

# AFC 2013 Banquet Honorees

## Susan Artone-Fricke, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of Penance & Christian Charity, Denver

Sister Sue Artone-Fricke, with more than 25 years as a Sister of St. Francis, has served our Province primarily as a Treasurer/CFO for the past 15 years. Her extensive competencies in the areas of financial governance have also been tapped by other communities who have benefited from her expertise as a consultant for NRRO. Sr. Sue is a visionary leader who has played a critical role in the evolution of our province, helping us reimagine our living spaces, our community life, and our relationships to one another and to the wider world. She has been a student of Barbara Marx Hubbard in the ACE training program (Agents of Conscious Evolution) for over 4 years and continues to honor the evolutionary mode of her heart and of Franciscan community life. Sue is deeply aware of the power of relationships to heal and transform our world. Sr. Sue is in the midst of allowing her next role in ministry to evolve, as Spirit wills. She is a deeply committed Franciscan woman, leading from within, and allowing Divine Love to move in and through her. We cannot wait to see what she will do next!

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## Ruth Baggech, SSJ-TOSF

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

When we received the criteria for selecting the Franciscan Federation honoree, our thoughts immediately turned to Sr. Ruth Baggech. Ruth Baggech began her ministry in teaching. She moved on to be a Director of Religious Education. Her openness to change was evident as she moved on to Provincial leadership in the congregation. After her time of service ended, Sr. Ruth worked as director of a homeless shelter for women. On October 4, 1996, Ruth co-founded "The Center - finding God in all things." This spirituality "center" has offered programs such as mindfulness meditation, drumming circles, "waking up in the Sacred Universe" and group sessions such as the current "what do you think." She has had special programs throughout the years looking at science and spirituality. She has invited speakers to present challenging content such as Michael Morewood and "Awakening the Dreamer - take action to reclaim our future." We are pleased to honor Sr. Ruth Baggech for being open to evolution in Franciscan Life.

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## Sister Joy Barker, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania

Sister Joy Barker has been a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, since 1971. She currently ministers as a chaplain at the Adrian Dominican Life Center in Adrian, Michigan. She is also a member of the Sylvania Franciscan Stateside Haiti Committee where she has been involved in a variety of events that support her Congregation's ministry in Haiti. Her work for the Haitian people demonstrates her "Franciscan Life in Evolution" and point to her sensitive understanding of all people, the world and the universe. Educated as a teacher, pastoral minister and spiritual director, Sister Joy has dedicated her Franciscan call to "joyful servanthood among all people." With a Franciscan heart and

energy, she networks with individuals and groups to lift burdens and bind people together in love and support. Along with her work on behalf of the Haitian people and her full-time ministry with aging religious, Sister Joy conducts volunteer programs for her local parish community and for prisoners at the federal facility in Milan, Michigan. May she be recognized for her Franciscan life and praise of God and all creation.

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## Sister. Frances Cardillo, OSF

### Franciscan Sisters of Allegany

It is with great pride that the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany choose to honor Sr. Frances Cardillo, OSF, whose life and ministry have witnessed to Franciscan Life in Evolution. Sr. Frances is a native of Rome, NY, and was received into the Congregation in 1954. She has been an example of the seamless integration of science and spirituality both in her private life and ministry, indeed her ministry has shown that science, theology and spirituality can mesh beautifully with one another. "Fran" as she is referred to, began her lifelong love of science as a high school science and math teacher. She then went on to the College of St. Rose in Albany, NY to study biology and later earned her doctorate at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY. Through the years, she taught at Manhattan College in New York City, was a Department head at Quincy College, Quincy, IL, and a distinguished researcher at the Wistar Institute, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. Recognizing the growing need for healthy, organic food in the community in 2001, Frances became one of the founding mothers of Cantic Farm, a certified naturally grown, community-supported agricultural farm in Allegany, NY. The farm sells shares of its produce to the public each year and also provides produce through local farmers markets. As a community-supported endeavor, Cantic Farm recognizes the interconnectedness of all creation, relying on help from members of the local community to grow and tend to the crops. Sr. Frances' participation in the creation of this ministry demonstrates a Franciscan ability to respond to emerging need in the community she serves.

