

**Franciscan Banquet Recognition**  
*Passionately Embracing Gospel Living*  
**Franciscan Federation Annual Conference**  
**July 28-31, 2010 – Buffalo, NY**



*Logo Credits*  
*Artist: SM Ann Therese Kelly CSSF*

**Criteria for selecting honorees**

**Sisters and Brothers who:**

- are alive with passion,
- allow the light to shine through them with radiance, transparency, clarity, and optimism,
- are a beacon of light for others, especially the marginalized,
- witness to the challenge and power of gospel values in daily living,
- live in a way that speaks of the importance of “being and presence,” not solely on “doing”.

**Sister Emily Therese Bloom, FSSJ**

**Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph**

Sister Emily Therese Bloom, FSSJ, lives her commitment to the gospel values of peace, joy, and concern for the marginalized on a daily basis. She has served as a beacon of light to the poor as a missionary in Brazil, as an addictions counselor and Executive Director of the Allegany Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse in Wellsville, NY, as the Executive Director of Boys Hope of Florida, Inc. which enabled that organization to receive its licensure to assist young men with health and rehabilitative services in Jacksonville, FL, and as Assessment Counselor for the Wyoming County Chemical Abuse Treatment Program and Counselor at the Wyoming County Jail in Warsaw, NY. Most recently, Sister Emily has pursued her passion to enable children to read and develop socially by her direction of the “Learning for Life Program” for disadvantaged children in Buffalo, NY. This program is presently located at Gerard Place, a transitional housing program for single parents in an economically deprived area of the city. Sister has served on the Board of Gerard Place, Inc. from its inception and continues to assist with committee work in addition to her overseeing of the Learning for Life Program.

**Sister Jeanmarie Chavez, OSF**

**Sisters of St. Francis of Penance & Christian Charity, Redwood City, CA**

Sister Jeanmarie is a gentle presence to all the people she encounters throughout each day...the young, the elderly and we, her sisters. Her presence brings a light of hope shining in the darkness of poverty especially to the marginalized immigrant families and their children at St. Turibius Parish and School in Los Angeles. Jeanmarie’s life reflects the way Francis taught: “Preach the Gospel at all times, if necessary, use words.” We give thanks to God for blessing us and the people of God with the gift of Jeanmarie. God’s blessings of Peace and All Good on Jeanmarie.

**Sister Theresa Ann Clarizio, SA**

**Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement**

Sr. Theresa Ann Clarizio shares her passion for Franciscan Gospel living with the residents and staff of the New Community Extended Care Facility in Newark, New Jersey. Her pastoral presence to the

residents and their families brings a beacon of light and hope to those who are dealing with the challenges of illness in their lives.

**Sister Geraldine Clifford, O.S.F.**

**Franciscan Sisters of Penance and Christian Charity**

Sr. Geraldine is a Native American of the Lakota tribe who was taught by the Franciscan Sisters of Penance and Christian Charity and entered their community. After serving for many years as teacher, formation director, and provincial minister she returned to Pine Ridge Reservation where she taught at Ogalala Lakota College, Kyle, SD and established Francis Home for abused and neglected children. She continues to direct that home, and also serves as spiritual director for our retired sisters. She has shown and continues to show Passion for Gospel Living. Par Excellence!

**Kathleen Anne Copp, OSF**

**Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart**

Whether as teacher, co-founder of the Portiuncula Center for Prayer, director at many levels of initial formation, missionary in Brazil or director of the Franciscan Studies and Franciscan Certificate Program at the Franciscan International Study Centre in Canterbury, England, truly exemplifies one who passionately embraces the evangelical life. Her presence always makes a difference. She is a beacon to others as she shows them the significance of being transparent and encourages all to be the best they can and not settle for less. Ever pondering scripture gives her the strength to live up to the challenges of living the Gospel values. Kathleen Anne exemplifies our TOR values: she embraces humility by accepting the human condition of life; she lives poverty by her desire to go where she is called, always in relationship; she strives to be contemplative by the discipline of Sabbath living; she opens herself to continual conversion as she is transformed by God's grace. She is the epitome of one who "is" not just one who "does" as she seizes life with both hands, ready to soak up the bounty of God.

