

Ministry Report

News/Views
From the Franciscan Sisters
of Christian Charity
Sponsored Ministries, Inc.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity Sponsored Ministries is to carry out the commitment of the Sponsor to the healing and educational mission of the Catholic Church through the provision of quality health care and educational services.

In a spirit of partnership with dedicated religious and lay leaders, the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity Sponsored Ministries will strengthen the Sponsor's commitment by leading change, ensuring stewardship of resources and integrating mission and values.

General Chapter of the Franciscan Sisters

By Sister Kay Klackner, OSF, Vice President of Mission

Good 'ole 2025 summer was special to the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. They held a General Chapter from June 16-24. Chapter is a term derived from earliest monks who gathered periodically to discuss their experiences, to renew their commitment to their way of life, and to daily read a chapter of their rule. Eventually the daily reading of a chapter of the rule resulted in the meeting named Chapter.

When there were eight brothers, Francis called them together, exhorted them on their way of life, and sent them out by twos to announce peace and penitence. Periodically, he would call them together to hear about their experiences and encourage them. This became a pattern in the life of the brothers.

As the order grew, Francis established Chapters. At the beginning, the saint held two annual Chapters, Pentecost and the Feast of St. Michael. Soon the meeting was held only once

at Pentecost. The most renowned Chapter is the Chapter of Mats. Francis said that five thousand brothers gathered, and they slept on reed mats. Francis presented his newly drafted written rule. Two years later in 1223, Francis introduced the rule approved by Pope Honorius III. A General Chapter every six years is normal practice for religious congregations today.



June 16-24, 2025, marked the time of the General Chapter of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, forty delegates

were elected by the community-at-large to participate in the Chapter. Its purpose is to inspire the membership, conduct business for future direction, and elect the leadership. For six months the delegates worked on creating proposals from the ideas and concerns of the Sisters. During the week of business, each proposal was presented, discussed, and voted for passage. Electronic devices made the voting go smoothly.

(Chapter - continued on page 2)



Message from the President

Celebrating the Joy of Summer Small Talk

As we settle into our summer routines, there's a noticeable shift in the tone of our conversations—especially those few minutes before meetings begin. The small talk feels lighter, more joyful, and filled with stories that remind us of what makes this season so special.



Ryan Neville

From Brewers games and Disney trips to county fairs, concerts, Door County escapes, camping weekends, and softball tournaments, summer adventures are a favorite topic around the office. These moments of connection—quick chats about weekend plans or shared memories—bring warmth and positivity to our workdays.

Unlike the colder months, where conversations can lean toward the routine or weather complaints, summer small talk is a celebration of life outside of work. It's a chance to learn more about each other, share a laugh, and build camaraderie in a natural, uplifting way.

So next time you're in a meeting, take a moment to enjoy the stories being shared. They're more than just casual conversation—they're part of what makes our workplace feel like a community.

In closing, our new General Administration team has hit the ground running. Their orientation is part of a system-wide initiative that Sister Kay Klackner will lead over the next year. This comprehensive orientation will include site visits to each organization, monthly educational sessions, team-building activities, and regular "check-ins" facilitated by Sister Kay to ensure alignment and support across the system. I look forward to working closely with them and proudly showcasing each of our organizations. Equally, we look forward to learning from each General Administration member as they bring fresh perspectives and insights to our shared mission.

(Chapter - continued from page 1)

After a day of prayer, the elections of new leadership began on June 23. Bishop David Ricken presided over the election of the Community Director. On the fourth paper ballot, Sister Marlita Henseler was elected. In the afternoon, Sister Natalie Binversie chaired the election of the four councilors who assist the Community Director. In order of election were Sister Pam Biehl, Sister Anne Turba, Sister Jacqueline Spaniola, and Sister Carol Ann Gambsky. These five women lead the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity and represent sponsorship for our sponsored ministries for the next six years.

Pictured on first page is the new General Administration. Front row from left to right is Sister Pam Biehl and Sister Marlita Henseler, Community Director; back row is Sister Jacqueline Spaniola, Sister Carol Ann Gambsky, and Sister Anne Turba.

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Good Ole Summertime at Clement Manor

Summer at Clement Manor is a vibrant season filled with joy, connection, and reflection. The warm weather invites us to enjoy outdoor activities, celebrate community, and embrace the spirit of renewal that summer brings.

One of the highlights this season was our intergenerational flower planting day, where residents collaborated with local grade school students. This activity not only beautified our grounds but also fostered meaningful intergenerational bonds, inspiring both generations to cultivate growth and hope. It's a reminder of the lasting impact we can have on each other through simple acts of kindness and shared experiences.

Music Under the Stars Outdoor Summer Concert Series has become a cherished tradition, with residents, staff, and the community gathering outdoors



to enjoy live performances on the Clement Manor grounds. The melodies and lively atmosphere induce nostalgia and joy, inspiring us to reflect on the importance of community and the power of music to uplift the spirit.