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## Congregation

### Franciscan Sisters of Mary

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary stand as one in support of God's Creation. They remain open to change, recognizing the call to respond in new ways to the world's needs. The Franciscan Sisters of Mary have been evolving from a congregation originally dedicated to providing the best medical care possible to all regardless of their ability to pay to a community living in openness to the new ways the Spirit calls. In 2010 the FSM began the move from their beloved motherhouse, leaving their home of more than 80 years for a more ecologically sound, safer place for their sisters. They have transitioned the leadership of their hospitals to laypeople who share with the sisters the clear and unwavering vision of their founders, Mother Mary Odilia Berger and Mother Mary Augustine Giesen. Recognizing their interconnectedness with all God's creatures, they have committed themselves to efforts to heal the Earth and live in harmony with all creation. Among other initiatives, the FSM are working with Missouri Forest ReLeaf to plant trees. They are vitally involved with efforts to clean up local landfills that threaten the area's air, water and soil. They have sent solar ovens to Africa and South America to help the people and the local

habitat and they have sponsored clean wells. They have promoted recycling by decluttering and recycling in their own homes and by sponsoring recycling by area businesses. They generously support ecological efforts worldwide and now invest 15 percent of their portfolio in environmentally sustainable ventures, intending to increase that percentage in the future. As "stardust" they strive to respect and care for all creatures as Francis did.

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## Sister Carol Clare Czyzewski, FSSJ

### Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph

Sister Carol Clare Czyzewski, FSSJ, has been a member of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph since 1963. Her journey as a Franciscan and her openness to ongoing change is evident in her continual openness to a wealth of experiences. For Sister Carol there has always been a sense of something more, something deeper, and something beyond: be it in education, vocation work, formation ministry, retreat programs, pastoral ministry, prison ministry, spiritual direction, community involvement or personal relaxation. In the summer of 1995 she enthusiastically embraced the invitation from Franciscan Mission Service to journey to Guatemala and lead the missionaries there in a retreat. When ministering in Thurmont, Maryland, Sister was active in "United in Love." This was a group of community leaders whose gathering was an off spring of rallies to combat hate groups including the KKK in Thurmont. In Sister's words, "the result is that there is a firmer base of support in the local community among the leadership of people able to promote diversity to promote acceptance of all people." Sister Carol served as Pastoral Assistant for The Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Baltimore, Maryland. Among her responsibilities was that of being the coordinator of the Social Justice & Outreach Committee. Sister was engaged in fundraising for St. Peter Claver foreign mission located in Belize. Sister Carol was open to an invitation to spending a week in Punta Gordo, Belize mission area in 2009. During that time Sister was involved in various tasks such as helping teachers with students who needed remedial lessons in poor schools, visiting outlying parishes and being a presence. When time permits, Sister Carol pursues her love of art. There has always been an inner call for Sister Carol that challenges her to "deeper ongoing conversion." She has a willingness to engage in the new and unknown realms of ministry ever open to living the Gospel as a Franciscan. She is a prophet within our community whose voice challenges us and calls us to move beyond ourselves.

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## Miriam Devlin, SMIC

### Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

Sister Miriam Devlin, SMIC, a physician who has served in Taiwan, Bolivia and the United States, has long been on the "front lines" of living into "Franciscan Life in Evolution." Thirty-five years ago she, together with artist Sister Nancy Earle, SMIC, settled in Orland, Maine eventually constructing an environmentally friendly home from which she continued to reach out into the neighborhood and world to bring, non-violently, the message of the interconnectedness of all creation and activities. She was instrumental in a community-wide effort to help stop the construction of a coal fire plant in Buchsport arguing from the perspective of health issues. She has given workshops on "Ecology and Spirituality" in Taipei and Tainan, Taiwan and in Manila, Philippines. She has presented in Namibia, Africa on living sustainably and was

instrumental in bringing two skilled Permaculturists with her for those presentations. At the present moment she chairs the Buscksport Bay healthy communities' network and encourages the creation of planting local gardens for good, healthy eating. She has been teaching biomedical ethics and bio-ethics from the global perspective at the University of Maine. As a dedicated "green" physician she practices and encourages the use of alternative healing methods. All the above while keeping in front of her religious congregation that these issues are central to the well-being of God's universe and not simply "something to address if one has time".

