

AFC 2014 Banquet Honorees

Abeln SMIC, Sister Jane

Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

Sr. Jane has been deeply committed to our mission statement of “contemplative compassionate presence” to all. She has taught children and adults in the States as well as in our missions in Taiwan and the Philippines. Her special talent in creative writing has found her poems and articles in several publications. She has served our Congregation by editing some of our own histories. In addition to writing she has utilized her talents to create film presentations with children featuring human interest stories using spiritual themes. All these gifts to cultivate the kingdom of God.

Banacki SA, Brother Thomas

Franciscan Friars of the Atonement

Bro. Tom was nominated by the General Council for the ministries he has carried out with humility and simplicity as an authentic Franciscan. He is currently Director of our shopping Center Chapel and Gift Shop at Chapel of Our Savior in Brockton, MA. Everyone feels at home when they come to the Center because Bro. Tom creates a sense of Franciscan hospitality and welcome where one feels safe and at ease. He is always seeking to embrace those who are oftentimes overlooked because they “don’t fit in”. He worked with the homeless and the addicted. Tom was embarrassed by our choice believing that other Friars were more worthy of this recognition. This, in itself, shows the humility of the person. Bro. Tom, your Brothers are proud of who you are and the love that you bring to whatever you do in the best of our At-one-ment tradition! Congratulations!

Burkle OSF, Sister Margaret

Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family, Dubuque

For more than twenty-five years Sr. Margaret Burkle has served as the pre/retirement director for our congregation. From the earliest days of this ministry her passion was to make this transition stage in the lives of our Sisters an enriching experience. Her program of discernment and assistance in the process have been given national affirmation as a model to be used by others. Once Sisters are “at home” in our facilities, Margaret encourages interests and activities to keep their lives broadly focused. One of her goals is to keep the Sisters vitally aware of and involved in the mission of the congregation through programs of enrichments and experience. A recent project that Margaret started is making flannel blankets for babies born in hospitals in Haiti and other places of need. A nurse volunteer, speaking of her experience on a mission trip, told of mothers taking their new-born children home wrapped in newspapers. Margaret organized the response to that need and many Sisters participate making the blankets, as well as providing funds for materials and shipping. Persons with disabilities is another focus of her passion and Margaret has served in our Archdiocese of Dubuque and on a national board as their advocate. Margaret embodies our current congregational commitment: “In our personal, communal and public life, we commit to ongoing conversion as we: deepen our relationship with Mother Earth and Sister Water, stand with persons who are poor and make peace and practice non-violence.”

Cardet OSF, Sister Lucy Franciscan Sisters of Allegany NY

It is with great pride that the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany choose to honor Sr. Lucy Cardet, OSF as this year's Franciscan Federation Honoree. Lucy's life and ministry are an exceptional example of service that fulfills all the criteria for *Cultivating Kingdom Power*. In her early assignments, she served as a high school Spanish teacher in congregational schools located in New York and New Jersey. In 1972 she joined 2 other Allegany Franciscan Sisters in forming a small intentional community, living and ministering in inner-city Camden, NJ. That community was her support in her ministry as a volunteer jail chaplain and later as Director of Religious Education in their parish (a merger of two ethnic parishes). After seven years, she joined the sisters in Winsted, CT and worked as parish DRE and taught religion in the parish school. In 1982, Sr. Lucy accepted a principal's position at Corpus Christi School in what had become a low-income area of Miami, where she served until 1992. Returning to her educational "roots" gave her new challenges as well as opportunities to lead and make a difference in the lives of the students and their families, as the early sisters had done in hers. When the Sisters withdrew from the school, she and 2 other sisters moved to Miami Shores, as an intentional community with a commitment to hospitality to our Franciscan Associates and to persons in need. After her years as principal, Sr. Lucy began her service at Barry University as an instructor and later as an Academic Advisor where she is currently providing curriculum guidance for working adult students who reflect the diversity that is Miami. She continues her commitment and ministry to the poor through work with a parish group who provide outreach to families in a local trailer park of 250 residents. Sr. Lucy brings warmth of hospitality and inclusivity to all those she serves, working tirelessly on behalf of the poor and marginalized in the Miami area. Her lifelong commitment to those in need demonstrates a contemplative awareness that lovingly embraces all creation. The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany honor and commend Sr. Lucy Cardet OSF as a most deserving recipient of this year's recognition.

