

Franciscan Season of Giving

a word from Sr. Theresa...

Thanks to you, we end this fiscal year strong.

A gift today will help the Franciscan Center begin the new year with hope and stability.

Thank you for being part of this sacred journey.



We do not travel alone.

As a vowed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia (SoSF) for 25 years, I am proud of who we are as religious and what we believe in and try to live each day. I can say that my call to religious life was the best thing that has ever happened to me! I LOVE being a Franciscan sister and I know that I do not walk my faith journey alone.

Consider the words of our mission statement:

“We, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, choose to live the Gospel in the prophetic spirit of Francis of Assisi and our foundress Mother Francis Bachmann. With Jesus Christ as Brother, we live as sister with one another, with the entire human family, and with all creation. Calling ourselves and one another to continuous conversion of heart, we commit ourselves to a life of contemplation, poverty, and humility. As vowed women of the

Church, we respond with diverse gifts in a spirit of collaboration and of mutual service to the needs of others, especially the economically poor, the marginal, and the oppressed. Seeking to participate in the Spirit's action in the world, we direct our personal and corporate resources to the promotion of justice, peace, and reconciliation. Filled with trust in the goodness of God, we move forward."

We are Companions on the journey.

The Christian lay women and men called the Franciscan Companions have met at the Franciscan Spiritual Center since 2002. These Companions desire to become more aligned with the prayer life and ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. Some choose to become "Companions in Prayer," which means they hold the Sisters and their ministries in daily prayer. (Surely a faith-filled powerhouse of prayer for us!) While the majority choose to become "Companions in Faith."

A "Companion in Faith" desires to participate actively in the spirit and mission of the Sisters through planned activities for the development of prayer and faith. Like all Christians, Franciscan Companions are called through baptism to live the gospel of Jesus Christ as sister and brother with the entire human family and with all of creation. They live through their own vocation. Our Franciscan Companions are contemporary examples of God's unconditional and extravagant love...love which knows no bounds!

In Portland, we meet monthly for faith sharing, on-going Franciscan education, and to assist one another as needs arise. There is a reciprocal relationship between the Sisters and the Companions, each holding the other in daily prayer. Companions join us for an annual retreat and regional meetings of the Sisters. Franciscan Companions are encouraged to spread the good news through their lives and, if able, through some type of activity or volunteer service. Others support the ministries by donations of goods or services.

Remembering the gospel story of Martha and Mary, we recently started something called "Call the Marthas." These "Marthas" are generous volunteers who help the Sisters and other Companions when needs arise, including transportation to medical appointments, preparing meals, and visiting the sick. Sr. Mary Jo Chaves was very sick this past year. I was grateful and inspired by how many of our Companions were with her and with our local community. They sat with her quietly in prayer, visited when she was awake, did her laundry, and sent cards and flowers. They were there as soon as the need arose and are continuing to support and love us as a community.

Franciscan Companions also actively participate at the Franciscan Spiritual Center, attending and leading programs and serving on the Advisory Board, supporting prog. We could not offer all that we do without Companion volunteers. They continue to share their Franciscan hearts in so many ways. Their presence is pure gift and we are blessed by the relationship we share.

Together we are learning how to live our Franciscan values in a world wrought with both beauty and turmoil.

Sr. Mary Jo Chaves led our Companions in Faith since 2002. She never missed a monthly gathering until health issues arose. This year while she may not be able to attend in person, she plans on joining online. I am thrilled to be able to step into the role of co-facilitating the Companions in Faith in her place along with Linda Smith. I know I have very big shoes to fill. Companions are an extension of our congregation and I eagerly welcome moving forward together!

We are a family gathered around a table of friendship, thanksgiving, and praise. Thank you for your financial support so that the Franciscan Companions may continue to meet at the Franciscan Spiritual Center and make a difference in the lives of so many.

With gratitude,

Sr. Theresa Lamkin

OSF, Spiritual Director

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Mail a check payable to FSC, PO Box 144, Marylhurst, OR 97036
or
use our online portal.

Give

To share your own word of reflection, thanksgiving, or prayer:
Email **info@francisspctr.com**

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