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## Sister Noel Dreska, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Sister Noel Dreska came to our minds immediately when we heard the theme of this year's Franciscan Federation Award. She was ahead of her time. She recognized and spoke often of the interconnectedness of all creation. As a Ph.D. Physicist, who taught college Physics, she often shared with students, fellow colleagues, scientists and friends that "there was no way you could be a physicist, see the intricate and ordered workings of our world and not believe there was a God." She was open to ways she could share that message. When a Templeton Grant was offered, Sister Noel moved ahead to create a new course she entitled "Physics and Faith." She received the grant and proceeded to offer the course at Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois. Her vision of an interconnected world led her to readily agree to teach at Bethlehem University to Palestinian students and in our county jail. Her love for the Gospel, creation, her students and the world of Physics and learning were all tied together. Sister Noel suffered for two years as a result of a car accident and she died in 2003, but Noel is alive in our memories, in the lives of her numerous students, colleagues, sisters and friends. We feel so strongly that she exemplifies these criteria that we have chosen Sister Noel as our honoree.

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## Sister Marie Joette Ebert, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities

For a Christian, conversation is a long, long process. Often, we don't even recognize it happening until we reflect from the rear view mirror of our lives. Sr. Joett Ebert, a Sister of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, had many such epiphanies. In 1986 she began a ministry in rural Alabama. There she encountered extreme poverty where too many children were not attending school and a large percentage of adults were not able to read. Working with a team of dedicated "missionaries," instructional supplies and materials were acquired, grant monies were secured for a part time teacher, tutoring was set up for basic math and reading skills, learning sites were established throughout the area, and access to bus transportation enabled the children to attend school. Years later she worked with students from both Howard and Georgetown University. "Teams" were formed to provide meals for the homeless, offer referral services for pregnant teens and those critically ill, assisted in finding placement for street kids, and collect clothing for the elderly and little ones. Sr. Joette's life was so intertwined with the poor that she was asked to claim the bodies of those left to die alone. Sr. Joette has been teaching in inner city Catholic School for 38 years. She is committed to helping young people see themselves as active participants on their life journey, rather than victims of their life circumstances.

Reconciliation is an invaluable goal for her students, particularly in a violent world that her children know only too well. "What grace is evident when I observe the healing, the renewal of friendships, and the gentleness between them; and how grateful I am for the many times they have forgiven me!"

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## Sister Marie Gemar, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family, Dubuque

Sr. Marie Gemar, OSF of the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, Iowa, ministered as a high school science teacher for many years. In this capacity, Marie made a significant impact on the lives of her students and co-workers. Testimonials state that she "was a teacher of science but also of spirituality and kindness; brought awareness of our connection to nature; witnessed deep reverence for God as manifest in all of creation." Marie challenged students to slow down and be open to God teaching/speaking to us through the wonders of nature. Marie's life evolved in a new and expanded direction when she recently obtained a graduate degree in Earth Literacy from St. Mary of the Woods College in Indiana. She is now enriching the lives of our congregational members through her ministry at our motherhouse. Her mantra is "Let nature teach you." In her presentations on the new cosmology, Marie invites us to develop a deep connectedness with all of creation. As we are more open to these connections we perceive the Divine. This is what Francis did. His was a deep sense of inter-relatedness, which drew him to God. Marie is developing programs to share her passion and insights with an extended public.

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## Sister Francetta Glowinski, OSF

Wheaton Franciscans

Sr. Francetta (Fran) Glowinski, in her 50 years of Franciscan religious life, is a weaver of new and freshly imagined facets of Life. Always curious and insightful, she has a natural way of integrating the reality of nature, the human reality of joy and suffering, and her deep knowing of the Divine Self into a wholeness of Life. Her science background, love of beauty (including dragonflies), compassion for those suffering, and prayer life come together in service for humankind as she consciously contributes to our emerging, evolving world.