Chabot OSF, Sister Clare Bernardine Franciscan Sisters

Sister Clare Chabot has been richly blessed in her personal, religious and professional growth, with the love and support of her Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, family and friends. She is a woman who creates a sense of hospitality and inclusivity wherever she goes. Emboldened with a Master's degree in Special Education, she worked toward widening the circles of compassion to those overlooked or excluded. She ministered over the years to the Learning Disabled children in Stamford, CT; to the illiterate village women in Liberia, West Africa; to the infirmed and elderly citizens in Newport News, VA; to women recovering from addictions and incarceration; to the homeless women with children in Fall River, MA; and to the senior Sisters as the Retirement Director for her Congregation. Presently, she is Local Minister of the Motherhouse Fraternity in Reading, PA where she is known for her welcoming warmth, engaging smile and inclusivity. Her life radiates a deliberate contemplative awareness that embraces all of creation. She states, "*My life has been so richly inspired by the people I have met and the places I have been. God's grace is abundant in my life and my goal is to be a grace to others in return.*" Therefore, it is with much love, admiration, and gratitude that the Congregational Leadership of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters is proud to nominate Sister Clare Chabot as the Honoree for 2014.

Collings OSF, Sister M. Paulette Hospital Sisters of St. Francis

Sister Paulette is nominated because she has always been very well-known for her great hospitality to our own sisters, priests, visitors, patients, doctors, business people--ALL who are in any way connected to us and her. She is a very welcoming person, always alert to the needs of anyone she meets. As a teacher and supervisor, she taught many students and staff to be kind and sensitive to the anxieties of patients and their families. As a hospital administrator, she established out-reach programs to the poor and under-served, long before it was considered by healthcare

institutions as it is today. Any time there is an opportunity for performing a small task or a large task, she is there in her quiet way to help. She expends a great deal of energy and time in serving those who are in her charge as well as other persons she meets. She is a very prayerful person, both personal and communal, and a deep thinker. She has always undertaken any assignment offered her with a great joy, no matter how intimidating it might be. She has always lived very simply. She is a model of our Franciscan respect for the earth by her treatment of all kinds of creatures and appreciation of nature.

Derer FSM, Sister Jeanne Franciscan Sisters of Mary

When one thinks of “hospitality,” Sr. Jeanne Derer, FSM comes immediately to mind. A hostess with a vision for welcoming and graciousness, she attends to every detail with the care of Martha and Mary. But her hospitality and inclusivity extend far beyond the scope of creating celebrations and gatherings. In the past two years, as the Franciscan sisters of Mary have made Bridgeton, Missouri, their home, they have learned that the residents and businesses alike are threatened by toxic fumes and improperly contained radioactive wastes in a pair of landfills not two miles from the sisters’ homes and offices. The underground fire in one landfill, which is approaching the radioactive waste area, adds to the sense of urgency. Sr. Jeanne, as head of the FSM Focus External Implementation Group (the Seeders), has worked tirelessly with the FSM Justice-Ecological Coordinator to raise awareness of the dangers and to bring about the safe removal of the radioactive wastes and the control of the underground fire. She has led FSM-sponsored prayer vigils at the landfills; attended community meetings on the issue; and supported phone, e-mail and letter campaigns to urge elected officials to take action. Throughout, her concern lies especially with healing of the land and those who live there – human and otherwise. Her vision and her concern for the FSM Focus on compassionate care of Creation lead her to work for the healing of the Earth in many other ways. The External Implementation Group (the Seeders) sponsor many initiatives, including learning about and planting trees and encouraging recycling and other Earth-friendly practices. A true Franciscan, she embraces all creation and creatures as her sister and brother.

