Jubilation

JULY 28 (Sunday) – Sisters’ retreat begins at Mount Assisi Convent, led by Sister Clare D’Auria (through August 2)

AUGUST 3 (Saturday) – 2019 Pittsburgh Jubilee Celebration, 11 a.m. at Mount Assisi Convent

AUGUST 5 (Monday) – Information session at Mount Assisi for sisters who did not attend Provincial Gathering (time to be announced)

AUGUST 10 (Saturday) – Open house at Kolbe Academy, the Catholic recovery high school opening in Mullen Hall at Monocacy Manor starting this fall, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (other dates: 5 p.m. on August 13 and 15

AUGUST 24 (Saturday) – Sisters Frances Marie Duncan, Regina Ann Rokosny, Kathy Kudlac and Nancy Celaschi attend the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Slovak Province

SEPTEMBER 7 (Friday) – 22nd annual Golf Outing at Pittsburgh North Golf Club (proceeds benefit residents of Marian Hall Home)

UPCOMING EVENTS

A DAY OF Jubilation

T he first in a pair of summer Jubilee celebrations drew family and friends to Monocacy Manor on July 6, as Sisters Frances Marie Duncan and Karen Buco marked 50 and 60 years, respectively, in religious life.

Monocacy’s Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel was filled with prayers and music provided by the sisters, associates and family members. Father Anthony Azzarto, SJ was the celebrant.

Guests later gathered in the dining room at St. Francis Center for Renewal, where the event decor invoked the simple beauty of nature in keeping with the Give Thanks to God theme. A video slideshow led the jubilarians and their guests on a trip down Memory Lane, as well.

Sister Frances Marie and Karen – along with Sisters Cecilia Jacko and Grace Chermack – will celebrate again in Pittsburgh on Saturday, August 3.

Below, sisters and friends bestow the Blessing of St. Francis upon Sisters Frances Marie and Karen.

OUR 2019 JUBILARIANS

Sister Frances Marie Duncan 50th Jubilee
Sister Karen Buco 60th Jubilee
Sister Grace Chermack 70th Jubilee
Sister Cecilia Jacko 70th Jubilee
St. Francis Center for Renewal welcomes a new executive director, Gena Tallarico, who will begin her new role in August.

Gena is an expert in health and well-being services with more than 25 years of experience with Fortune 500 companies such as Mars Inc., CIGNA, Hershey Foods and Mack Trucks, to name a few.

A registered nurse and occupational health specialist, Gena holds a master's degree in strategic communication and leadership from Seton Hall University. She has lead healthcare services professionals in business and industry to provide successful team-based health and well-being outcomes, and has taught communications at the college level.

“We are excited to have Gena join our team and enhance our program with her vision for the Center,” says Sister M. Virignelle Makos. “Gena’s presence will create a warmth and hope for a successful future.”

The retreat team invites all to welcome Gena just as they do – with open arms and with many blessings for the months ahead.

Renewal Center Adds New Face

Peace, Prayer & Process

Sister Marie Therese Sherwood joined other members of the St. Matthias Catholic Community pastoral and parish team on June 19 for a day of retreat at St. John Neumann Center in Califon, N.J. Father Abraham (pictured top row second from right), interim pastor, led the group in prayer and sharing, using Jeremiah 18:1-6, “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand.” After a delicious lunch, the group had ample time to walk around the spacious grounds. “This day ‘apart’ nourished us in body, mind and spirit, and provided an opportunity for us to know each other on a deeper level,” says Sister Marie Therese. “For, ‘as a clay vessel, we are always in process.’”

Remembering When

At the close of retreat on June 28, Sisters Frances Marie, Carol Ann, Bonnie Marie and Roseann gathered with mentors Sisters Regina Ann, Amata and Marietta, who taught them at St. Francis Academy in Bethlehem.
Sister Karen spends a portion of Desert Day in quiet reflection on the Monocacy grounds.

Sisters Bernie Marie, Gracy, Regina Ann, Marie Bernadette, Georgette, Nancy, Barbara, Frances Marie, Anita and others take part in a Penitential Prayer Service during retreat at Monocacy Manor on June 26.

**Peaceful Prayer**

The nearly 50 sisters who took part in our retreat at Monocacy Manor in late June came away moved by the experience and rejuvenated in mind and spirit. “It was just what I needed,” said Sister Karen Buco of the weeklong retreat led by Sister Clare D’Auria.

Using imagery of branches and vines to create a metaphor for community life, Sister Clare will conduct the same program, *Remain in My Love: The Promise of Transformation*, later this month at Mount Assisi Convent.

Sister Gracy was among the sisters who sought solace with nature at nearby Monocacy Park during retreat’s Desert Day. Others found quiet places “at home.”

