

The Associate Alliance

Welcome!

by Sheila Vincent

During a meeting of the Associate Advisory Committee last spring there was discussion about creating a method of communication for all of the associate groups.

Since a joint meeting with the LACs was scheduled for October, the subject was tabled until that meeting. It was brought up at that time and deemed to be a great idea!

This will be an effort to share with each other all of the events - individual and group - which we are involved in. It will not only be a

way of sharing what is happening in terms of activities, but we will also share prayers, meditations, books being read, and pictures! In order for it to work, everyone must participate! Even if you only send a picture of your group (and please, identify everyone in it!), make sure that you send something in.

The idea is to publish this mini-newsletter every other month. That will allow us to stay relatively up to date with everything being done to support the mission and

to live the charism of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany. We are called to live the Gospel - we are called to reach out to people, we are called to identify the needs of our world. We need to let sponsors and benefactors know that their sponsorship and support is reflected in corporal works as well as in prayer. We need to support one another in all endeavors. What better way than sharing our experiences, our prayers, our lives?

Please see bottom of p.4 for how to submit articles and photos.

Members of the Associate Advisory Committee

Sr. Jeanne Williams
Co-Director

Kathy Doyle
Co-Director

Mary Laubenthal
Chair, Allegany, NY

Sr. Ana Bernadete Albernaz
Brazil

Betty Parbst
Calabash, NC

Ella Pulido
Miami, FL

Sr. Colleen Brady
Miami, FL

Michelle Robinson
Montego Bay, Jamaica

Sheila Vincent
Tampa Bay, FL

Sr. Pat Klemm
Leadership Liaison

Advisory Committee and Local Area Coordinators' Meeting

by Kathy Doyle

The annual Joint Meeting of the Associate Advisory Committee and the Local Area Coordinators met in Tampa at St. Clare's convent from October 14-16. The Advisory Committee welcomed Sr. Colleen Brady, OSF, and Betty Parbst (Associate from Calabash) who replaced out-going members Sr. Marcy Kiesel, OSF (Stella Niagara) and Pat Simmons, OFS (Associate from South Jersey) whose terms had ended.

The group met the new Congregational Liaison, Sr. Pat Klemm, via ZOOM due to a

previous engagement Sister had in California. The liaison position was formerly held by Sr. Margaret Magee.

First-time attendees included: Margaret Jarrett (Kingston), Marcia Gill (Miami), Teddy Altreuter (Calabash, NC), Sandi Klose (New Jersey), and Mary Kay Tambash (Allegany). Sr. Pat Tyre graciously agreed to serve as translator for the meeting.

Beginning in November, retreats, prepared by Sr. Jeanne, Sr. Colleen and Kathy, will be offered to all the Associate groups.



Members of the Associate Advisory Committee and Local Area Coordinators during the October 2016 meeting in Tampa.



Kathy Doyle walks to help end Alzheimer's

Kathy Doyle and her best friend since first grade, Jackie Jackson, participated in the Bethlehem, PA, Alzheimer's Memory Walk on a gorgeous Saturday in October. The trees were just past peak color but still beautiful and the weather cooperated too. The day started with a slight frost but by walk time it was in the 40s and sunny.

They walked in memory of Kathy's mother, Kathryn, who had dementia and her aunt, Sarah, and many sisters, who either died from or are living with Alzheimer's.

Sarah's daughter, Carol, walked as well but was taking the picture.

Tampa Bay's Annual Christmas Gift Project

Feeding homeless children in St. Petersburg over the Christmas holidays, when school is closed and food is not provided for them; providing needed items for single mothers and their children at Our Mother's House in Venice; paying for a human trafficking survivor in Sarasota to go to school to learn how to be a hairdresser and a productive member of society -

These are just a few of the

Christmas projects worked on by the Tampa Bay Associates.

This year the group has decided to help a local school which has a large homeless and disadvantaged student body. They are in need of socks and underwear for the children, in all sizes, since their population runs from tiny to adult-sized children.

For more information or to make donations, please contact Linda Dees at:

peacetoyou7@juno.com



Front (l-r): Sr. Janet Finley, Virginia Lydon, Sr. Ruth Barthle, Sr. Anne Martin Robonnie.. Back (l-r): Linda Dees, Patricia Vigue, Cindy Housely, Judy Radell, Kathy Doyle, Myrnamae Engleton, Olive Johnson, Marion Tarallo.

Allegany Associates

by Mary Laubenthal

This past year, prior to Chapter, while the sisters met Sunday mornings of the assemblies, the associates continued the discussions begun at local meetings, focused on deepening their understanding of the FSA charism and on leadership. Sr. Kathleen Murphy has always talked about the role of the associates living the FSA and Franciscan values "in the marketplace".

When word came that Marlene Eaton, one of the Allegany Associates, was setting out for North Carolina as part of a Red Cross disaster relief team,

it dawned on me that the associates are involved in so many works of mercy and parish activities in service of God's people and the Church. We ask the prayers of the sisters and associates as we go about our daily witness to FSA values.

The Allegany group is present in the following places: Marlene Eaton is an Eucharistic Minister at the Olean General Hospital through her parish, St. Marys; Varma Childs teaches RCIA and is a sacristan at St. Marys; Pat Chawa is a foster grandmother in a elementary school classroom; Carmela Bartimole is an

instructor JCCC; Mary Strobach volunteers in the MH care centers and bereavement lunches at St Marys, St. Francis; Phyllis Washburn cares for her grandchildren; Paula Scraba is an instructor at St. Bonaventure and works with Special Olympics; Chris Moll is an instructor at Canisius College; Marykay Tambash volunteers at the Pines Nursing Home and is on the board of Genesis House; Mary Laubenthal teaches ESL and is a literacy tutor for Syrian and African refugees, as well as being an Eucharistic Minister at her parish.

