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Peacemaking... Our Journey

I Found Peace Working with the Sisters

Diane Warren, Finance Secretary



Diane Warren

Everything happens for a reason. After a 34 year career in insurance and risk management, the global brokerage I had worked at for 18 years suffered a series of “reduction in workforce” events and my position was eliminated. At that time, my mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer. My job elimination was actually a blessing as it allowed me to focus on Mom’s health and deal with some unexpected issues of my own. I am a breast cancer survivor and will take this opportunity to once again state “Early detection saves lives and allows options in treatment.” I am fine, cancer free and expect to stay this way!

I had vague plans to find some part-time employment to fund my hobby, my two horses, Teddy and Diesel. I thought that I might use my background in training, process analysis and compliance auditing to find consulting work, but realized that my work enjoyment was client focused. My client niche was local governments and catholic religious organizations. I enjoyed a long happy relationship with the Friars of Holy Name Province. It was fate that the Sisters’ print ad caught my eye while I was folding the newspaper. It must have been the word “Franciscan” that drew me in. I replied by e-mail as requested and was ultimately hired to replace Dale Bellofatto in the Finance Office. It was a bit intimidating to fill the shoes of a 26 year employee, but Dale took some time to share her knowledge and show me the ropes.

I live in Yorktown, with my husband Tom, a blue tick coonhound and our two cats. When not at the barn, I enjoy cooking, gardening and reading.

An interesting fact: My mother was born across the street from the Congregation Center at 5 Ridge Street. That home stayed in the family well into my adulthood, occupied by Great Aunt and Uncle until the late 1980’s. It really is a small world.

Newsbits

FSP Associate Retreat Day: We will hold our annual FSP Associate Retreat Day at Marian Woods on June 3rd. It will begin with Liturgy in the Marian Woods Chapel followed by a delicious breakfast. Sister Jeanne Gilligan, FSP, will give a presentation and reflection on “Wholehearted Living: Embracing a Culture of Peace.” A brief Associates meeting will follow.

Ladycliff College Alumnae Association, Highland Falls, NY: June 10, 2017: That’s the date when members of the Ladycliff College family will gather at the **THAYER HOTEL** in West Point for their annual luncheon. We are deeply grateful to the Executive Board and a diverse and talented group of individuals who graciously make time in their incredibly busy schedules to help make this day so special for everyone. For **NEXT** year Please reserve **June 9, 2018**.

Annual Fall Raffle Information: It’s that time of year again for our Annual Fall Raffle. The Raffle will be held on October 4th the feast of St. Francis with an early bird \$500.00 prize on August 8th, feast of St. Dominic and we want you to be a winner! There are 10 chances to win \$500.00. The early bird winner is returned to the October drawing for another chance to win. With your prayers and financial support, we are blessed to be able to continue ministering to many others, to reach out where there is a need, and to remain faithful to our senior sisters and those in Nursing Homes. Look for your tickets and return envelope soon!

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Spreading Christ's Joy

Sister Alice Francis Nagl, FSP

Joy is meant to be shared. Christ shared joy with us in many ways. It is our responsibility to spread that joy with all we meet. Alice and Frank Nagl felt Christ's Joy, when I, their first daughter, became a part of their world. Their joy continued with the birth of their second daughter, Ann and their third daughter, Diane.

Our family was filled with love and joy. Our parish was an important part of our family life and our parish school, St. Leo's in Elmwood Park, NJ was a real part of our everyday lives. It was there that I met the Franciscan Sisters who staffed the school. That began my journey to religious life. These sisters showed me the joy I was looking for in my future. I entered their novitiate on September 8, 1964.

My novitiate years were happy ones though there were some difficult times. Both gave me the foundation I needed to profess my religious vows. Shortly after that, I was sent on my first mission to teach the first-grade class in St. Anthony's school in Butler, NJ. I began my ministry of spreading Christ's joy to my 45 little students!

Soon after I was assigned to the ministry of preparing the second-grade students of St. Anthony's for their First Reconciliation and First Communion when I started teaching 2nd Grade in the CCD program at St. Anthony's.

My next mission was St. James in Totowa, NJ, where I spent four happy years teaching fourth grade students. I was then missioned back to St. Anthony School in Butler.

Many things had changed, but the parishioners were still very loving and caring.

In 1982, I returned to my home parish of St. Leo's in Elmwood Park. Having spent eight years of grammar school there as a student, I now returned as teacher! I was glad to be close to my family. I taught several different grades, until I found my real love in 2nd Grade and have taught the second graders for the last 30 years!

I continue to teach the classes for preparing the children for their Sacraments – First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. My most rewarding experiences are watching the children's joy when they receive Christ's forgiveness in Reconciliation and then receive Jesus for the first time in Communion.

Each week I help the children to understand the Gospel reading for Sunday at the Children's Liturgy of the Word. Several parishioners assist me in this program and we hope we are making the Gospel more meaningful for the children in their daily lives.

I can say my religious vocation as a Franciscan sister has brought joy to my life. I hope that I have spread that joy to the many people to whom I have ministered. I pray that Christ's Joy be with each of you.



Sr. Alice Francis Nagl, FSP

A Life of Love and Peace

Sister Francine Kavanah, FSP

My life story is one of surprise, amazement, awe, sadness and ending with happiness. I was born in Yonkers, NY on July 4th and I was blessed at birth with a twin sister, Deanna. As we grew older we became very close and I was so happy and proud of my sister. There were nine children in our Kavanah family. However, at the age of two years my sister and I became a part of the Ramsey family joining their other two daughters. These people were very self-giving, loving, unselfish, and always cared for our welfare. My siblings were sent to different foster homes.

I was fortunate to attend St. Matthew's grammar school in Hastings, NY, staffed by the Franciscan Sisters and then Hastings High School. One day when I was in 5th grade we had a Vocation day. Some of the Franciscan Sisters from Peekskill visited and shared with us how they became Sisters. When the question was asked "Who wants to be a Sister?" my hand immediately went up. I knew right then that I wanted to be a Franciscan Sister. I entered the Franciscan Sisters community on September 8, 1957. In 1986, I transferred my commitment to the Franciscan Sisters of Peace, FSP when

we formed a new Congregation.

During my professional life as an educator I ministered in the Archdiocese of New York, Philadelphia and Paterson, NJ. I had the opportunity of teaching every grade level 2 through 8. I ministered as Principal at St. Columbanus School, Cortlandt Manor, NY and at St. Ann's School in NJ. Following that I served as Director of Religious Education at St. