well as vocation director for the Sisters of St. Joseph. In 1989 she embraced leadership responsibilities for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling and, from 2007-2018 she was a member of the leadership team of the Congregation of St. Joseph. From 2017-2018 she served as the Interim CEO of the Congregation’s senior living company, CSJ Initiatives.

“It’s hard to capture in just a few words the blessings, the challenges, the opportunities that my life as a Sister of St. Joseph has afforded me. As a child I would never have dreamed that I would be part of a dynamic community that touches the world in such significant Gospel ways. Together we strive to give love and support to each other and to the neighbor who comes into our lives each day.”

Happy 55th Anniversary
Sr. Frances Kirtley, OSF.
From St. Anthony Parish
in Charleston.
We congratulate you on
your jubilee celebration.
May God bless you!

Jubilee blessings to
Sister Frances (Carolyn) Kirtley, osf, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity.
Most of S. Fran’s career has been with the Charleston Area Medical Center. Following her initial positions in nursing practice and education, she established the CAMC Pastoral Care Department in 1980 and served as pastoral care director, then staff chaplain until her retirement in 2019. S. Fran continues her ministry at the hospital by serving as a hospital volunteer and follows the congregation’s commitment to be a herald for peace and hope to others.