**Sister Mary Immaculate Creedon, O.S.F.**

**Hospital Sisters of St. Francis**

Sister Mary, known for her eagerness to serve and to learn, has won the respect of many over the years. Gifted and blessed with a strong Irish Catholic family and nourished through her Franciscan call, she nurtured her inquisitive mind, becoming a highly skilled nurse. When the missionary call reached her heart, she traveled to Japan and then went on to Haiti. Gifted in language, she was able to serve the poor and needy, who so often sought her assistance. Today, Sister serves members of her Province as a Community Life Leader and through a variety of volunteer activities – always busy and always and cheerful to assist others.

**Sister Frances Clare DeGracia OSF**

**Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities**

Sr. Frances Clare has passionately served the most vulnerable populations of Peru for over 40 years. Currently Sister is missioned south of Lima in Quebrada Verde, Peru in the Diocese of Lurin, Peru. Ninety-nine percent of homes have no running water or bathrooms and most consist of reed mats or adobe with dirt floors. Agriculture is the main employment for residents, with most families earning about \$100 per month. In nearby rural areas, 70 percent of people live below the poverty line, and 36 percent are extremely poor. Yet, in the midst of their poverty, the people continue to live a life of faith. Sister's presence and work are a major force in the promotion of faith. She is affectionately referred to as "la madrina" or madrecita."

Looking to the future and the potential of the youth of the village, Sr. Frances Clare planned, raised funds for, and oversaw the establishment of Santa Rosa de Lima Montessori School to serve the youngest residents of this town. Never ceasing to dream, sister solicited equipment, donations, and consultation for a small bakery. That bakery is in the last stages of construction and is awaiting final government approvals to begin production. The bakery, first in the village, will provide a way of sustain the school. Never idle, sister works in the community to promote financial independence for the women. She assists and challenges them to form cottage industries, such as sewing and production of bead jewelry. Through the miseries of torrential rains, stifling dessert heat, earthquakes and even terrorists attacks, sister's faith and optimism have remained steadfast.

Sister, originally from Hawaii, first went to Peru with two other sisters from the congregation's Syracuse location in 1967. At first, she taught in a school on a large sugar plantation in the village of Paramonga north of Lima. By the mid 1970's she and the other sisters moved on to meet other educational, pastoral and health needs of the people in fishing villages and rural villages along the Pacific coast north of Lima and later in mountain missions high in the Andes. She has consistently sought to train locals to take over the work, so the sisters could move to another area of need. The schools and catechetical programs that Sister Frances Clare developed continue today under the tutelage of some of the very same men and women she taught in years past. Sister continues to promote the spirit of her namesakes with her ongoing work with the associate program of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities in Peru and continues religious education and support of the townspeople. Sister is the energizer, the organizer, the dreamer, the mentor and prayerful role model for all with whom she comes in contact.

**Sr. M. Cynthia Ann Drozd, ssfc**

**School Sisters of St. Francis of Christ the King**

Currently, Sister Cindy serves as the Administrator of our senior citizens residence. There she treats the people with a compassionate and gentle love that invites them to feel secure and happy. Her joy is infectious and her way with people truly is a witness to a passionate, Franciscan, Gospel life.

**Paula Fox, OSF**

**Sisters of St. Francis of Penance & Christian Charity, Stella Niagara, NY**

From her fiftieth jubilee, a friend wrote a poem entitled "never losing her momentum". As Paula approaches her 70<sup>th</sup> jubilee in 2011, these words are still true. Paula has embraced life with passion, enthusiasm and incredible energy for nurturing good. Learning communities, congregational communities and parish communities have been blessed by her commitment to "Passionately Embracing the Gospel".