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## Paschal Hocum, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, IA

To nominate Sister Paschal Hocum for this award I would begin by quoting her directly: "All life can be understood as a journey or way of beauty. Franciscans see all life - creation, the human person, human action, divine life, and love - through the prisms of harmony and beauty. God is a circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere." Paschal began her life as a Clinton Franciscan in Iowa, as a much-loved teacher of math and physics at Mount St. Clare Academy and College for 17 years. A native Californian, she returned there to earn a master's in theology at the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkley. And she stayed to serve in FST for 19 years as registrar, director of spiritual formation and director of alumni affairs. While there she created the position of spiritual formation

director and wrote the handbook for spiritual formation at the school. In 2004, Paschal returned to Clinton, Iowa, where she served as administrator of the Canticle, the home of the Sisters of St. Francis. The spirit of Franciscan hospitality was her gift to all who lived there. She has served in leadership of the congregation and been very active in advocating for social justice.

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## Sister Gertrude L. Ihenacho, FHM

Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary

With joy and thanksgiving the Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary choose our Congregation Minister, Sister Gertrude Lilly Ihenacho, FHM, as our 2013 honoree. This zealous Woman of Faith is leading the Congregation through a process of revitalization. This process has enabled us to broaden our understanding of our Charism as Franciscan women dedicated to Our Blessed Mother in this 21st Century and to promote Social Justice and Pastoral Care. Sr. Gertrude knew that we had to do something in response to the crime and violence rampant among youth and young adults after the tragic death of Sr. Mary Celine Graham, FHM. From acknowledgement and awareness to action, Sr. Gertrude conceived a pilot project, The Learning Center. Consisting of three sites, two in the United States and one in Africa, the Learning Center will offer counseling and on-site/on-line courses in Franciscan Studies/Spirituality and various career fields. All courses will be provided by accredited schools in the United States. Upon completion of coursework internships or on the job training will be available. A Public Health Physician, Natural Medicine Specialist and an Independent Natural Health Researcher, Sr. Gertrude initiated Franciscan Natural Health and Wellness Ministry. Dedicated to promoting natural remedies and healthy lifestyles, Sr. Gertrude researches effective natural remedies that she recommends upon request. People with illnesses such as AIDS and diabetes have experienced restored energy and improved health. Relief from a variety of other ailments has been reported from people near and far.

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## Mary Elizabeth Imler, OSF

Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart celebrate Mary Elizabeth Imler, OSF as our 2013 honoree. She is truly a woman who exemplifies by her life the theme "Franciscan Life in Evolution." Sister Mary Elizabeth... \* lives out of our Franciscan call as she has always incorporated a theology of the interconnectedness of creation throughout the cosmos and in the mind and heart of God; \* is a well-known Franciscan speaker and noted scholar who has given many presentations connecting Franciscanism and our life in evolution; \* has constantly adapted as she transitioned from high school teacher to retreat house founder to Franciscan Scholar to General Superior to Leader of Franciscan Pilgrimages to VP of Mission at a university; \* freely gives of her time and talent as a follower of Francis to rebuild the church by sharing knowledge of Francis and spreading the Franciscan charism; \* is very open to change and/or to the potential for change in her visionary thinking, all tempered with prudence.

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## Sister Mary Jacqueline Keefe, CSSF

Felician Franciscan Sisters

Sister Jacquie Keefe, a Felician Franciscan Sister, integrates science, theology and spirituality in her life and ministry by bringing sustainable processes in the organization, building and maintenance of Jericho House, a place for Leadership Formation for Youth in Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada. Describing herself as "having a heart listening to the Spirit of creation," she is a member of the interfaith Green Faith Program, the world's only comprehensive environmental leadership program to prepare lay and ordained leaders for religiously based environmental leadership. Jacquie offers workshops, conferences and retreats on social and ecological justice. With another Felician Sister, Jacquie currently offers workshops on Eco-Spirituality in the U.S. and Canada. With her dedication to promoting awareness of caring for the environment and all God's creation, she is a true daughter of Mother Earth.

