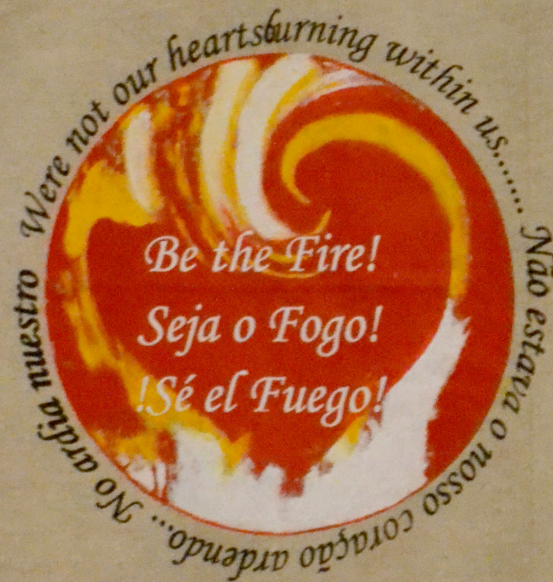


GENERAL CHAPTER

2016



Ministering In

U.S.A., JAMAICA, BRAZIL, BOLIVIA

Allegany

Connections
CHAPTER 2016 EDITION

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Allegany Connections is an internal newsletter of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, N.Y., sent electronically once per quarter, with special editions released on occasion.

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Mission Statement

We, the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, seek to live the Gospel of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. We witness to God's love in the Franciscan tradition by living as sisters with all creation and by joyfully serving others, especially those who are poor or marginalized.

Find us on Social Media!



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Sr. Margaret Pacheco

Sr. Patricia Friel

As of the release of this edition, Sister Marie Celeste Sullivan and Sister Kathleen Francis Honc have died. Their eulogies will be included in the Winter Edition.

CHAPTER MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials have been distributed via email and can be obtained by contacting Susan Hines, Congregational Secretary:

- Table responses
- Chapter Minutes
- CL Review of Lived Experience
- Sister Mother Earth Presentation
- Presentations/Homilies by:
David Couturier OFM Cap
Meg Guider OSF
Melissa Scholl OSF
Frei Vitório Mazzuco OFM
Kathie Uhler OSF

VIDEOS AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnag95ioPUwQPszuA_xo8uw



CHAPTER STATEMENT 2016 DECLARAÇÃO DO CAPÍTULO 2016 DECLARACIÓN DEL CAPÍTULO DE 2016

Ignited by the fire of the Spirit and our Allegany Franciscan-Clarian charism, we lovingly gaze on the Source of All Goodness and consider our mission and witness in the church and in the world. We contemplate creation's clamor for justice and peace; and transformed by the life and ministry of Jesus, we respond. We act as Gospel women and partner with others to generate a culture of peace and integrity, reflecting God's love for our human family and common home.

Abrasadas pelo fogo do Espírito e nosso carisma franciscariano de Allegany, amorosamente olhamos Deus, Fonte de toda bondade e consideramos nossa missão e testemunho na igreja e no mundo. Impulsionadas pela vida e ministério de Jesus, contemplamos a criação e respondemos os clamores de justiça e paz. Agindo como mulheres do Evangelho, fazemos parceria com outros para gerar uma cultura de paz e integridade que reflete o amor de Deus para a nossa família humana e a nossa casa comum.

Abrasadas por el fuego del Espíritu y por nuestro carisma franciscariano de Allegany, miramos con gozo en la Fuente de Todo Bien, y consideramos nuestra misión y nuestro testimonio en la iglesia y en el mundo. Contemplamos el clamor de la creación en favor de la justicia y la paz y transformadas por la vida y ministerio de Jesús damos nuestra respuesta. Actuamos como mujeres del evangelio y trabajamos con otros para generar una cultura de paz e integridad que refleje el amor de Dios para nuestra familia humana y la casa común.



Congregation welcomes new Leadership Team

On Monday, August 1, the Congregation held the election for the Leadership Team to serve from 2016-2020.

The election of the Congregational Minister was held in the morning. Nominees for the position were Sisters Margaret Mary Kimmins and Margaret Magee. Sr. Margaret Mary Kimmins was re-elected as Congregational Minister.

Sr. Margaret Magee was the only nominee for the position of Associate Minister and was re-elected to the position.

Nominees for the three positions of Councilor were Sisters Odette Haddad, Goianira Silva, and Patricia Klemm, each of whom were elected.

The new Congregational Leadership team was installed on August 2, and transition to their offices will occur at the end of September and beginning of October.



NEW LEADERSHIP INSTALLATION MASS TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016



Were not our hearts burning within us...
No ardía nuestro corazón...
Não estava o nosso coração ardendo...



Be the Fire!
Seja o Fogo!
¡Sé el Fuego!



Chapter 2016

CHAPTER DAY-BY-DAY

From this point forward we will recap the General Chapter of 2016 from beginning to end, starting with the opening Mass held on Monday, July 25, 2016.