Giblin SSFCR, Sister Mary Terese School Sisters of Christ the King, Lemont

Sister Mary Terese Giblin, SSFCR, offers her gifts to the greater Church in a number of ways. She currently ministers in a spirit of hospitality in her two main gifts to the Church as our community’s Vocation/Young Adult Minister and Team Member at Our Lady of the Angels House of Prayer Ministries. In addition, Sister’s service as a high school teacher and Campus Minister as well as her leadership in youth retreats and outreach efforts has done much to widen the circles of compassion in the hearts of many young persons and in the lives of many who have been touched through these efforts. Finally, Sister Mary Terese strives to live from a contemplative stance as she actively seeks to understand and to put into practice the fruit of her prayer and study.

Glynn FSP, Sister Patricia Franciscan Sisters of Peace

Sister Pat Glynn has devoted more than 50 years of ministry service to those on the margins of society, from inner city students to a mission in Bolivia, but especially to Native Americans. She is an exceptional teacher, and for 30 years was on the faculty of schools which served Native American children in South Dakota, Montana and New Mexico. In all these places she was a compassionate presence and shared in the faith life of those among whom she lived. The Native American spirituality, deeply rooted in a contemplative relationship with all creation, enhanced Sr. Pat’s own Franciscan prayer life so she is truly aware of all creation as Brother and Sister.

Hay OSF, Sister Janet Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin OH

Sister Janet Hay is the Pastoral Care Minister for our elderly sisters and also a chaplain at Tiffin Mercy Hospital. Wherever she is, Sister Janet creates a sense of hospitality and inclusivity through her warm and compassionate presence. She has ministered to people with AIDS for over 25 years, beginning in the 1980's when most people were afraid of associating with persons with AIDS. Sister Janet ministers to the needs of our elderly sisters with tenderness and dedication. As she accompanies them on their journey into eternal life, her prayerful presence is a comfort to family and friends who are grieving. Sister Janet lives in a passive solar house on our campus. She welcomes visitors for tours, often with little notice, and helps them to understand the importance of caring for God's creation.

Hecker OSF, Sister Robert Ann Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Help

Sister Robert Ann Hecker, OSF, has worked on the Apache Homeland in New Mexico for 25 years. She has a gentle spirit and this unassuming way has encouraged the more reserved and sometimes shy Apache People to accept her gift among them. She currently ministers as the Associate Pastor in the absence of a priest. Her ministry has widened our congregation's understanding of the native peoples in the West. She has helped the Apache to incorporate many of their own customs into the Liturgical feasts throughout the year. We are grateful for our Sister Robert Ann, OSF.

Kiesel OSF, Sister Marcella Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity

Sr. Marcella has been a Professed Franciscan for fifty-seven years and a registered nurse for sixty years, a university professor and retreat and spiritual director. Now in her retirement, Sr. Marcella volunteers as a private tutor and classroom teacher of English with the Hillsborough County Literacy Council in Tampa, Florida. Working with the marginalized, she enthusiastically shares the joys of the English language with those who speak Spanish. Their essays of personal pain and triumphs as well as their faith in God and undying hope continue to be the greatest motivation in her work. Hospitality is exemplified in that no acquaintance is a stranger. With Sr. Marcella one may be assured that all are welcome and invited into her hermitage, peacemaking ministries and all aspects of her life.