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## Sister Bonnie Marie Kleinschuster, OSF

School Sisters of St. Francis

"Alive with Passion" hardly describes the energy and enthusiasm with which Sr. Bonnie Marie Kleinschuster approaches a new endeavor. Having recognized a need to return our farmland to being "healthy", she has initiated the start of organic farming on land that once was treated with chemical fertilizers. In addition to the establishment of Community Sustainable Agriculture, Sister Bonnie Marie envisions this project as a means to provide healthy food for the retreatants at Saint Francis Center for Renewal, to invite neighbors in to help in this farming project and to provide healthy food for the poor in the area. Sister has always been an advocate for the poor and for the preservation of Mother Earth. Presently, Sr. Bonnie Marie serves as a member of the Provincial Council of the School Sisters of St. Francis. In addition to being Treasurer for the Community, Sister uses her degree in Computer Technology to improve communication between members of the community, the Church and the world.

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## Sister Kathryn King, FSP

Franciscan Sisters of Peace

Sr. Kathryn King has demonstrated an openness to change and certainly to the unknown by her leadership at the time of the establishment of the Franciscan Sisters of Peace in 1986. In recent years, she was instrumental in beginning our congregation's outreach to a Franciscan community in East Africa, and has been an agent of change in our congregation's approach to sharing our Franciscan charism with others.

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## Sister Jeannette Kneifel, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis, Assisi Heights, Colorado Springs

The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration have chosen Sister Jeannette Kneifel as our Franciscan honoree in reflecting "Franciscan Life in Evolution." While Jeannette's life has exemplified this theme for many years, we particularly note her leadership in bringing Women Partnering from conception, to birth, to her teenage years. The commitment of the Sisters of St. Francis breathed life into Women Partnering and the partnering of many people and organizations nurtured her. At the same time, Jeannette enhanced the development of Women Partnering through her doctoral studies, dissertation and research involving financially vulnerable women, as part of the research team that identified what women needed most. Her vision of serving financially vulnerable women and children through a mutual mentoring approach was actualized by partnering the insider knowledge of financially vulnerable women with the outsider knowledge of other "experts" and concerned persons. Thus, each woman has an active voice and part in creating and implementing her Individual Development Plan, thereby moving toward holistic economic sustainability that is sufficient for them to stay safely in the US, while working for and waiting for comprehensive immigration reform. In fulfillment of the mission of the Sisters of St. Francis, and more specifically, Women Partnering's mission, Jeannette has modeled the interconnectedness of all creation through her service. She has especially been open to change that has led to the ongoing evolution of services/programs for and with financially vulnerable women and children. In addition she continues to be available to service organizations (local and beyond) that wish to learn about our sustainability model and advance their capacity to grow their programs, practices, quality improvement and governance development.

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## Sister Ade Kroll, OSF

Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN

Sister Ade Kroll, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN, has a deep passion for our oneness with all things in the cosmos. During Brian Swimme's class on the Universe Story, she was captivated by this radical message of WHO we are - US - one with all creatures, the stars, the oceans, geological wonders, etc. Ade celebrates God's face shining forth in all of nature by offering tent retreats, using inclusive language for all beings, and celebrates liturgies of wondrous nature events. She is always the voice for being totally inclusive of all creation. She made Universe Story banners showing the new and the old cosmology for use in retreats and presentations. Ade facilitated having "US" embroidered on 31 universe panels created by bush women in South Africa. She wrote the story to be given to each person who viewed the panels which have been shown in universities, retreat centers, churches and religious communities around the world.

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## Sister Mary Gabriel Lazarski, OSF

Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Sister Mary Gabriel Lazarski, OSF, sees the interconnectedness of all creation. She sees this particularly in the intimate connection between the fruits of Mother Earth and the health of the human body. As a member of the healthy food committee at our Motherhouse, she continues to research and study new findings on the benefits of wise food choices, sharing this information not only with her Sisters in the Congregation and the Motherhouse kitchen staff, but also with her family and friends. Her life journey with its roots in the education ministry has evolved over the years to endow her with an attitude of openness to new information that she generously expresses in her love, respect, and understanding of others and in her sincere desire to help them attain the blessings of robust health and abundant energy through better dietary choices coupled with regular exercise.

