

### SISTER LAETITIA CALLED to HER ETERNAL HOME



Our dear Sister Laetitia (Theresa Choi) was called to her eternal home by our awesome God on June 9, 2019, in the presence of some of her OSF Sisters and lay members of her Korean community.

Sister was born on December 11, 1938, in Seoul, South Korea, to Young Jin Choi and Yik Soo Kim. She is survived by her brothers, Augusten Choi and his wife, and Rev. James Choi who live in South Korea.

Sister became a member of the Congregation of Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Perpetual Help of Seoul in 1958, and continued her education in music, receiving a Teaching Degree in 1971 and a Masters Degree in 1973. For 14 years, she served as principal of a large kindergarten and ministered in a parish directing the choir and teaching catechism. She came to the United States in 1978 and transferred her vowed membership to the Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Saint Joseph Province, Colorado Springs. She ministered in the Korean Catholic Community in Denver and then in the Andrew Kim Church in Colorado Springs, serving as parish director, organist, catechist and adult religious educator for 8 years. She was frequently called upon by Korean Catholics for personal and spiritual guidance until the time of her death.

Sister will be remembered for her creativity in painting, music, sewing and cooking. Sister gave witness by living according to our Franciscan Values of Contemplation and Mission. Her Franciscan Spirit will remain alive in our hearts. May she rest in God's presence.

### SIX ADDITIONAL COLUMBARIUM COLUMNS INSTALLED

The final six columbarium columns were installed on the Mount Saint Francis Cemetery on July 30, 2019, and were blessed on August 8. This completes the number of columns sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Francis. Future growth will be determined by need and by the new sponsors, Catholic Health Initiatives of Colorado (CHIC). The Sisters' Cemetery and Mount Saint Francis Columbarium will be perpetually maintained and preserved in their present location.



#### IN MEMORIAM

- Mary Louise 'Lou' Widhalm** (96), sister-in-law of Sister Ethel Widhalm, died January, 2019, in Valier, Montana.
- +Monica Rodriguez** (55), niece of Sister Guadalupe Torres, died on February 27, 2019, in Wichita Kansas.
- +Dorothy Mae Hicks** (91), OSF Companion, died on March 14, 2019, in Lakewood, Colorado.
- +Jacqueline Hanawalt** (90), OSF Companion, died on March 18, 2019, in Port Angeles, Washington.
- +Terri (Kresha) Stuart** (42), cousin of Sister Dolores Smagacz, died of cancer on March 21, 2019. Funeral Services were held at St. Isidore Church in Columbus, Nebraska.
- +Edward Kresha** (64), first cousin of Sister Dolores Smagacz, died on April 11, 2019. Funeral Services were held at St. Francis Catholic Church in Humphrey, NE.
- +Virginia (Silva) Granada**, (89), sister of Sister Bernadette Silva, died on May 24, 2019, in Saint Louis, Missouri.

May they rest in Peace in the presence of our Loving God.

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### MOUNT SAINT FRANCIS IN TRANSITION



Our campus statue of Blessed Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel, foundress of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration, is an inspiring presence in our midst as we try to live by her motto: HE LEADS, I FOLLOW.



Please note that an insert page, entitled, "The Sisters of St. Francis of Colorado Springs Transfer the Mount St. Francis Campus to Catholic Health Initiatives of Colorado", is included in this edition for your careful reading. We consider it important to

Pictured in the photo above are Tom Gessel, Sr. Marietta Spenner, OSF Provincial, and Sr. Nadine Heimann, predecessor to Sr. Marietta. Tom Gessel, Centura Health Group President of Greater Colorado and Kansas, requested that

print the document in its entirety for the correct information to our families, friends and benefactors.

our Mount Saint Francis logo, designed by Sr. Jeannette Kneifel, be crafted to be placed on the walls of the Centura Health Southern Colorado Office in Colorado Springs. Featuring the great carving ability of Bill Schlittler and painting of Jeanine Walla, Sisters Marietta and Nadine, presented the circular logo to Tom.

We also express our gratitude and appreciation to Gail Hickert, CEO of Mount Ministries, for her important role in the negotiations.

### SISTER M. JUANITA PARRA AFC HONOREE: A SAINT IN OUR FAMILY

Sister Juanita was nominated by the OSF Provincial Council to be the recipient from our Province of the Annual Franciscan Federation Award presented during their Annual Conference. Each year, an award is presented to a Sister from each member congregation. This year's theme was: "A Saint in our Family." Sr. Juanita's response to her Franciscan Vocation is reflected in her devotion to Eucharistic Adoration, her humility and spirit of gratitude and joyful heart. Her ministry during her active years was in the art of culinary services and her talents in baking and cooking made her Sisters eager to "come to the table of plenty" to enjoy their meals and companionship. Her "servant leadership", exemplified through her prayerfulness, kindness and love in words and deeds, makes her a saint in our midst. THANK YOU, Hermanita!



## SISTERS CELEBRATE JUBILEES

# Congratulations!



Sister Genevieve Pfeifer

**Sister M. Genevieve Pfeifer** is celebrating 85 years as a Sister of Saint Francis. She was born in 1917 in St. Bernard, NE, and became a Sister of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration in 1934. She ministered for 70 years in various schools and other facilities staffed by the Sisters of Saint Francis. In 2000, she moved to Mount Saint Francis in Colorado Springs to enjoy retirement at Mount Saint Francis Nursing Center where she entertains the staff with her dry wit.



Sr. Georgiana Franzluebbbers

**Sister M. Georgiana Franzluebbbers** is celebrating 70 years as a Sister of St. Francis. She was born in Monterey, NE, and became a Sister of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration in 1949. Having earned her Masters Degree at Creighton University, Sister Georgiana ministered as teacher and/or principal in various grade schools in Colorado, Nebraska and New Mexico for over forty years. In 1995, she moved to Mount Saint Francis to assume community responsibilities. She now enjoys retirement at Mount St. Francis Nursing Center where she shares her joyful and kind spirit with those around her.



Sister Immaculata Park

**Sister Immaculata Park** is celebrating 60 years as a Sister of Saint Francis. She was born in North Korea in 1937, the seventh of eight children. After World War II, her family fled to South Korea. She received the religious habit in 1959 in South Korea and in 1975 she transferred to the Sisters of St. Francis in Colorado Springs. Having a love for Pastoral Ministry she attended Clinical Pastoral Education courses at Loyola Medical School in Chicago and became a certified Chaplain in 1989. Thus began her long career of 39 years as a Chaplain at Penrose-St. Francis. From 2008 until the present, she ministers as a volunteer at Penrose Radiation Oncology Center and volunteers in Spiritual Services at Mount St. Francis Nursing Center.



Thank You!



**Sister Michelle Micek** is celebrating 60 years as a Sister of Saint Francis. She was born in Columbus, NE but lived in the small town of Duncan. As the second oldest of eight children she gained experience in caring for the little ones. She entered the Sisters of St. Francis in 1959. She earned a BS in Elementary Education, MA in Reading, Education Specialist in Administration, and Doctorate in Education in Curriculum and Supervisor in Multi-Cultural Education with emphasis in Early Childhood.

As a teacher she ministered one year each in NE and CO. All the other years she ministered mainly to Spanish and Native American students as teacher and principal in the Diocese of Gallup and Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM.

Positions held included Assistant Superintendent and then Superintendent in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe/Diocese of Las Cruces, and Supervisor of Student Teachers at the College of Santa Fe. During these years, she was involved on boards and committees both on the local, state and national level. Several noted accomplishments during her years in the Archdiocesan Office were establishing the New Mexico Association for Non-public Schools which assisted in lobbying for school issues both at the local and national level; and being instrumental in achieving the Baldrige for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe School System. She was part of many pilgrimages to the sacred place of El Santuario de Chimayo. After leaving the Archdiocesan Central Office, she developed a preschool program for four-year-olds in Albuquerque and taught preschool children.

In 2006 she was elected as Provincial Vicar (Vice President) for the Sisters of St. Francis and moved to Mount St. Francis in Colorado Springs. Currently, she is the Coordinator for the Sisters in St. Clare Convent, Director of OSF Housekeeping, and Director of Companions.



**Sister Jeannette Kneifel** is celebrating 50 years as a Sister of Saint Francis. Sister M. Jeannette Kneifel, daughter of Carl "Dutch" and Delores "Dee" (Bailey) Kneifel, was born in Columbus, Nebraska, and entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration in 1969. She graduated from Saint Joseph Convent High School. Subsequently, she was blessed to receive various levels of higher education in such schools as Creighton University (BA Degree in Social Work), The Catholic University of America (MS Degree in Social Work) and Denver University (PhD in Philosophy) which provided her with the basis of her focus on social work in the ministries she served: "Witnessing to Gospel Values by serving God's people, with preference to the poor and marginalized."

Her current ministry, Women Partnering, has been blessed by the support of her community and partnerships formed with many and diverse groups of people. Sr. Jeannette emphasizes that "WP inherited a deeply established commitment to mission. This mission is congruent with the basic identity, integrity and long history of service by the Sisters of St. Francis in the Colorado Springs healthcare ministry. This includes the importance of partnering with diverse populations to respond to unmet needs of women and children. Collaboration was/is a critical element in laying the cornerstone of this ministry. The initial research included professional leaders from the community, as well as financially vulnerable women. Women Partnering has sustained and grown the input, partnering and participation of those we serve and the enhanced collaboration in the community. So many blessings mark this Jubilee Year. Thanks to each of you!"