**James J. Gardiner, SA**

**Franciscan Friars of the Atonement**

In recognition of the creative and constant ministry he has provided at Graymoor and through the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center and elsewhere on behalf of the poor and those suffering from incurable disease or in difficulty. In recognition of the reconciliation and healing he has sought to promote in the face of the clergy abuse both on behalf of victims and the clergy accused. Finally, in recognition of his unflinching passion for the promotion of Christian unity and his involvement in interreligious dialogue.

**Clarice Gentrup OSF**

**Sisters of St Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Colorado Springs**

Sister Clarice is a woman religious who truly lives our Franciscan values. She has ministered in Congregational leadership for many years. She served as Provincial for twelve years; on the General

Council for six years; and is currently serving as Vicar on the General Council for another six-year term. She is a positive and optimistic leader, and is very sensitive to the needs of our Sisters in Brazil and in the Philippines. Her “presence is keenly felt by our Sisters; she is available to them and listens to their concerns from the heart.”

**Sister Shirley Gerth, OSF**

**Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg**

“Alive with passion” describes how Sister Shirley lives her ministry of Parish Life Coordinator at St. Ann’s Parish in New Castle, Indiana, along with “being with and present to” all. Shirley’s witness to the Gospel, even after an arsonist destroyed their historic church, enabled her to model forgiveness, love of enemy and doing good to those who persecute you to all at the Parish. Sister Shirley stayed at the table with all parties involved during this difficult time. Sister Shirley spoke her word of hope and united the people so that they could rebuild their Church and their spirits.

**Sister Rose Jochmann OSF**

**Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross**

Sr. Rose embraces the qualities that were part of the criteria for honoree. In her position as community treasurer over the past years she has shown great compassion for the poor and the marginalized. She has an open heart to all who speak with her. She is a great model of how to live in the present moment, balance body, mind and spirit, and speak the truth with transparency, clarity and optimism. I have never heard her speak an unkind word about anyone. She is approachable and has a great passion for living community life with accountability, mutuality, forgiveness and love.

**Irma Kennebeck, FSM**

**Franciscan Sisters of Mary**

For more than 12 years Irma has provided a safe, drop-in haven for women suffering abuse. As director of Woman’s Place, which she co-founded in 1998, she strives to break the cycle of violence trapping these women, helping them move toward safety, healing, dignity, and personal empowerment through sensitive listening, crisis intervention, support groups, and education. Passionate and caring, Irma’s light shines through in her commitment to helping those injured in the most intimate of relationships.

**Sister Rita K. Kerr SFP**

**Franciscan Sisters of the Poor**

Sr. Rita embraces the Gospel by visiting women prisoners in Bedford Hills, NY. She takes a personal interest in each person.

**Sister Lorita Kristufek, OSF**

**School Sisters of St. Francis**

Sr. Lorita is a true Franciscan woman who exemplifies this year’s theme, Passionately Embracing Gospel Living. Her enthusiasm is contagious and has permeated her ministry as she reaches out to spread the love of God to all. Sr. Lorita is known throughout the congregation for her love of music, her ingenious ability to put on a skit about anything, to compose songs for any occasion and to elicit participation by all. Throughout her past ministries in education, vocation promotion, pastoral and music ministry, she has inspired many by her joyful and passionate response to her Franciscan calling of Gospel Living. Presently she serves as the Housing Manager of John Paul Plaza where she responds to the needs of the low income elderly in the Pittsburgh area with compassion, reverence and joy in the true spirit of Christ in the Gospels.

**Dorothy Ann Kunding, FSPA**

**Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration**

For 31 years, Sister Dorothy Ann has served in Jackson, MS. Ten of these years were as a social studies teacher in elementary and junior high school. In 1989-90 she was the personal companion of Sister Thea Bowman FSPA. During the remainder of these years Dorothy Ann has been a chaplain and volunteer for persons living with HIV/AIDS at Hospice of Central Mississippi, particularly in the area of hospital aftercare.