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## Sister Sandra Lyons, OSF

Bernardine Franciscan Sisters

Sister Sandra Lyons demonstrates through her ministry and life style a respect for the dignity of those who grow the food, make the clothing, and produce the electronic products that she chooses to use. Whenever possible, she purchases fair trade products. Sister Sandra sees how the life-death cycles of all things complete each other. Over the evolving years of her religious life, Sister Sandra has responded with a generous openness to new ministry options to meet the needs of the time. She responded as a nurse, midwife for low income families, as a missionary to Romania at the invitation of the Catholic Health Association of America, as Director of Justice, Peace and Earthcare for the Bernardine Franciscans, and as Director of the Bernardine Center, a congregational ministry to low-income families via a food pantry, brunch service, and advocacy education programs. At the Bernardine Center she began a community garden, initiated recycling, composting and use of rain barrels to water the garden plots. In the midst of her many commitments, she made time to acquire a Master's Certificate in Earth Literacy. Over the years, Sister has tried with each new ministry and opportunity to be receptive to the grace of the moment realizing that nothing is completely finished but rather continues to evolve. Therefore, it is with much love, admiration and gratitude that the Congregational Leadership of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters is proud to nominate Sister Sandra Lyons as the Honoree for 2013.

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## Sister Helene Mertes, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

We have chosen Sr. Helene Mertes for our 2013 honoree. Growing up on a farm, she has always been close to the land and had a strong belief in respecting and caring for Mother Earth. After the 2009 congregational Environmental Assessment, Sr. Helene, with a committee, created a plan to revive the

Motherhouse grounds. With her broad vision and dreams for the Earth she uses her practical skills in making the vision come alive. She has partnered with individuals and organizations to collaborate and rejuvenate the land. As a teaching congregation, she sees us teaching others how to respect and love the land through hands-on experiences. Her vision has brought new hope and excitement to the congregation, the surrounding neighborhood and the city.

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### Sister Paula Nasenberry, SSFCR

School Sisters of St. Francis of Christ the King

Sister Paula Nasenbeny, SSFCR, is a woman of deep spirituality whose spirit is evident in her openness to change and growth as well as in her generosity in service to those in need. Sister serves in a variety of capacities within and beyond community ministries. Most notably Sister Paula has been working to educate our Sisters and our high school students about the horrors of human trafficking. In addition, she represents our community in Chicago Archdiocesan Peace and Justice concerns and has been working with others to help those whose immigration status needs to be changed. She keeps our Sisters aware of current legislative initiatives and aids us in responding to and/or working to influence the legislative changes that need to be made. Sister has brought the plight of women to light for our Sisters through various initiatives on behalf of down trodden women through her work with LCWR's Project Irene. Sister also works as tutor and mentor to a number of our high school students whose confidence as well as success has been greatly increased through her influence and care.

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### Sister Donna Jo Repetti, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

We congratulate Donna Jo Repetti for her faithful response to the gifts God has given her. Donna Jo is a very positive person, open to change and the unknown. She is creative, inclusive, and has integrated science, theology, and spirituality in her life and ministry. Donna Jo is filled with energy for the Gospel. In her role as Director of Guidance at Benedictine Academy, Donna Jo raises awareness of issues today and challenges the students to a creative response. Her most recent endeavor resulted in the students' creation of a DVD on human trafficking which has been given high praise by its various audiences. Donna Jo responds to all of life with hope and deep faith. We look forward to celebrating with her in July.