Monday, July 25, 2016

- Congregational Minister, Margaret Mary Kimmins opened Chapter before a festive Eucharistic Liturgy and Opening Ritual. The Opening Ritual began with a reading of the Emmaus Story, which was mimed by Affiliate, Tenecia Hewitt (pictured at right), and Associates, Ella Pulido, and Margaret Jarrett (below).



- Sisters, associates, and partners in ministry participated in a retreat facilitated by Frei Vitório Mazzuco, OFM (pictured at left), a Brazilian friar, who spoke on a number of topics: Franciscan Identity; Challenges of Franciscan life in Post-Modernity; Manner of being Franciscan in the Church; Franciscan living and Cosmic vision; Franciscan Spirituality and identity; and the 800th Anniversary of Pardon of Assisi. The retreat was conducted in Portuguese, with translation provided in English and Spanish.

- All were treated to a picnic dinner following the retreat and a group photo in front of the Motherhouse.



Wednesday July 27, 2016

- Wednesday morning was spent in deep listening and table conversation as the Congregation unfolded the gift of Franciscan Spirituality. Three questions were discussed:

- What sets your/our heart on fire regarding Franciscan Spirituality?
- What personal and communal attitudes and behaviors are needed to be the fire of Franciscan Spirituality in our times?
- As we contemplate our all-embracing Chapter theme of Franciscan Spirituality, what is emerging /birthing within?

- Sr. Margaret Mary Kimmins began the afternoon with her Congregational address, emphasizing major elements of the 2016 Congregationl Report. Chapter participants voted unanimously to accept the report.

- The afternoon session ended with a Memorial video honoring the 42 Sisters and Associates who have died since Chapter 2012.



Pictured: Allegany Associates with the tree planted for the Associate Program's 25th anniversary.

Thursday, July 28, 2016



- Sr. Chris Treichel, General Treasurer, presented the 2012-2016 Financial Report for the congregation (left, top). She was then assisted in answering questions by Ellen Weaver from the Generalate Staff finance department.

- The audit committee addressed the Chapter body. Both the Finance and Audit reports were unanimously approved in a vote on Friday afternoon.

- In the afternoon, Sr. Kathie Uhler gave a presentation on Mission and Ministry (at left). After her talk, the group engaged in a dialogue regarding three questions:

- What sets your/our heart on fire regarding Mission and Ministry?
- What personal and communal attitudes and behaviors are needed to be the fire of Mission and Ministry in our times?
- As we contemplate our all-embracing Chapter theme of Mission and Ministry, what is emerging/birthing within?

- The day concluded with a thank you to the Generalate Staff and Sister Volunteers (below).



Friday, July 29, 2016

- Friday morning, assembly participants listened to a talk from Meg Guider OSF (Joliet Franciscan), who spoke on *Expressions of Franciscan Life : Emerging Forms of Vowed Life*.

- Following Meg's talk, a panel of four participants provided personal reflections on the following:

- Sr. Cathy Cahill, OSF / Franciscan Mission Service
- Fernando Magno / Nova Aliança
- Pat Simmons, Secular Franciscan / Associate Life
- Tenicea Hewitt, Affiliate / Vowed Life

- In the afternoon, the group was asked to consider three questions:

- What sets your/our hearts afire regarding Emerging Forms and Expressions of Franciscan Life?
- What personal and communal attitudes and behaviors are needed related to Expressions of Franciscan Life?
- As we contemplate the Chapter Agenda of Emerging Forms of Franciscan Life/Vowed Life, what is birthing within us?

- The day ended with a thank you to outgoing leadership (below).



Intercultural Celebration

Friday evening July 29, 2016



Saturday, July 30, 2016



- Saturday morning, Sr. Maria da Paz de Jesus gave a presentation on the Sister Mother Earth initiative led by Brazil. Her talk was prefaced by a historical account, given by Sr. Melissa Scholl, on the congregation's many works concerning our Sister Mother Earth.

- The afternoon featured discussion on the number of individuals in congregational leadership. The subsequent vote resulted in a decision to keep a five-person leadership team.

Sunday, July 31, 2016

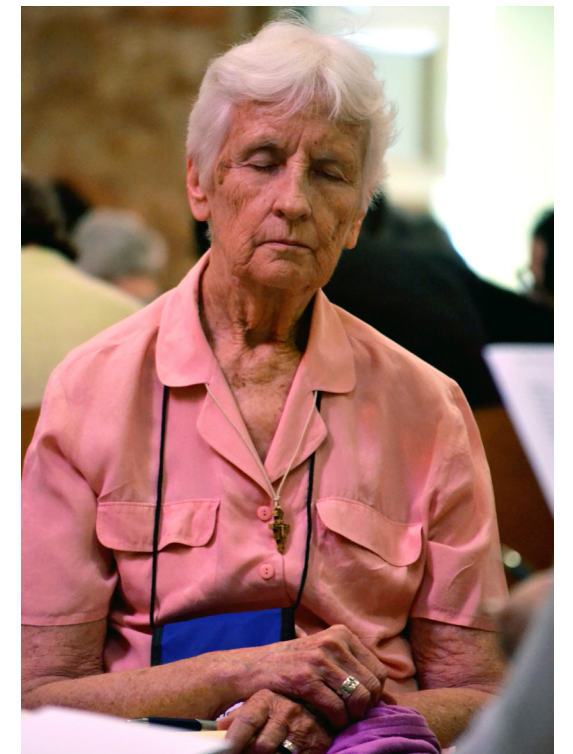
- Sunday morning began with a festive celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Congregation's mission and presence in Bolivia (see photos next page) during Liturgy.

