

Religious celebrate milestone years of service

By **DIANE SCHLINDWEIN**
Managing Editor

Catholic Times is pleased to recognize the following religious sisters and priests who have lived in or served in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

and are celebrating significant Jubilees in 2023. The following biographies were compiled from information submitted for publication by religious orders.

These women and men deserve

our prayers, thanks, and respect for selflessly and courageously answering God's call to serve others. Read on to see if you recognize someone who made a real difference in your life or in the life of someone you know. ✠

ADORERS of the BLOOD of CHRIST



Sister Francine Schuster, ASC
60 Years

Profession of vows: July 1, 1963, Provincial House, Ruma

Present assignment: Living mission in later life

Home parish: Our Lady of Good Counsel, Moorland, Iowa

Past diocesan assignments: St. Vincent (now Taylorville) Memorial Hospital, Taylorville, nurse, 1968-1975; Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, clinical nurse instructor, 1992-1993



Sister Francine

Sister Joan Marie Weller, ASC
60 Years

Profession of vows: July 1, 1963, Provincial House, Ruma

Present assignment: Music minister, St. Augustine Parish, Hecker, and Ss. Peter and Paul School, Waterloo

Home parish: St. Joseph, Olney

Past diocesan assignments: St. Vincent (now Taylorville) Memorial Hospital, Taylorville, pastoral care, 2008-2018; St. Anthony Memorial Hospital, Effingham, weekend as-needed pastoral care, 2010-2018; Davis Memorial Christian Church, Taylorville, substitute organist, 2009



Sister Joan Marie

SISTERS of DIVINE PROVIDENCE



Sister Barbara Horenkamp, CDP
(Formerly Sister Mary Louis)
60 Years

Profession of vows: 1963, Ascension Parish, Waterloo, Mo.

Present assignment: Prayer ministry

Home parish: Ascension Parish, Waterloo, Mo.



Sister Barbara

Past diocesan assignments: St. Mary and St. Mark School, Madison and Venice, teacher, 1974-1977, principal, 1977-1986

Sister Sharon Nolte, CDP
(Formerly Sister Perpetua)
60 Years

Profession of vows: 1963

Present assignment: Spiritual mentoring/retreats, Our Sorrowful Mother's Ministry, Vandalia

Hometown: Golden Eagle

Past diocesan assignments: St. Elizabeth Medical Center (now Gateway Regional Medical Center), Granite City, public relations, 1986-1987



Sister Sharon

Sister Stephanie Turck, CDP
(Formerly Sister Martha)
60 Years

Profession of vows: 1963, St. Elizabeth



Sister Stephanie

Parish, Granite City
Present assignment: Generalate in Rhode Island

Home Parish: St. Elizabeth Parish, Granite City

Past diocesan

assignments: St. Mary School, Brussels, teacher, 1972-1973; St. Elizabeth Medical Center (now Gateway Regional Medical Center), Granite City, licensed speech pathologist, 1981-1997, Ethics Committee chair and medical staff director, 2000-2001 and 2002-2004; United Congregations of Metro East, Madison, office manager, 2002; St. Elizabeth Parish, Granite City, pastoral associate and development director, 2004-2005

SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS of the MARTYR ST. GEORGE



Sister M. Angela Beezley, FSGM
50 Years

Profession of vows: Aug. 15, 1974,

St. Francis Convent, Alton

Present assignment: Adoration sister

Hometown: St. Louis



Sister M. Angela

Past diocesan assignments: Provincial House, domestic service; Marian Heights Apartments, Alton, office work, sister-in-charge

Continued on page 16

**Mother M. Mediatrix
Bexten, FSGM**

25 Years

Entrance: Sept. 8, 1998, St. Francis Convent, Alton



Sister M. Mediatrix

Alton, music teacher

Present assignment: Provincial Superior

Hometown: Rich Fountain, Mo.

Past diocesan assignments: St. Mary Elementary School,

**Sister M. Consolata
Crews, FSGM**

25 Years

Entrance: Sept. 8, 1998, St. Francis Convent, Alton

Present assignment: Assistant to the chancellor, Diocese of Springfield in Illinois



Sister M. Consolata

Springfield in Illinois, director of the Office of Ministry and Evangelization, director of the Department of Evangelization and Faith Formation Services

Hometown: Santa Barbara, Calif.