Throughout the summer, we will host cookouts and happy hours, creating opportunities for residents and staff to relax, socialize, and

celebrate together. These gatherings enhance our sense of camaraderie and remind us that joy is often found in shared moments of laughter and good food under the warmth of the sun.

Our staff appreciation lunches have been a heartfelt way to recognize the dedication of our team. It's a time to express gratitude, foster team spirit, and reflect on the collective effort that makes Clement Manor a loving home for our residents, just recently celebrating National Caregiver Week.

We were also excited to ride along in the July 4 parade, where residents, staff, and family members come together to celebrate Independence Day. This event embodies patriotism and community pride, inspiring us to reflect on freedoms and the values we cherish.

The annual Clement Manor Golf Classic held on July 21 promised fun, fellowship, and fundraising support for our resident programs. Many staff and community members were involved, exemplifying teamwork and generosity.

This summer has also sparked spiritual growth among our independent living residents, who recently started a new Bible study focusing on the Book of Genesis. The season of renewal and new beginnings mirrors the biblical stories of creation and hope, inspiring reflection on our own journeys and the importance of faith.



Outdoor activities bring the community and residents of Clement Manor together.

Summer at Clement Manor is more than just a season; it's a reminder of the beauty in connection, community, and faith. It invites us all to embrace the warmth of good ole summertime—filled with activity, inspiration, and heartfelt reflection.

"We love to bring the residents outside during the summer to give them fresh air and vitamin D. We smell the flowers, drink lemonade and eat fresh vegetables from the garden while listening to music. They talk about their favorite summertime memories, which always sparks joy," said an activities coordinator.



Good Ole Summertime (Featuring a NEW Summer Tradition!)

Summer is a season brimming with excitement, where the days stretch endlessly, and adventure beckons at every turn. Kids blissfully jump into the local swimming pool, while adults carve out precious moments amidst their busy schedules to relish backyard barbecues or spontaneous road trips. Each sunset brings a wave of nostalgia, like the warm memory of that favorite uncle showing up with a stash of fireworks for Independence Day—wonder in our eyes as we gazed at the vibrant packaging. We could hardly wait for the sun to dip below the horizon, when darkness sets in, and with it, the thrill of anticipation, reminding us that some of life's simplest joys are the most unforgettable.

Then there is the joy of ball games! Families traveling from town to town, their spirits filled with enthusiasm as they cheer for their young athletes. It's a season

of connection, celebration, and unwavering support, where the love for the game unites us all—from proud parents to jubilant grandparents, all rooting passionately for their little champions.

At Franciscan Healthcare, summers evoke a delightful wave of nostalgia as parades and county fairs sweep through our rural communities. Each event becomes a cherished gathering where families unite to celebrate the hard work and creativity of our local 4-H members, showcasing everything from prized animals to stunning photography. Employees, along with their eager children and grandchildren, step up to volunteer at the fair booths and join the festive parades. It's in these hours that we rekindle the spirit of camaraderie, laughter, and support that defines our community.

The Franciscan Healthcare and St. Joseph's Elder Services Family



Youngsters enjoying their time experiencing the Franciscan Healthcare Fair Booth at the Cuming County Fair in West Point, Neb.

Picnic has turned into a delightful summer highlight, embracing a new tradition that brings everyone together in comfort. Held in an air-conditioned venue, this event reflects a thoughtful adaptation to the sweltering heat of past summers, ensuring that families can enjoy the classic flavors of summer—think burgers and hot dogs—away from pesky flies and the oppressive heat and humidity. While some may miss the charm of an outdoor setting, the increased attendance speaks volumes about the appeal of this indoor gathering. This shift is a testament to how traditions can evolve while still capturing the essence of community and togetherness, making our family picnic an anticipated event for all ages!

Here's to creating meaningful moments that we will treasure for years to come. Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer filled with warmth and happiness. God Bless!



Attendees at the popular Franciscan Healthcare and St. Joseph's Elder Services Family Picnic.



Summertime Events at Froedtert Holy Family Memorial Hospital

In northeast Wisconsin, summer can feel like it takes its time arriving—but once it's here, our staff and volunteers embrace the season with more relaxed and enjoyable activities. Two summer highlights at Froedtert Holy Family Memorial Hospital (FHFM) are our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and the monthly E3 events for staff and volunteers.

One hundred and ten volunteers attended this year's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, held on June 17 at the Inn on Maritime Bay. The theme, *Twist and Shout*, set a fun and festive tone for the evening. Awards were presented to 26 volunteers in recognition of their dedicated service, based on hours volunteered. The top award was for 9,000 hours. The night concluded with a lively round of bingo, bringing plenty of smiles and laughter.