Sister Clare D’Auria has touched our community many times over the years, including in June 1992 when she led a workshop attended by our then “junior sisters” in Ossining, N.Y. The photo at left shows Sisters Maria, Roseann, Frances Marie, Carol Ann, Eileen and Anne with Sister Clare in 1992. For fun, the group recreated the photo this June, with Sister Bonnie Marie (not present for the 1992 photo) taking Sister Eileen’s place.
Sisters Marguerite, Mary Martha, Donna, Anita and Barbara share a table during the 2019 Provincial Gathering in Bethlehem, Pa.

Sisters Anne and Lorita listen as Sister Katie Clauss, IHM addresses our sisters. Sister Katie was the facilitator for the Gathering.

Sister Gracy has a personal audience with “Pope Francis.” The standee was popular photo subject throughout the Gathering, where his “presence” was definitely felt.

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Sisters Mary Martha and Marguerite (above) and Sisters Gracy, Marian, Maria and Xavier (right) share discussion during June 30 breakout sessions.

Summertime Sisterhood

Provincial Gathering Draws Sisters to Bethlehem for Time of Information-Sharing & Team-Building

Special thanks to Sister Carol Ann Papp for documenting Retreat and Provincial Gathering with the photos in this issue. Sisters Jo Goolish and Pat Marie Buranosky also contributed.
Our sisters take their places as Sister Frances Marie prepares for the opening session of Provincial Gathering on June 29. Throughout, reports were given by Sisters Bonnie (financial), Nancy (government) and Frances Marie (upcoming Chapter preparations).

Sisters Jo, Marie Therese, Marie Bernadette and Yolanda pose with an outdoor depiction of the Lion and the Lamb during a July 2 field trip to see Jesus at Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster, Pa.

On their way back from Bethlehem, Sisters Lorita, Patricia Ann, JoAnn and Pat Marie took advantage of nice weather and stopped along the turnpike to visit the historic Jean Bonnet Tavern (operated 1779 to 1815) in Bedford, Pa. The site dates back to the Whiskey Rebellion.

Sister Adelina previews the materials provided to each sister for review during the Provincial Gathering.

Sisters Rosemarie and Kevin (above) and Sisters Nancy and Bernadine Marie (right) catch up during an evening social.
NCA Academy Teachers Go for ‘the Gold’

Among the dedicated faculty at Pittsburgh’s Northside Catholic Assumption Academy, there are three recipients of the Diocese of Pittsburgh Golden Apple Award for teachers! That’s correct – three in the same school! Having a trio of winners raises the local community’s awareness of the quality of education at NCA Academy by recognizing the high standards of professionalism, leadership and innovation in teaching.

Sharon Duerr received the Golden Apple Award in 2009. Her students know she is always available and willing to listen whenever they need her support. Her colleagues say she is dedicated beyond measure and has added much to the Spanish curriculum.

Our own Sister Carol Ann Papp, received the Golden Apple Award for Principals in 2014. While ministering at St. Irenaeus School in Oakmont, Sister Carol Ann introduced robotics to the junior high students and, most of all, encouraged the students to believe in themselves and what they could accomplish. With her art background, creativity was key in whatever Sister Carol Ann introduced during her 13 years as administrator. These days she teaches art and religion at NCA Academy, a K-8 less than five miles from Mount Assisi Convent.

This year, Barbara Venturela received the Golden Apple Award. Throughout her years in education, Barbara has been active in her parish religious education program. She has a special gift for preparing students to receive the sacraments, whether it be First Communion or Confirmation.

All three of the Golden Apple teachers at NCA Academy agree that, no matter what the subject or grade, “One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”

Having three Golden Apple Award winners – Sister Carol Ann Papp, Sharon Duerr and Barbara Venturela – on staff gives Northside Catholic Assumption Academy a rare calling card.

Happy BIRTHDAY

August 1
Brian Kirk
August 2
Tina Demyan
August 4
Sister Maria Derecola
August 5
Sister Francesca Parana
August 10
Patricia Minford
August 11
Sister Roselyn Kuzma
August 12
Sister Virginia Rose Carroll
August 13
Sister Mary Lou Metro
August 15
Sister Carol Ann Papp
August 17
Sister Denise Olshausky
August 19
Linda Walbert
August 20
Sister Geraldine Ann Kasper
August 31
Maggie Parrish

Provincial Office on the Move

As the sale of Mount Assisi Convent approaches, the Provincial Office soon will move to leased space at the intersection of Cemetery Lane and Perry Highway, less than three miles from Mount Assisi. Sisters Frances Marie Duncan, Marian Sgriccia and Kathy Kudlac – along with Linda Hyde and Nicole Knupsky – will move into the new offices within the coming weeks.