SEPTEMBER 7 (Saturday) – 22nd annual Golf Outing at Pittsburgh North Golf Club

SEPTEMBER 7 (Saturday) – Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Provincial Chapter, 10 a.m. at Pittsburgh Administrative Offices

SEPTEMBER 8 (Sunday) – Diocese of Pittsburgh Jubilee Mass for Religious and reception, 12 p.m. at St. Paul Cathedral

SEPTEMBER 13-14 (Friday-Saturday) – Annual Women’s Retreat at St. Francis Center for Renewal, featuring Father Keith Laskowski

SEPTEMBER 21 (Saturday) – Interfaith Service in observance of United Nations International Day of Peace, 7 p.m. in Monocacy White House Chapel.

SEPTEMBER 29 (Saturday) – Fourth annual Monocacy Farm Food Festival, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (more details inside)

OCTOBER 27 (Sunday) – North Pittsburgh Symphonic Band’s fall concert with Sister JoAnn Knaebel on flute. Details to be announced.

OCTOBER 27 (Sunday) – Catholic Cemeteries Association’s annual Sacred Music in Sacred Space Concert, 3:30 p.m. at Calvary Cemetery in Pittsburgh’s Greenfield neighborhood

Starting Anew

This fall signals a time of renewal at Monocacy Manor – for Mullen Hall and for the students who will attend school there as the inaugural class of Kolbe Academy, the first faith-based recovery high school in the nation.

Our sisters have joined with the Diocese of Allentown to welcome the innovative program that caters specifically to teens recovering from substance abuse by surrounding them with supportive services and a nurturing learning environment.

It’s a perfect fit. “The Sisters’ Mission and our Charism compel us to minister according to the signs of the times and the needs of the church,” Sister Bonnie Marie Kleinschuster said in her welcoming remarks at Kolbe’s grand opening on August 26. “In 1974, my fellow graduates and I were well prepared by the sisters at SFA to face the world ... to succeed ... to thrive! But the signs of the times now, in 2019, demand a different response to adequately serve the needs of our youth.”

Kolbe’s specialized staff serves children in grades 9 to 12 and operates with rolling enrollment so teens can enter at any time. Our own Sister Frances Marie Duncan serves on the academy’s board of directors.

“We are proud of Bishop Alfred Schleter and the Diocese for their courageous commitment to educating the total person,” Sister Bonnie Marie said, “for giving the students their best chance at not just surviving in their world, but thriving and loving life for the gift that it is.”

“When I walked off the stage and out the doors of Mullen Hall in 1974 as a graduate of St. Francis Academy, I never dreamed that 45 years later I would stand before these same doors to welcome another academy,” Sister Bonnie Marie told those gathered for the grand opening of Kolbe Academy on August 26.
Sister Marie Therese Sherwood and members of the St. Matthias Caregivers Support Group spent July 20 at the Sculpture Garden in Hamilton Township, N.J. Opened in 1992, the garden promotes understanding of and appreciation for contemporary (many large scale) sculptures. “We enjoyed the lush greenery and abundance of flowers, ponds and lily pads,” Sister says. “Much to our delight, the sculptures appeared in natural settings along the paths. Live peacocks, white and black, walked freely on the grounds and in front of the Peacock Run restaurant where we stopped for lunch.” The time together allowed the group to share and deepen the bonds of friendship that have formed among its members.

Sister Bonnie Marie Kleinschuster and Bob Drake are busy like bees getting ready for the fourth annual Monocacy Farm Food Festival, set for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 29. The family day promises crafts, demonstrations, music, games and, of course, food for folks of all ages as it highlights the good works happening at the Monocacy Farm Project. Sister Bonnie enthusiastically reports that they’ve already reached $12,000 in sponsorships for the event, which far exceeds previous years at this point in the planning process.

Sister Grace Chermack, who will become our community’s latest nonagenarian when she turns 90 on September 15. Birthday blessings, Sister!

Our sisters certainly appreciate special treats when they have the opportunity, and this summer has been no exception. At left, Sister Ancy Francis takes the first slice of a scrumptious specialty pizza when Little Flower House celebrated her Feastday on July 26. At right, Sister Anita Kuchera digs into a delicious mint chocolate chip treat when the sisters at Monocacy Manor celebrated National Ice Cream Day on July 21.
Sisters Frances Marie Duncan (50th), Karen Buco (60th) and Cecilia Jacko (70th) celebrated their Jubilees with a Mass and dinner at Mount Assisi Convent on August 2. The Pittsburgh celebration offered an opportunity for local family and friends of Sisters Karen and Cecilia to share the day with them. Mass was celebrated by Father Don Buchleitner with Father Hadi Sasmita, former student of Sister Frances Marie, as cocelebrant. Top: The sisters renew their vows. Left: Sisters Frances Marie, Kevin Berdis, Barbara Brown and Virginelle Makos await the procession to begin Mass. Right: During the offertory procession, Father Buchleitner accepts a vase of white roses from Rita Metro, niece of late Sister Susanne Cherney, who would have celebrated her 70th Jubilee this year.

A TOAST TO TIME AWAY
Sisters Lorita, Marian, Joyce, Ancy, Geraldine Ann, Georgette, Roselyn, Gracy and Nancy raise a glass (left) and enjoy the outdoors (right) during a relaxing, late-summer getaway at Blue Moon House in Deep Creek, Md.
SPECIAL SEND-OFFS
Residents and employees gathered recently to wish Sister Marian Sgriccia well in her retirement as administrator of Marian Hall Home. The group enjoyed refreshments, cake and comradesy, as Sister Marian spoke about how her 19 years with Marian Hall helped to shape the person she is today. With the recent sale of the Mount Assisi complex, the personal care home is now known as Mt. Assisi Place and has transitioned to the leadership of Diane Ott. Above, Sister Marian with Marian Hall staff. At right, she shares a special moment with resident Jean Grogan.

The sisters at Mount Assisi hosted Father John Joseph Gonchar for a going-away lunch on July 18, a day before he moved to Cincinnati as part of his congregation’s reorganization. A Franciscan Friar who lived in Avalon, Pa., for decades, Father often celebrated Mass for the Pittsburgh sisters and is beloved among the residents in Antonia Hall, where he played dominos weekly. His connection to our community is long – as a boy, he attended St. Gabriel School and was a student and classmate of some of our sisters.