This summer, we're also thrilled to continue hosting our monthly E3

events—short for *Eat, Engage, and Energize*—sponsored by FHFM's Green Team. The FHFM Green Team, with its Franciscan roots, was developed out of the FHFM Mission Integration Assessment and has been active for more than two years, with the goals to advance environmental responsibility and mindfulness in service of improving the health of the communities we serve and being good stewards of our resources.

Originally launched on Earth Day to reduce cafeteria waste, promote sustainability and celebrate the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' Canticle of Creatures, the program has evolved to focus on staff engagement and employee wellness. Held at both our HFM Hospital and Harbor Town campuses, each event includes themed activities designed to educate and inspire. Participants receive game cards that encourage interaction with team members and learning about the month's sustainability focus. Completed

cards are entered into a prize drawing, adding a fun incentive to the experience.

This summer's first E3 event highlighted *Bees: Recognizing the Importance of Pollinators*. John Johanek, retired HFM physical therapist and



Volunteers at the 2025 Appreciation Dinner.

local beekeeper, joined us to share fascinating insights and even brought a live hive to demonstrate how bees work and organize.

Another theme was *Rainforests*, featuring a display board exploring the connection between rainforests and global health, including how everyday products contribute to our enjoyment. Many pharmaceuticals also find their origin in rainforests. Since beef production contributes significantly to deforestation, the food choices we make can directly impact the future of rainforests. A photo booth with playful props added a fun and engaging twist that our staff and volunteers truly enjoyed.

These events reflect our shared commitment to fostering a healthier, more connected, and sustainable workplace, while also having a little fun along the way.



John Johanek shares insights into beekeeping.



Stronger Together

Genesis HealthCare System offers many resources to support the health and well-being of its team members. From wellness education and monthly step goals to social activities and daily reflections, these offerings encourage and celebrate employee wellness.

Physical wellness

Many wellness goals are available, such as a new six-month program called Wellness Initiatives. Team members can choose from 13 programs aimed at improving and maintaining healthy habits. Programs include weight loss, exercise classes, A1C and BMI clinics, food tracking, wellness coaching sessions, and financial and mindfulness courses.

Team members can also schedule appointments with the Wellness Office to discuss health goals or take a break in the mindfulness room, which has massage chairs, yoga mats, and a calming atmosphere.

As summer brings more opportunities to be active, one place to achieve outdoor fitness goals is at the Gorsuch Fitness Trail at Genesis Hospital. The scenic one-mile loop is open to team members and the community. Many team members walk before and after their shifts, and even during lunch.

Spiritual wellness

The Genesis Spiritual Care Department shares a daily reflection, such as a verse, blessing, seasonal poem or inspirational quote, each

morning over the hospital's public address system. The reflection is also emailed to all team members with email access. Seasonal email reflection series focusing on spirituality or meditation are also available.

Social wellness

Genesis celebrated Hospital Week and Nurses Week with summer-themed activities. Events helped raise donations for food pantries, including the 2025 Operation Feed campaign, an annual fundraiser benefiting the local food network. In June, members of the Mission Champions team presented a check for \$4,618, which will purchase over \$46,000 in

groceries for families in need this summer.

Each year, many Genesis team members look forward to Summer Family Fun tickets. These discounted tickets are available for local and state summer attractions. This year, team members purchased 6,900 tickets. Summer Family Fun tickets are one of the many ways Genesis shows appreciation to its team members. Families are encouraged to enjoy quality time outdoors and make new summer memories.



Members of the Genesis Mission Champions team and Sister Kay Klackner, Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity Vice President of Mission, present a check for \$4,618 to Jamie Trout, Vice President of the Muskingum County Hunger Network.



Honoring Heroes and Embracing Joy: A Summer of Tribute, Togetherness, and Tradition”

The warmth and sunshine of summer intersperse with a cool day here and there, but the cold is in the past and will not appear for the next few months.

From garden strolls and ice cream socials to music on the patio and fun-filled activities like enjoying the beautiful firework displays, summer is a time for creating beautiful memories together.

The Memorial Day honoring of our veterans was an important beginning to summer. Each veteran was given special recognition. Individual pictures were taken and a group picture graced our whiteboard for the day. In early June an honor wall became a more permanent part of the Villa. Descriptions of service and pictures surround a special plaque.

Both Mother's Day and Father's Day are part of the summer's activities. Decorations and a festive dinner greeted all the mothers of both the Retirement Community and the Villa. Father's Day was celebrated with a fishing expedition. Scheduled bus trips during the summer allow residents to check on the growth of crops on the homestead and the local area.

The fireworks display is always an important part of the summer's celebration of July 4. The Sunday before was the date set for the Retirement Community. The Jerry Hugo family set up and carried out the fireworks program which

began at 9:30 p.m. Residents and families gathered in the back parking lot and enjoyed root beer floats and decorated cookies as they visited and enjoyed one another.