**Sister Karen Lindenberger, OSF**

**Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio**

Sr. Karen serves as Hispanic Pastoral Minister at St. Anthony Church in Canton, Ohio. She goes far beyond her official duties as she passionately advocates for the rights of those who find themselves struggling to keep their families intact when those without proper documents face deportation. Her presence offers comfort and strength as she grieves with those who grieve and rejoices with those who rejoice. Sr. Karen goes the extra mile as she transports mothers and children to medical appointments, informs them of food or financial assistance that is available, and organizes special education programs for some of the elementary students each summer to offer a better chance for success in school.

**Sr. Sandra LoPorto, SSJ-TOSF**

**Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis**

Sr. Sandra has spent most of her religious life involved in social justice and peacemaking. She was our first staff person at the 8th Day Center for Justice from 1980-85. Here Sandy worked hard on opposing the nuclear arms race and violence in all of its forms including poverty. Her courage in standing up for peace and against poverty is well known and respected. From 1985-89, Sandy was Director for Social Justice for the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis. After leaving this position, Sandy trained to become a nurse. Now she is a nurse at a shelter for homeless men. Sandy is well known for her integrity. Sandy reflects in her life Franciscan values, our charism, and our focus issues of poverty and homelessness. She passionately lives Franciscan values.

**Sr. Maria Goretti Mannix, FHM**

**Franciscan Handmaids of Mary**

Franciscan joy and concern for the poor are hallmarks of gospel living manifested in the life of Sister Maria Goretti. These hallmarks were as evident in her ministry as teacher, administrator, religious education director, formation director and congregation minister as when she facilitated the founding of Barbara William Food Program and the Franciscan Handmaids International Outreach Program. The warmth of her smile radiates to everyone as she strives to live out the Handmaid ideal to serve her neighbor with the same zeal and love with which Mary served her Son, Jesus.

**Nancy Meyerhofer, OSF**

**Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque**

Sr. Nancy has had a life-long passion of promoting justice, wholeness, and human formation for persons who are poor, particularly in Latin America. After serving as a high school English and Spanish teacher, she did pastoral work with Mexican-Americans in San Antonio, Texas, youth formation in Chile, pastoral and holistic healing work in El Salvador, and pastoral counseling in a factory in Tijuana, Mexico. She is currently in Gracias, Honduras, working nationally in counseling and spiritual direction with religious and locally with myriad pastoral responsibilities.

**Sister Mary Jo Mike OSF****Sisters of St Francis, Sylvania**

Sister Mary Jo has been an elementary principal in Biloxi, MS for nineteen years and she is as passionate today as when she started. She serves a needy population that became even needier as a result of Hurricane Katrina. She spent months helping people to recover, and through it all the light shining through her never dimmed.

**Rosalie Noder OSF****Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa**

Sister Rosalie is a personification of active nonviolence and peacemaking, overflowing with compassion for all people and for the Earth. Throughout her 62 years as a Clinton Franciscan she has sought to address unmet needs. She developed a religious education program in the African American community in Chicago, including classes for those with special needs, a food pantry, a clothing center and a senior citizen's center. Open to the Spirit, she embarked on ministry to persons with HIV/AIDS. She worked through multiple obstacles without a shred of security beyond the support of her congregation and created AIDS Ministry of Illinois, for which she earned regional honors. Rosalie continues to advocate against discrimination faces by gay and lesbian persons in both the church and civil society. As a "retiree," she tutored educationally and economically disadvantaged children. Currently she is an active participant in the Clinton Ministerial Association, the local chapter of Pax Christi, the Clinton Peace Coalition, and Church Women United. She coordinates letter-writing campaigns, empowering her friends and neighbors to act in the political arena for systemic change, and is a tireless advocate for simple living. Continuing to meet the needs of others, Rosalie also ministers to her sisters in a myriad of ways.

**Sister Colleen Olsen, OSF****Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

Our Sr. Colleen is being honored by us today because of her infectious smile and warm presence that bubbles up from her daily prayer as a Franciscan Woman. For years she has served on the Region 5 Franciscan Federation team, growing in her own awareness of the Charism. She has genuinely healed many in the nursing field, and continues to do so as Patient Advocate for our Elder Sisters. She has over 10 years faithfully visited a young teenager who became a lifer in a Missouri Prison. Whenever possible she volunteers her time and joins a Missouri Medical Team who frequently cross the border to bring medical aid to El Salvador. Today we honor Sr. Colleen for passionately embracing Gospel Living.