Past diocesan assignments: Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, Alton, vocation director; Diocese of



Father Ed Ruane, OP

60 Years

Profession of vows: Aug. 31, 1963, St. Peter Martyr Priory, Winona, Minn.



Father Ruane

Present assignment: Dominican Nuns, Monastery of Mary the Queen, Girard, chaplain

Hometown: Anaconda, Mont.

Father Peter Witchousky, OP

60 Years

Profession of vows: Aug. 31, 1963,



Father Witchousky

St. Peter Martyr Priory, Winona, Minn.
Present assignment: Limited service, retired
Hometown: Aurora
Past diocesan assignments: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, long-time chaplain; Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, Springfield, campus minister



Sister M. Edwina Finnegan, OP

75 Years

Profession of vows: Jan. 3, 1948, Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield

Present assignment: Ministry of prayer, Sacred Heart Convent



Sister M. Edwina

Hometown: Odell
Past diocesan assignments: Sacred Heart School, Granite City, primary teacher, 1953-1956; Our Saviour School, Jacksonville, primary teacher, 1956-1961, 1978-1981; St. Cabrini School, Springfield, primary teacher, 1966-1969; Christ the King School, Springfield, middle grades teacher, 1971-1976; Our Lady Queen of Peace School, Bethalto, third-grade teacher, 1985-1989; Little Flower School, fourth-grade teacher and tutor/reading program, 1989-1992, 2000-2003

Sister M. Alberta Lawless, OP

75 Years

Profession of vows: Jan. 3, 1948, Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield

Present assignment: Volunteer, Mission Advancement Office, Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, Springfield



Sister M. Alberta

Home Parish: St. Bartholomew Parish, Murrayville

Past diocesan assignments: St.

Thomas School, Newton, middle school teacher, 1948; Sacred Heart School, Granite City, kindergarten teacher, 1951-1953; St. Cabrini School, Springfield, kindergarten/music teacher, 1953-1961; Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield, community support, 1983-1984; Sacred Heart Academy/SHG, Springfield, registrar/IT Department, 1987-2008

Sister Karen Freund, OP

(Formerly Sister M. Siena)

60 Years

Profession of vows: June 19, 1963, Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield

Present assignment: Spiritual director, Springfield



Sister Karen

Hometown: Crystal Lake

Past diocesan assignments: Sacred Heart School, Granite City, junior high teacher, 1967-1970; Christ the

King School, Springfield, eighth-grade teacher, 1970-1973; Sacred Heart Academy and Siena Hall, Springfield, English and theology teacher, 1974-1982; Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield, director of formation, 1983-1992; Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield, General Council, 2005-2009

Sister Judine Hilbing, OP

60 Years

Profession of vows: June 19, 1963, Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield

Present assignment: Director of scholarship and student assistance program, Marian Catholic High School, Chicago Heights



Sister Judine

Home Parish: St.

Peter Parish, Quincy

Past diocesan assignments: St. Agnes School, Springfield, fourth-grade teacher, 1963-1967; Holy Family School, Decatur, second- and third-grade teacher, 1967-1968; Christ the King School, Springfield, first- through fourth-grade teacher, 1968-1973; St. John Neumann School, Maryville, principal, 1984-1990

Sister Kathleen Kenny, OP

(Formerly Sister M. James)

60 Years

Profession of vows: June 19, 1963, Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield



Sister Kathleen

Present assignment: Prayer ministry, Sacred Heart Convent

Hometown: Born in Oak Park, raised in Springfield

Past diocesan assignments: Our Lady of Lourdes School, Decatur, third-grade teacher, 1963-1965; Little Flower School, Springfield, fifth-grade teacher, 1965-1967; St. Kevin School, East Alton, middle school teacher, 1967-1971; Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield, General Council, 1993-2001; Sacred Heart Convent, director of nursing, 2001-2004; Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield, wellness co-coordinator, 2008-2020

Sister Mary Lou Owens, OP

(Formerly Sister M. Owen)

60 Years

Profession of vows: June 19, 1963, Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield



Sister Mary Lou

Present assignment: Spiritual Life and RCIA coordinator, Logan County Catholic Community