Kosiek OSF, Sister Doloria Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

As a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago for 66 years Sister Doloria Kosiek has seen incredible changes in the world around her, in the Church pre and post Vatican II, and in religious life in the United States. Due to her deliberate contemplative awareness which embraces all creation in both its seasonal and long term changes, Sister has been open to these changes. In concert with them, her life of dedicated ministry has transitioned from that of a classroom teacher to a director of religious education in parish settings, to an instructor of English as a Second language in an electronic classroom on community college campuses, to a formator. Currently she has extended her spiritual director ministry and compassionate ear to those with whom she resides in assisted living. Everywhere she creates a sense of hospitality and inclusivity with her ready smile and cheerful greeting. Our Peacemaker, Sister Doloria Kosiek, is a true embodiment of Franciscan joy, always attentive to include those persons who are often overlooked or excluded.

Lockwood OSF, Sister Deborah Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity

Sister Deborah Lockwood is known for her welcoming and inclusive hospitality to all. She is presently the General Minister of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, an international Congregation with ten provinces in six countries and four missions in the Southern hemisphere. Recently she has extended her sense of hospitality with simplicity to the entire Third Order Franciscan family as president of the IFC-TOR (International Franciscan Conference of the Sisters and Brothers of the Third Order Regular), where her love of Franciscan theology and spirituality is being put to good use. In her twenty plus years of pastoral work in Las Vegas, NV she ministered to migrant agricultural workers and the African American community. The faith formation materials that she created for these communities are grounded in their own cultures. This creativity reflects her ability to continually open her heart in new ways to include those persons often overlooked or excluded. Since she studied biology at the dawn of ecological consciousness, a contemplative awareness that embraces all creation became for her a way of life. We honor her for her life as witness to Franciscan wisdom and spirituality.

Lohan mfc, Sister Isabelle Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

Thomas of Celano describes St. Francis as “friendly in behavior, serene in nature, affable in speech, generous in encouragement, faithful in commitment, tireless in prayer, fervent in everything!” (1Celano 83) These same words also describe our Sister Isabelle Lohan. In her quiet and assuming way, Sr. Isabelle has spent more than 50 years “cultivating kingdom power”. As a missionary in Egypt she fostered a sense of community among her students who were both Christian and Muslim. As a member of the formation team in Papua New Guinea she prepared women for mission and ministry. Presently serving a diverse population in Augusta, Georgia, Sister is reminded of Jesus’ mandate to the disciples:” Go and teach all nations”. Today she hears Jesus say:” All nations have come to St. Joseph parish!” Sr. Isabelle truly embodies this year’s theme: Cultivating Kingdom Power.

Luecke OSF, Sister Leomarie Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Since 1971, Sr. Leomarie Luecke has been a catalyst for positive change in the lives of thousands. From her gift of music, to her teaching English, to her compassion as people request her help, Sister Leomarie is constantly responding. It is often said that if you want to change the world, teach. Sister Leomarie teaches English as a second language and has done that with far-reaching effects. Some of her students started out as undocumented workers who then became legal residents and ultimately, became proud United States citizens. They’ve become managers, entrepreneurs, prosperous business men and women. Sister Leomarie has empowered them to contribute to a better community for everyone. In 1957 when she first entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate and later as she worked for the Joliet Diocese Hispanic Apostolate, she has reached out to people in need. She has taught in grade schools, high school, Junior College, migrant farm camps and at the Spanish Center – always teaching, always reaching out, and always helping, especially to those on the margins. Helping is what Sr. Leomarie is accustomed to doing. Countless times she has served this special population as well as her congregation with her musical gifts. She shares this musical gift for congregation and area parish celebrations, as well as for wakes, funerals, liturgies, Quinceaneras, and weddings and any other musical need that comes along. After over 40 years of teaching and responding to the needs of others, though getting around is more difficult, for Sister Leomarie, the fire still remains.