- After liturgy the Chapter participants assembled in the meeting room to review the draft of the Chapter Statement, which was approved by the Chapter body.

- A 50th Anniversary video was played and Sisters Elvira Donaldson and Maria Miranda offered their heartfelt love, personal gratitude, and appreciation for the Congregation's support and expressed their love for being Allegany Franciscans.

- In the afternoon, Sisters gathered in the Chapel to begin the process of nomination for Congregational Leadership. 53 Sisters were nominated to consider service to the Congregation.

See pages 4-5 for a summary of events for August 1-2, 2016.



Bolivian Anniversary Celebration



In Memory

“Is it into God’s arms I am falling! I’m afraid that I might have feared death. I am not afraid of what happens after death: that is certain.”

Quote from St. Thérèse, the Little Flower

Like St. Thérèse, Margaret was an ordinary woman doing everything in an extraordinary way. Margaret was blessed with many attributes - honest, kind, loyal, good sense of humor, a punster, and above all a very prayerful woman. If you asked her to pray for something that request became part of her daily prayers.

She was a person who stayed in the background doing anything that needed to be done, such as going to the store for our



her brother, Bill, married Phyllis she got a sister, not a sister-in-law.

It is impossible to sum up one’s life in a eulogy - all we can do is try. Yes, Margaret was an ordinary woman doing everything in an extraordinary way, and she is now an extraordinary saint. It’s time now to say “goodbye” Margaret - our sister and our friend! We love you.

Sr. Margaret Pacheco

From her eulogy by Sr. Elaine Cote

bread and milk, or sweeping the kitchen floor and taking out the trash.

Margaret’s ministry was mainly in education and she especially remembered with fondness her 17 years in Brazil with the Brazilian Sisters and the Brazilian people.

Margaret loved her God, her community, and her family. She told me that when

Sr. Patricia Friel

From her eulogy by Sr. Geraldine Donovan

Florida, Gainesville, in 1968. During her years in healthcare, Pat served in many ministries, a few of which were:

- Tending to Rev. Mother Jean Marie Greeley during her final illness.
- Serving in supervisory positions.
- Holding administrative/vice president offices at two hospitals sponsored by congregation, and

serving as Chief Executive Officer at St. Mary’s Hospital,



When Pat was received as a novice in our Congregation, she was given the religious name Sister M. Clare Michael. Prior to her Final Profession, on August 8, 1964, She returned to her baptismal name – Sister Patricia Clare.

Her professional education included study at St. John University, Jamaica, NY, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing in 1964. She went on to receive a Master of Science in nursing from the University of

Continued on next page...

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West Palm Beach, FL.

Pat held several positions at the New York State Department of Health in Albany, NY. She was also involved in Parish Ministries, Community Health Nursing, and Nursing services consulting.

Pat returned to the Motherhouse in 2001 to the position of assistant followed by interim Administrator of the Motherhouse.

Pat lived with chronic illnesses but rarely spoke of these. Shortly after returning to the Motherhouse, her health declined. Finally, she was moved to one of the health care

communities. She gradually lost her power to speak or to respond to the nursing staff.

On Saturday September 3, 2016 at 6:25 pm, Patricia Clare Friel died peacefully in the company of her religious Sisters.

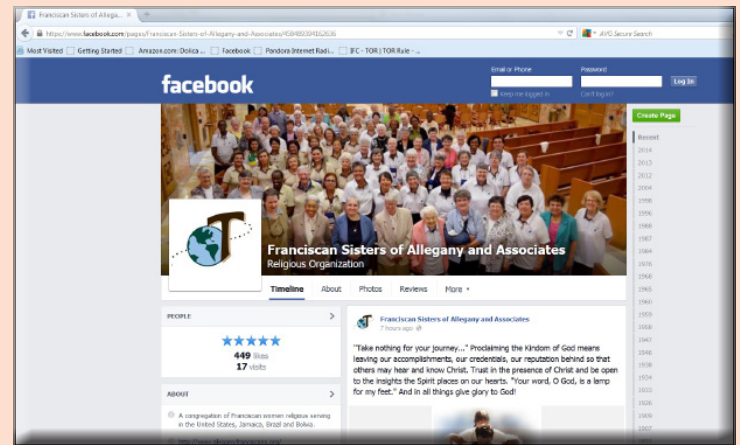
Pat was a loyal friend, generous with her time and talents. Like all humans, she had her faults. But as one sister commented several years ago: "It is our faults and foibles that make us interesting."

So, for now, dear Pat, please rest in the arms of our beloved God, looking forward to the time when we will join you in the fullness of God's Kingdom.

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Franciscan Sisters of Allegany
and Associates



Sign up for our bi-weekly e-newsletter on our homepage!