Hometown: Chicago

Past diocesan assignments: Little Flower Grade School, Springfield, first-grade teacher, 1965-1968; Holy Family School, Decatur, first-grade teacher, 1968-1974; Holy Ghost School, Jerseyville, fifth-grade teacher, 1980-1982; Holy Family School, Decatur, principal, 1989-1992; Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield, formation director, 1998-2004; Ss. Mary and Joseph Parish, Carlinville and St. Raymond Parish, Raymond, director of religious education, 2005-2007

Sister Judith Pfile, OP

(Formerly Sister Donna Marie)

60 Years

Profession of vows: June 19, 1963, Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield

Present assignment: Pastoral associate, St. Joseph the Worker Parish,



Sister Judith

Chatham
Home Parish: St. Thomas Parish, Decatur
Past diocesan assignments: Sacred Heart School, Granite City, elementary teacher, 1963-1968; Cathedral School, Springfield, elementary and middle school teacher, 1970-1973; Our Lady Queen of Peace, Bethalto, middle school teacher and principal, 1975-1981; St. Agnes School, Springfield, librarian, 1992-1997; Our Lady Queen of Peace, Bethalto, religion teacher and pastoral ministry, 1998-2000; St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Chatham, pastoral minister, 2006-2008

Sister M. Theodora Stremlau, OP

60 Years

Profession of vows: June 19, 1963, Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield



Sister M. Theodora

Present assignment: Community service, Sacred Heart Convent

Hometown: Mendota

Past diocesan assignments: Holy Family School, Decatur, elementary teacher, 1963-1966; St. Francis School, Jerseyville, middle school teacher, 1966-1972; Sacred Heart School, Granite City, middle school teacher, 1972-1973; Sacred Heart Academy, Springfield, theology teacher, 1986-1987; Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, theology teacher, 1996-1997; Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield, Director of Formation, 2004-2014

Sister Sharon Zayac, OP

(Formerly Sister Sharon Therese)

50 Years



Sister Sharon

Profession of vows: Aug. 8, 1973, Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield

Present assignment: Earth literacy educator, Jubilee Farm, New Berlin

Hometown: Born in Great Falls, Mont., raised in peripatetic military family

Past diocesan assignments: Little

Flower School, Springfield, sixth-grade teacher, 1974-1976; St. Patrick School, Springfield, junior high teacher, 1977-1982; Sacred Heart Academy, Springfield, history, geography, and theology teacher, 1982-1984; Benincasa Renewal Center, Riverton, Earth literacy educator, center director, 1997-1999; Jubilee Farm, New Berlin, director Benincasa ministries, 1999-2001; Jubilee Farm, New Berlin, Jubilee Farm director, 2001-2019

Sister Mila Diaz Solano, OP

25 Years

Profession of vows: March 21, 1998, Lima Peru



Sister Mila

Present assignment: General Council, Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Springfield

Hometown: La Oroya, Peru

HOSPITAL SISTERS
of ST. FRANCIS



Sister Chaminade Kelley, OSF

75 Years

Profession of vows: June 13, 1948, St. Francis Convent, Springfield



Sister Chaminade

Present Assignment: Ministry of prayer, St. Francis Convent

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Past diocesan assignments: St. Francis Hospital, Litchfield, nurse, 1951-1952; St. John's Hospital, Springfield, nurse, 1952-1953, 1954-1959; St. Francis Convent, assistant novice mistress, 1959-1965; St. Francis Convent, novice mistress, 1965-1968 and 1982-1985; St. John's Hospital School of Nursing, Springfield, clinical instructor, 1968-1976; St. Francis Convent, Springfield, provincial assistant, 1976-1982; St. Francis Convent, Springfield, provincial councilor, 1985-1991; HSHS St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur, coordinator of hospice volunteers, 1991-2017; St. James and Patrick Parish, Decatur, parish nurse, 1991-2017; St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur, counselor, 1991-2017

Continued on page 18

Sister Leonardine Sconzert, OSF
75 Years

Profession of vows: Oct. 4, 1948, St. Francis Convent, Springfield



Sister Leonardine

Present assignment: Ministry of prayer, St. Francis Convent

Hometown: Luxemborg, Wis.