Paluszak OSF, Sister Geraldine Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania

There are many reasons why Sr. Geraldine deserves the award for “Cultivating Kindom Power.” She is someone who creates a sense of hospitality and inclusivity. Sister has a wonderful gift for assisting people who have tension between them to talk to each other. She has been effective in orienting new employees during her time working as Director of Mission Integration. She has a way of putting people at ease and connecting with them personally as she presents on the history of the Sisters, the mission of the place and our core values. Going back even earlier in her ministry, Sr. Geraldine was selected to be principal when two schools were going to be merged. Tensions were high between parishioners and parents who had concerns and demands. Sr. Geraldine helped move the merger along in a deliberate fashion. She is someone who works toward widening our circles of compassion to include those persons who are often overlooked or excluded. Most of all, Sister Geraldine is someone who lives out of a deliberate contemplative awareness that embraces all creation. Sr. Geraldine’s deep prayer life always gives direction to her ministry.

Phelan OSF, Sister Mary Ann Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton IA

Sister Mary Ann Phelan was chosen by the Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa, to be honored at the 2014 Franciscan Federation annual conference. The leading criteria for “Cultivating Kindom Power” by creating a sense of hospitality and inclusivity made Mary Ann the obvious choice. She is known for her tireless effort to cultivate an atmosphere of welcome and acceptance at the Canticle, the home of the Clinton Franciscans. As head of the social committee there, Mary Ann recognizes every social event as an opportunity to share Franciscan hospitality. Sister Mary Ann’s ability to relate confidently and encouragingly with others has allowed her to make a difference in many circles throughout her life. Her sense of hospitality and inclusivity has been present in all of her ministries. Even as a young Sister teaching first and second grade, she was lauded by parents as one who radiated enthusiasm and brought a spirit of joy and community awareness to their school and parish. During her years of service in Clinton, both in college ministry and in her role as development director for the Sisters of St. Francis, Sister Mary Ann has been conscious of her responsibility to the greater community and has continued to build relationships of respect and trust. She has served on a variety of boards and committees, and she continues to be involved in many civic organizations including the Chamber of Commerce and Clinton Rotary, where she became the first woman member in 1987. Her responsibility to care for creation nurtured both in her family growing up and in her Franciscan family, led her to become a charter member of Clinton’s trees Forever in 1991. With the members of this organization, she participates in planting trees, adding to the beautification of the environment and to the conservation of land and energy. She is recognized, not only for her involvement with Trees Forever, but also for her longstanding care of the earth through her work with the flowers and plants around the Canticle. We are proud to recognize Sr. Mary Ann Phelan for her contributions to *Cultivating Kindom Power!*

Presenza OSF, Sister Marie Angela Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

Sister Marie Angela Presenza is known for her gracious and hospitable spirit so evident to the many varieties of persons who come to programs at the Franciscan Spiritual Center. Whether other staff members, service departments to whom the center relates, or the many people of various faith traditions, ages, economic status, cultures, races, and abilities whom the center hosts, to each (whether participant or presenter), she is a compassionate presence who creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere with her lovely natural, artistic, and inspirational touches. Our TOR values are well lived out in the life and ministry of our sister, Marie Angela Presenza.

Renninger OSF, Sister Theresa Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

Young and old and all creation benefit from the life of Sister Theresa Renninger. Each morning she volunteers at S. Mary's School, Avilla, Indiana and extends her warmth to the staff and students. With a heart for those who struggle, she tutors students who find learning difficult, hoping to broaden their potential to learn more. Too often the elderly are overlooked or marginalized but not at Presence Sacred Heart Nursing Home where Sister Theresa is found every afternoon. There she welcomes all with a warm smile and a hearty "How are you doin'?" Daily she sees it as her "sacred duty" to make the rounds and check up on everyone. Although pushing past 80 years herself, she wheels residents to and from events with ease. Nothing is too difficult for her. The Activity Director counts on her as she serves coffee, calls numbers for bingo and assures that each resident is feeling happy, content, and loved. Her contemplative stance is reflected in her great love for God's creation. Recycling is a passion of hers and she demonstrates her reverence for the earth by making sure nothing goes into a landfill that could be recycled. At our congregation's vacation cottage she welcomes the yearly challenge to enhance the beauty of God's creation by preparing and maintaining beautiful gardens and lawns.