Meet Paula Scraba ~ Associate from Allegany, NY

PhD; CAPE; OSF. There are a lot of letters after Paula's name!

Paula is a tenured professor in the School of Education at St. Bonaventure University. She is responsible for all of the teacher preparation program for Physical Education majors. Her PhD is in Special Physical Education from the University of Connecticut and most of her initial work is with severe disabilities. With this experience, she is the coordinator and liaison with Special Olympics New York,

Inc.

St. Bonaventure is the only university that trains students as volunteer coaches to go from one country to another to coordinate programs. Students also go through an organization called ENACTUS, which goes to Freeport, Grand Bahamas, to work at The Beacon School for Special Education.

It also coordinates UNIFIED Sports with public schools, placing students with and without disabilities on the same team. There are soccer

and basketball programs now and volleyball for adults with intellectual disabilities.

Paula also has a degree in Franciscan Studies and teaches a Catholic Franciscan Heritage course. She is the only Franciscan Sister left on campus who is full-time tenured.

Paula is a Franciscan Sister of Washington, DC.



Paula Scraba, OSF

Intercongregational Associate Directors (IAD) Conference

A Conference of the Intercongregational Associate Directors was held at the Aston Franciscan Motherhouse just outside of Philadelphia, PA, in October. Because the date of the conference conflicted with other activities, the lone participant from the Allegany Franciscans was Kathy Doyle.

Sr. Cathey Nerny, SSJ was the presenter and she used several Clarean words in her talk: Gaze, Interpret, Reflect, Contemplate. These were incorporated into "Becoming the Vibrant Communities Jesus Dreamed." The thrust was that the work of the Church and the small church communities it contains is that of Motherhood. She looked closely at the Old Testament word "rechem," which literally means "womb love" - the outpouring love of childbirth that seeks only the good of the other. This is what a vibrant community should be.

Using the two parables in Luke which illustrate this idea

- the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan - she said the question that should guide our actions in any relationship/ community, especially one founded on faith and love, is "What will happen to her/him/ the community, if I do not help?" Pope Francis calls this "being a Samaritan Church."

The importance of compassionate speaking and listening skills was also stressed. This "Holy Work," as she called it, means to speak humbly and honestly and to listen receptively and reverently, which is vital to the health of any relationship or community.

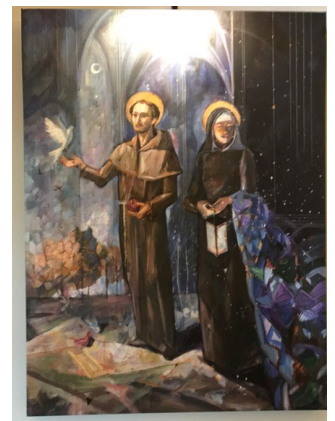
Since one of the thrusts of the conference was to enhance interaction between communities, an opportunity was given to share part of the day with associates and sisters from other congregations.



Statue of St. Francis in the foyer of the Aston Franciscan Motherhouse.

Become a Samaritan Church ...

Pope Francis



Painting of Sts. Francis & Clare

Kingston

by Margaret Jarrett

The Associates in Jamaica feel very blessed to share the life and charism of the FSA with the sisters at Immaculate. The 2016 Fall Assembly, held the weekend of October 28 - 29, was another such occasion. We were welcomed and participated fully in generating ideas for moving towards action, to bring the Chapter Statement to life.

It was a truly wonderful and contemplative day for everyone. The Assembly ended at 4pm, followed by Mass in the chapel at 5.30 and a supper of patties and ice cream.

Our next big event will be in support of the fundraising concert for Sr. Grace's Franciscan Ministries projects in Jamaica. It is called Classical Harmony and features the Immaculate Conception High School Symphony Orchestra, the largest high school orchestra in the Caribbean. The concert will be held on Saturday November 19th. Please pray with us for the success of this effort!

The photo below captured a moment in the day when sisters and associates were listening to a presentation.



L-R: Sr. Celia Cools-Lartigue, Hyacinth Campbell, Sr. Greta Clarke, Giselle Foster, Joan Moses, Suzanne Lee, Hermine Huie, Sr. Teresita DeSouza

Triduum in Cristalândia

Through praise and prayers, we were connected to God through the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi in a "Triduum", which occurred from the October 1-3 this year. On the 4th, we participated in a fraternal celebration with the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, the Secular Franciscan Order and priests from our Parish.

During that time, we shared deeply, studying and reflecting on our "Common Home", emphasizing respect for Mother Earth and the grace that God has blessed us with. We also discussed how people need to become more aware that Mother Earth needs to be cared for at all times.

The gatherings were wonderful and all of the associates and sojourners participated with enthusiasm and joy.

We all consider these moments to be food for our souls.



Assembly in Tampa

Associates from Miami and the Tampa area participated in the Florida Assembly on November 5. From left to right: Cindy Housely, Myrnamae Engleton, Judy Raddell, Rosemary Randall, Virginia Lydon, Ella Pulido, Sr. Jeanne Williams, Linda Dees, Sheila Vincent, and Alba Mejia.



Attributes for Leadership

**Balance Change Communication Courage
Creativity Decision Making Empowerment
Enthusiasm Flexibility Gratitude Humor
Integrity Leading Listening Peacemaking
Perseverance Relationship Risk Taking
Servant Spirituality Stewardship Teachability
Vision Wisdom**

The Associate Alliance is a bi-monthly publication of the Associates of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY.

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