Past diocesan assignments: St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, Effingham, nurse supervisor, 1955-1960; St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, Effingham, nurse, 1972-1973; St. Francis Apostolic Center, Springfield, staff, 1975-1976; St. Francis Convent, Springfield, nurse/podiatry, 1983-2010

St. Francis Convent, Springfield, nurse supervisor, 1955-1960; St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, Effingham, nurse, 1972-1973; St. Francis Apostolic Center, Springfield, staff, 1975-1976; St. Francis Convent, Springfield, nurse/podiatry, 1983-2010

Sister Marybeth Culnan, OSF
60 Years

Profession of vows: Sept. 8, 1963

Present assignment: Volunteer, St. Francis Convent

Hometown: Lincoln

Past diocesan assignments: St. Francis Convent, Springfield, provincial assistant, 1976-1979; St. John's Hospital, Springfield, clinical nurse specialist, neuro, 1979-1982; Hospital Sisters Health System, Springfield, first vice president, board-13 hospitals, 1982-1983; Hospital Sisters Health System, Springfield, regional vice president-Wisconsin hospitals, board chair/president-Wisconsin hospitals, 1983-2006; Hospital Sisters Health System, Springfield, senior vice president, sponsorship, governance, 2006-2017; HSHS St. John's Hospital, volunteer, 2018-2020; Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS)-Illinois, Springfield, served on three boards, 2018-2022



Sister Marybeth

St. Francis Convent, Springfield, provincial assistant, 1976-1979; St. John's Hospital, Springfield, clinical nurse specialist, neuro, 1979-1982; Hospital Sisters Health System, Springfield, first vice president, board-13 hospitals, 1982-1983; Hospital Sisters Health System, Springfield, regional vice president-Wisconsin hospitals, board chair/president-Wisconsin hospitals, 1983-2006; Hospital Sisters Health System, Springfield, senior vice president, sponsorship, governance, 2006-2017; HSHS St. John's Hospital, volunteer, 2018-2020; Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS)-Illinois, Springfield, served on three boards, 2018-2022

Sister Anna Phiri, OSF
50 Years

Profession of vows: Dec. 8, 1973, Teresian Sisters, Zambia/Malawi (Transfer from Teresian Sisters to Hospital Sisters of St. Francis on Dec. 13, 2003)

Present assignment: Currently spiritual care volunteer at HSHS St. Mary's



Sister Anna

Hospital, Decatur with Leadership Team assistant, St. Francis convent, assignment upcoming effective July 2023
Hometown: Chipata, Zambia
Past diocesan assignments: St. Francis Convent, Springfield, membership invitation minister, 2002-2007; HSHS St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur, Spiritual Care volunteer, 2008-2023



Sister Lois Castillion, OSU
60 Years

Profession of vows: Jan. 20, 1963, Ursuline Novitiate, Crystal City, Mo.

Present assignment: Director of Mission and Heritage, Ursuline Academy of Dallas, Texas

Hometown: St. Louis, Mo.

Past diocesan assignments: St. Aloysius School, Springfield, teacher, 1967-1970; St. Joseph School, Springfield, teacher, 1970-1971



Sister Lois

Sister Jill Jaeb, OSU
60 Years

Profession of vows: Jan. 20, 1963, Ursuline Novitiate, Crystal City, Mo.

Present assignment: Ministry of prayer

Hometown: Owatonna, Minn.

Past diocesan assignments: Ss. Peter and Paul School, Alton, teacher, 1967-1968



Sister Jill

Sister Karen Schwane, OSU
60 Years

Profession of vows: Jan. 20, 1963, Ursuline Novitiate, Crystal City, Mo.

Present assignment: Volunteer with immigrants at the border in



Sister Karen

teacher, 1968-1969



Sister Roberta Christianson, PHJC
60 Years

Profession of Vows: Aug. 6, 1963, Convent Ancilla Domini, Plymouth, Ind.



Sister Roberta

Present assignment: Sacristan, Visitation Chapel, Convent Ancilla Domini

Hometown: Mishawaka, Ind.

Past diocesan assignments: St. Boniface School, Edwardsville, teacher, 1965

Sister Coletta Wrasman, PHJC
60 Years

Profession of vows: Aug. 6, 1963, Convent Ancilla Domini, Plymouth, Ind.

Present assignment: Director of Avita Library, organist, spiritual direction



Sister Coletta

Hometown: Delphos, Ohio

Past diocesan assignments: St. Mark Parish, Venice, religious education, organist, 1979-1980