Rutherford OSF, Sister Liz Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

The Council Sisters thought that Liz most exemplified the criteria set forth for this year's Franciscan nominee. In all aspects of her ministry, we see her sense of inclusivity and hospitality - she has a special heart for the elderly and those of limited physical and mental capacity. Liz takes extra time with and for those she ministers to and with every day. We are all very much aware of her late night walks in nature to breathe in the wonder of contemplative creation.

Scott OSF, Sister Macrina Srs of St. Francis/Penance and Christian Charity, Sacred Heart Province

Sr. Macrina Scott has a passion for Sacred Scripture. Earlier in her ministerial life, Sr. Macrina founded and then midwived the Catholic Biblical School of the Archdiocese of Denver - a labor that was born of love and commitment to the Gospel message. The Gospel, that paradigm of inclusivity and hospitality, is at the core of Macrina's spirit life. She has lived that message out in her ministry and in religious life for 57 years, always looking to and leaning into a God of compassion and hope. Macrina is ever conscious of the connections between body, mind and spirit and has a firm belief that aging is more than a physiological process that humans are doomed to experience: we are most poor when we are locked into a fatalistic understanding of aging, especially our own. Founder of the Wisdom Center - Sr. Macrina has spent years encouraging others to harvest the rich experiences of their lives so that they might be free to serve the world as wise elders.

Skok SSJ-TOSF, Sister Helen Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis

Sister Helen Skok, SSJ-TOSF served in Greenwood, Mississippi from 1963 to 1994 dedicated to teaching and serving St. Francis Mission. She stood in solidarity with those who lived on the margins of society due to racial discrimination and poverty. This was during the time of great social and racial tensions resulting in threats to lives and wellbeing. Sister Helen stood in witness to the gospel value that every person is loved and chosen by God. During this year of celebration for Martin Luther King, it is appropriate to bring forth those who were instrumental in bringing about justice. Thank you, Sister Helen for your witness to Franciscan values of love and respect for all.

Susany OSF, Sister Suzanne Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities

The passion Sister Suzanne has for her ministry brings to life the words of Pope Francis who has called for sympathy for refugees, displaced persons and victims of human trafficking. She wanted to work with immigrants, the documented and undocumented. She strengthened her ability to help the immigrants when she earned a law degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa. Sister Suzanne's ministry as an immigration lawyer includes those who are often overlooked or excluded. She says that she saw good moral people with families being picked up and put in jail and wanted to help. For most of her religious life Sister Suzanne has ministered with Hispanics in Puerto Rico, Ohio, Georgia and presently in Pittsburgh. Serving within the confines of the Community Justice Project in Pittsburgh, Sister Suzanne works as a sole practitioner dedicated to working with the immigrant population. She has the advantage of knowing Spanish as well as the legalities of immigration law. It is rewarding to her when she is able to bring justice to immigrants by getting visas and status for people who are deserving, especially those who have been victims of crime and for women brutally subjected to violence and beatings. Working within the law, Sister Suzanne has been able to prevent deportation and separation of families. She upholds the dignity of persons and gives them a sense of hope. She is grateful to have the ability to help immigrants manage the legal system with dignity. She says, "This is what Jesus would do and what I'm called to do. I consider that to be able to do exactly what I wanted to do is the hand of God, and not a coincidence."

Sweeney SFP, Sister Pauline Franciscan Sisters of the Poor

Sister Pauline Sweeney, SFP, has been a Franciscan Sister of the Poor for 60 years. Throughout her lifetime, she has ministered in a variety of roles, including health services, ongoing formation, music/song ministry, and internal/external committees and board memberships. Pauline's greatest contribution in ministry and as an engaged member of the Congregation has been the gift of "healing presence" wherever and whatever she has been about. Her spirit of inclusivity and advocacy has endeared her to many who recognize and appreciate her Christ spirit.