**Sr. Grace Ann Rabideau, OSF****Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet**

Sr. Grace has spent a lifetime taking Francis' words and example to heart. A Chippewa Indian of the Bad River Band, she has devoted herself to cultivating a sense of identity, dignity and self-confidence among countless people who have found themselves on the margins of society and the Church, especially those without voice or visibility. Today, at the age of 80, after 60 years of embracing the Gospel Way of Life, Sr. Grace Ann has returned to live in the place of her birth in Northern Wisconsin. There she continues to share her vision and wisdom with intensity and enthusiasm. Filled with the Spirit, she strives to be a witness of peace, justice and the harmony of goodness.

**Sister Miriam Racas, OSF****Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God**

Passionately embracing gospel living is something as natural as breathing for Sister Miriam Racas. Throughout her years in religious life she has been a beacon of light for others in various ministries

including: elementary education, work with youth at Covenant House in New York City, serving as principal in Gallup, New Mexico in a school that had primarily Latino and Indian students and ministry to the people of Lithuania. Her manner of being “present” to others proclaims the goodness of God.

**Brother Becket Ryan OSF**  
**Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn**

At 82 years of age, Brother Becket is alive with passion. He is a happy brother who allows the light to shine through with radiance and optimism, especially when he visits those who are hospitalized.

**S. Mary Angela Sackmann**  
**Holy Cross Sisters, USA Province**

Sister Mary Angela Sackmann has been alive with passion all sixty-two years of her religious life. Most recently, in her retirement years, she left comfort and started a new ministry to the poor in a rural part of this country. She has been living Gospel values all her life. This could be seen by her compassion and understanding of youth, evident while teaching grade school children; her untiring care and compassion shown in her ministry to our elderly sisters as their coordinator; her dedication to her ministry in pastoral care; and her mentoring and guiding of a Third Order Regular Group of Lay People. Angie well deserves this recognition of a lifetime for being a beacon of hope, trusting in her God to help her live fully the Gospel values.

**Sr. Clare Sandhaeger, SMIC**  
**Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception**

Sr. Clare is truly Alive with Passion for Gospel-living. She allows the light to shine through her radiance, transparency, clarity and optimism. Sr. Clare is a beacon of light for others; especially the marginalized. She witnesses to the challenges and power of Gospel values in daily living. She lives in a way that speaks of the importance of Being and Presence, not solely on doing. She is passionate about our founding history, our founders, our Sisters, our mission from the beginning to now and into the future. Clare has been working with translations of letters that exhibit the passionate spirit of our founders, Mother Immaculata and Bishop Bahlmann. Clare’s presentations has witnessed to the light of SMIC for the poor and presented holy examples to call us to greater fidelity in living gospel values.

**Sr. Mary Lawrence Scanlan OSF**  
**Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY**

Sr. Mary Lawrence has been a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany for 68 years. She has served in many ministries throughout those years; however, she is well known for her passion for the poor and marginalized. Some ministries where she shared her gift are the Dwelling Place in New York City (homeless shelter for women), Francis Inn in Kensington, Philadelphia, PA (homeless shelter and soup kitchen), the Hebron on the West Bank and in elementary education in Jamaica, West Indies. Sr. Mary Lawrence has been tireless in giving of herself. She is truly a Franciscan model of Gospel Living – Spirit-filled, humble and full of energy for the “kingdom”!

**Christina Schoen FSP**  
**Franciscan Sisters of Peace**

Sister Christina has worked tirelessly in the midst of the Hispanic poor at Martin de Porres Village, especially the children. Her creative motivational techniques give them an enthusiasm and desire for learning that speaks to the importance of her “being and presence.” In addition, Sr. Christina is ever challenged to find ways to raise monies to sustain the learning center. She has successfully involved some of the residents as volunteers in a bi-monthly sale of donated items that has provided some much

needed funding. There is no doubt that Sr. Christina is “alive with passion” as she responds to the call to be a witness to the power of the gospel.