July 3 was the date of the fireworks at the Villa. Though it was not dark yet at 8:30 p.m., most of the residents and some family members gathered outside ready for the fireworks to begin. As Chris Stigge (maintenance man at the Villa) and his son got everything ready, the audience enjoys s'mores and watermelon or raspberry margaritas. The weather was perfect both days and the fireworks were a delight.

Though some meals were grilled out before summer began, they are a special part of the summer. The warmth and sunlight invite time spent outside a possibility and a reality.

As summer continues the county fairs are on the horizon. Families and the St. Joseph's Elder Services bus provide transportation for residents to the Cuming County Fair. Fair food, fair booths, fair barns, and fair parades fill the day. For some residents, family members from other parts of the country come for fair time.

For the staff, the Cuming County Fair is just one of the fairs where booths are set up and parades walked in.



Celebrations, brat fries, and festive moments at the Villa and Retirement Community.

Logo T-shirts are worn, and candy and trinkets given or thrown to the delight of the grounds that line the parade route. Temperatures are often beyond the pleasant range, but smiles, laughter, and exhaustion fill the fair days in the local communities.



Summer is a Celebration of Life, Memory, and Connection

Summertime is always a special season at St. Paul Elder Services, filled with the kinds of moments that stir up memories, build community, and bring joy to the people we serve. Our campuses come alive with music, food, laughter, and connection—hallmarks of what we like to call “the good ol’ summertime.”

Recently, our Kaukauna campus hosted our beloved annual Brat Fry, a summertime tradition that brings our whole community together. The event is held in honor of Brain Health Awareness Month and raises funds to support our Passages Memory Care programming. Residents, staff, families, and neighbors gathered to enjoy grilled favorites, a bake sale, and the musical talents of the Little Chute Community Band. The smiles, singing, and tapping toes were a beautiful reminder of how music and good food can lift spirits and foster connection.

But the fun doesn’t stop there! On August 19, we’ll host our third annual Car Show and Brat Fry. This event is quickly becoming one of our residents’ favorite days of the year, with nearly 50 vintage vehicles on display for everyone to admire. There’s something deeply meaningful about reminiscing while strolling past classic cars, and this year’s event will once again feature the band Still Cruisin’, who’ll perform hits from the ‘50s, ‘60s, and ‘70s to complete the nostalgic experience. We love watching our residents light up as they share stories inspired by the music and cars of their youth.

In September, we celebrate the changing of the seasons with our annual Pig Roast luncheon, a cherished tradition for our residents, their families, and our staff. This year’s event will be held on September 16 and promises another round of

delicious food, lively entertainment, and shared gratitude. Events like this are more than just a good meal—they’re a reflection of our commitment to building joyful, engaging lives for those we serve.

At our Green Bay campus, we also look forward to our annual Summer Cookout, where residents, their families, and neighborhood friends come together to share a meal and enjoy live music under the summer sun. Though the date is still being finalized, the spirit of the gathering remains the same each year—joy, fellowship, and fun.

At St. Paul Elder Services, summer is more than just a season—it’s a celebration of life, memory, and connection. And we wouldn’t have it any other way.



The summer season brings a car show and brat frys to St. Paul Elder Services.



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100 Years in Harmony: Holy Family Conservatory Kicks Off Summer with Music, Memories, and a Bold Future”

By Sister Joellen Kohlmann, OSF, Mission Leader

Summer 2025 at The Franciscan Center opened with a three-way celebration of 100 years, a recital, along with fun and food! On June 8, 2025, Holy Family Conservatory of Music held a Celebration to mark 100 Years of existence with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony symbolizing limitless possibilities that lie ahead. Cutting the ribbon declared the future of music at Holy Family Conservatory will be bright, bold, and boundless.

Sister Mary Carol Kopecky, former teacher at the Conservatory, stated, “Since its founding in 1925, Holy Family Conservatory has been a home for creativity and performance, and a beacon of artistic excellence. As we embark on the next 100 years, we reaffirm our mission to *Transform*

the Ordinary by fostering the beauty and power of music and the arts while nurturing reverence for all persons. And now, with immense pride and excitement, we mark this historic transition into the next 100 years. As we cut this ribbon, let it be a declaration to continue to inspire, educate, and transform lives for another hundred years and beyond!”

A recital followed the ribbon cutting and featured current Conservatory students, alumni of Holy Family Conservatory, and Dr. Stanislava Varshavski performing a piano piece composed by one of the Conservatory founders, Sister Celerine Diekemper.

A slide show outlining the history of the Conservatory since 1925 was presented by Sister Carol



Holy Family Conservatory's 100-Year Celebration.

Ann Gambsky and Dr. Stanislava Varshavski. The afternoon concluded with a family potluck, cake and ice cream, musical games and a scavenger hunt enjoyed by many.