Trick OSF, Sister Teresa Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg

The Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, Indiana, are pleased to present S. Teresa Trick as our 2014 Franciscan Federation honoree. Teresa epitomizes the qualities of hospitality, inclusivity, compassion and contemplative awareness. She is a leader in the Motherhouse community's commitment to the poor by scheduling workers in the local food pantry, as well as purchasing needed items with donated funds. A special project of Teresa's is collecting clothes and household items to be shared with a parish in Appalachia where our Sisters minister. Whether by conducting convent tours or by greeting each co-worker by name, Teresa's compassion and warmth are extended to all. Through her contemplative nature, she finds God in all creation and makes special efforts to preserve and reverence all of God's precious gifts.

Walch OSF, Sister Anne Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester MN

For the past five years Sister Anne Walch has been extensively involved in raising awareness of the tragic issue of human trafficking. Working with other Franciscan Sisters, Sister Anne has given more than fifty presentations to civic, church and educational groups throughout Southern Minnesota. Over 2,500 persons attended these information sessions in 2013. Networking with "Mission 21", a local outreach program for trafficked youth under the age of 15, Sister Anne promotes collaboration with various civic, educational, medical, law enforcement and child protection groups. She uses her talents to work with local leaders to plan major events in the Rochester area. These presentations and events provided information on various forms of modern day slavery such as: child labor, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and sweatshops. The

program “Breaking the Chains,” sponsored by the Rochester Franciscans, included sessions at the public library featuring dynamic films on human trafficking, supporting life stories of trafficked persons, and engaging panels in dialogue about ways to stop the trafficking of women and children. A series called “Protecting our Children” was given for parents and caregivers. Three high schools in Rochester participated in writing, acting and presenting their original One Act Plays to raise awareness to our youth. The plays exposed over 2000 students to the ways traffickers use force, fraud and coercion to entrap students in the ugly business of human trafficking. Sister Anne continues to bring her talents and passion to this critical topic that impacts both local and global communities.

Wilson OSF D.MIN., Sister Georgene L. Wheaton Franciscans

Sr. Georgene Wilson has been a Franciscan woman religious for 57 years. Teaching and spiritual companionship have flowed throughout her life as ministry. The poor and marginalized have held special places in her heart. Georgene’s participation in the Parliament of the World Religious Conference is one of the ways her sense of inclusivity has been manifested. Her home and heart are always open to guests for spiritual enrichment and hospitality. Wisdom Webbing Anchorhold Ministries is the means through which Georgene is a Franciscan presence through contemplative living, her poetry and painting, and her love of beauty.

Zawacka CSSF, Sister Lynn Marie Felician Sisters

Sister Lynn Marie Zawacka, CSSF creates a sense of inclusivity and hospitality, and did so especially during the years she was local minister at the Our Lady of Lourdes Care Center. Sister treats residents and anyone who comes into her presence with gentleness, dignity and true compassion. In addition to her regular ministry, Sister is involved in working for justice for immigrants and immigration reform. An awareness that embraces all of creation is demonstrated in her efforts supporting Fair Trade products and using eco-palms on Palm Sunday. Sister Lynn truly is a woman who cultivates kingdom power.

Zetah OSF, Sister Donna Marie Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls

Sister Donna Marie Zetah, born 12/8/29, received her degree as a Registered Nurse so as to serve those in need. In 1968, after getting a degree in missiology, Donna Marie began serving migrant workers in Moorhead, MN and then, in 1976, she went to Peru to work in a dispensary as a nurse. When she returned from Peru in 1979, she began a life-long ministry of health care and health education to Spanish-speaking migrant workers in nearly 30 different locations in the US and in Honduras and Guatemala. Currently, at age 85, she serves the growing Hispanic population in the Little Falls area, offering advocacy, home visiting, nursing home and hospital visiting, translation assistance and responding to the needs of people.