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### Sister Kathryn Roberg, FSPA

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration

Sr. Kathy Roberg is a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, whose Motherhouse is in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. She writes, "My life, rich as it has been is difficult to encompass in a single paragraph. I firmly believe all life is a journey of concentric circles that continue to intertwine, spiraling in and out of relationships. My communal Franciscan relationships have united me to my sisters in community and others who aspire to Franciscan values. People relationships, enriched by cultures and ethnicity have been found in my ministry of teaching, especially teaching English as a Second Language. Spiritual

relationships are connected in Gospel living, woven throughout my experiences in pastoral ministry. Heart throbbing relationships have beaten in my involvement with the marginalized. And an earthy relationship continues to be nourished in my passion for Mother Earth. This is where Franciscanism and God abounds and continues to develop. These are the God presences - passions - that have nourished me on my journey and will continue to be the life giving source of energy that strengthens my daily "yes" to God."

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### Sister Jeanne Rollins, OSF

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

Over the years, Jeanne Rollins has consistently embraced change and gladly pursued new paths. When she was asked by the indigenous people with whom she worked in the Northwest, she served as their tribal representative. She has sought out training in the facilitation of the Aging and Saging program in response to needs emerging in our times. Her recognition of the interconnectedness of all creation influences her daily life and ministerial choices. An example is her facilitation of the Pachamama process with groups seeking a deepening of their relationship with the community of creation. Truly she is sensitive to God's Word in the Gospel, in creation, in the signs of the times and lives in openness to the Spirit.

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### Sister Shirley Shafranek, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Charity, Tiffin

Sister Shirley Shafranek is the Education Coordinator for the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center in Tiffin, Ohio, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis. She recognizes the interconnectedness of all creation and excels in the integration of science, theology and spirituality. Shirley has reached out to a variety of clientele for whom she has initiated many new programs, including most recently the mentally challenged. She is currently assisting the Board of Trustees to evolve the ministry into a more sustainable endeavor. Shirley recently served as co-director for the Creation Spirituality Retreat offered by the Spirituality Center on Campus. As a finally professed member of fewer than two years, she has certainly shown in her life's journey both openness to change and a willingness to enter into the unknown within herself and with us as a community.

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## Linda Songy, SCSC

Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross

The Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross have chosen Sister Linda Songy SCSC to receive the annual 2013 Franciscan Banquet recognition. Sister Linda took on a new ministry as chaplain in the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. This was an effort to respond to a need for a Catholic presence in this institution. She was open to trying something new and she has integrated her theology and spirituality along with the recognition of the interconnectedness of all creation and the dignity of each of the women to whom she ministers. When the down turn in the economy threatened to eliminate her position she accepted the challenge and used her skills of writing and advocacy to persuade state leaders to continue this ministry on a part-time basis.

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## Sister Althea Anne Spencer, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God

A member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God for 35 years, Sister Althea Anne Spencer's service to others focuses on youth, women and those needing assistance. Open to change, Sister Althea strives to best meet the needs of her Community and those she serves. Her early years were spent in education ministry that included 11 years at St. Francis Academy. Presently, she continues to serve through various outreach ministries. Sister Althea organizes her Community's Connecting Women's Wisdom retreat programs that bring together women of all ages and backgrounds for sharing and reflection. Actively involved with the Pittsburgh Religious Vocations Council, she collaborates with other Religious Communities on various youth outreach, such as Busy Person's Retreats for college students. Recognizing the need for emotional and physical healing, she also serves others through spiritual direction and therapeutic massage. Sister Althea recently served on her Congregation's leadership team from 2009 - 2012. As Chairperson of the On-Site Committee, she has helped prepare for this Annual Franciscan Conference.

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## Sister Bonnie Steinlage, SFP

Franciscan Sisters of the Poor

Sr. Bonnie Steinlage, SFP, has been a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor for close to 50 years. She has been engaged in a variety of healing ministries for all of her religious life. Twenty-five years ago she founded a ministry we now call Franciscan Haircuts from the Heart. In a small room in a very poor section of Cincinnati called Over-the-Rhine, Bonnie started giving haircuts to those who were poor and underserved. As the clients increase, the space and services increased to meet their needs and Sr. Bonnie found new ways to support the ministry and help it to grow. This year we celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Franciscan Haircuts from the Heart and we thank you, Sr. Bonnie, for being attentive to how the Spirit was leading you and for responding to the Call.