**Sister Grace Skwira, OSF**  
**Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN**

Sister Grace is a Franciscan woman whose eyes sparkle and her missionary spirit is ever present. She is a Franciscan woman who lives the Gospel life with graciousness and deep passion. She has served as Vocation Minister for the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota for nine years. In addition, she has gone to the mountains of Nicaragua with a group each January to help with the medical needs of the people. It is here in the mountains with persons who are poor in material things and rich in forming community that Sister Grace’s energies are renewed. She is truly a gift to us all.

**Sr. Elsa Vázquez OSF**  
**Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia**

Sister Elsa has faithfully and consistently devoted herself to those who are poor, lonely and marginalized. She has a great love for the Hispanic people and the elderly and is a loving, gentle presence to all those she encounters.

**Sister Amalia Vivian, O.S.F.**  
**Bernardine Franciscan Sister**

Sister Amalia Vivian was born on the feast of Saint Francis in Lajeado, RS, Brazil. From an early age she held her heart to the beat of God’s grace in her life to passionately live the rhythm of the Gospel. Sister Amalia embraced an attitude and desire to be of service in fostering fraternal life and mission among the people of God in various countries. Her life exemplifies an ardent zeal for peace, justice, and the care of creation as well as promoting the “discipleship of equals” among the people of God. As a Bernardine Franciscan, these values permeated her gifts that she shared in education, in her role as Secretary for the Missions for the Bishops’ Conference in Brazil, and in her responsibility of provincial leadership as well as in her present ministry as congregational councilor.

Sister Amalia Vivian’s life radiates optimism in seeing the goodness in all of God’s creation. With much love, admiration, and gratitude, the Congregational Leadership of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters are proud to nominate her as the honoree for 2010.

**Sr. Joseen Vogt OSF**  
**Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, MN**

Sister Joseen exemplifies the best of the Franciscan charism- a passion for God and for the poor, grasping obstacles as opportunities which led to her faithful service as an educator in years of service in classrooms in the United States, Australia, Sierra Leone, the Philippines, and refugee camps in Cambodia which culminated in the development of a English Language Center in Cambodia. Sister is a diligent leader who led the Cambodian school to be free of bribes and corruption. The witness of her simple lifestyle reinforced her message that her life is one of service for others. Her motivation for the challenging project of establishing the English Language Center was the criticalness for the students to learn English for future employment. Retirement is not in her vocabulary as she recently has published 3 books about her years of service, *Itchy Feet*, and now serves as a tutor for immigrants to the United States, a blind student in particular. At age 88, she has been and continues to be one *with swift pace, light step, unswerving feet, [goes] forward securely, joyfully and swiftly on the path of prudent happiness* (2LAg 12-13 ).



**Sr. Margaret Therese Yennock, mfc**

**Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception**

Sister Margaret Therese is a dedicated religious. She lives her life filled with the radiance of the Gospel and shares that with all she meets and works with. Her sense of humor is wonderful.

**Felician Sisters of Blessed Angela Spirituality Center for the Poor**

**Felician Sisters of North America: Our Lady of Hope Province**

Sisters at the Blessed Angela Spirituality Center for the Poor in Pomona, CA have truly become a beacon of light as they minister to the most vulnerable in our society. They have become the compassionate face of Jesus as they take him to homes, hospitals, the streets, churches, schools, apartment buildings. They have truly taken to heart the words of Jesus: "Whatever you did for one of these least sisters and brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt. 25:40). As they follow in the footprints of our foundress Blessed Mary Angela, her charism of compassion, mercy and availability for all, keeps exploding in new and radical ways. Therefore, it is our privilege to recognize: S Carol Marie Wiatrek, S Maria Lorena Arvizu Zambrano, S M Roseanita Ramirez, S M Therese Ann Parobek and S Joan Marie Rybicki.