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## Mara Walton, OSF

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

Sister Mara Walton is a science educator par excellence. In her ministry of teaching she has always fostered a great love for all creation, integrating science, theology and spirituality. She is pro-active in keeping abreast of new and emerging fields of study in science and is able to translate and communicate these new learnings to her students.

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## Kathy Warren, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis, Congregation of Our Lady of Lourdes, Rochester, MN

Sister Kathy Warren's commitment to providing a model of dialogue is admirable. Using her talents and education in Franciscan Studies, lay leadership development and media expertise, Sister Kathy began a new endeavor about six years ago in response to the continuing attacks on and lack of understanding of Muslims. There is nothing more strongly Franciscan than addressing the long standing antipathy between Christians and Muslims. Francis' conviction about the oneness of all creation provided his willingness to go among the Muslims, unarmed and without regard to his own safety. Kathy's tenacity to her goal of bringing this model of interconnectedness alive in film, a book and study guides deserves to be recognized. The resources Sr. Kathy and her colleague are making available on the internet as well as other mainstream media will widely spread this important story of interfaith through dialogue. This is the program "In the Footprints of Francis and the Sultan, a Model for Peacemaking." Kathy's efforts included raising the funds needed for the production of the video, reaching out to many experts, opinion makers and possible allies. It is difficult to imagine the project in its fullness without the particular integration brought to this effort by Sister Kathy while ministering full time as a pastoral staff person in a care center. We congratulate you, Sister Kathy.

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## Fr. Robert Warren, SA

Franciscan Friars of the Atonement  
(Brother Joe O'Gara to accept the award)

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement wish to recognize their Brother, Robert Warren SA, for his compassion and vision in initiating and maintaining the "Do Not Fear to Hope HIV/Aids Ministry" to men and women seeking to live in hope in spite of their illness. He authentically lives the vision of their Founders, Paul Wattson SA and Lurana White SA, in imitating Francis who cared for those living on the margins of society. Through spirituality, individuals with HIV and AIDS can overcome pain, loneliness, and loss right now, each day. To meet this need, the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement established Do Not Fear to Hope in 1988. The work of Do Not Fear to Hope is focused in two primary areas: Support Sessions and Annual Retreat. At the Support Sessions the members receive caring and emotional support from one another as well as sharing information based on their experiences with the disease.

The Annual Retreat is a weekend held once a year in conjunction with the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, offering an opportunity to those with HIV and AIDS to reflect, focus and develop a closer relationship with God or their higher power. Accepting the award for Fr. Bob is Brother Joseph Francis SA, health care coordinator for the Friars of the Atonement.

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## Sister Claire Whalen, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg

Sister Claire Whalen, OSF has been a life-long learner and teacher. Claire served as program director at our Michaela Farm and , while there, developed an internship program. After retiring from the farm in 2001, she founded a community supported agriculture (CSA) co-op called Food and Growers Association of Laughery Valley and Environs. She has served as Board president and has authored the CSA newsletter. Currently, she is responsible for on-line orders and for helping pack the weekly boxes of produce during the growing season. As a certified T'ai Chi Chih instructor, Claire recently created a workshop connecting T'ai Chi Chih with the Universe Story. She calls it Living Earth T'ai Chi Chih. Claire is passionate about her own spiritual growth and about sharing spirituality with others on the journey. She is committed to justice, especially as it relates to Earth and her resources. She is also a tremendously gifted woman of great energy, profound dedication and selfless service. The Oldenburg Franciscans are proud to honor her Franciscan Life in Evolution.

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## Sister Therese Marie Wiczorek, OSF

Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

A Franciscan For Earth and a lover of nature, Sr. Therese Marie Wiczorek joined our Ecological efforts four years ago only to find herself 'in love again' with Francis and the need to protect planet earth. Sr. Therese Marie attends the Kirkwood Green Festival in the Fall, works at our booth for Earth and encourages others to participate in our Earth programs at the TAU Center. Currently she is involved with creating our vision for turning some property into a Neighborhood Garden. We love her energy and spirit for all things Green!

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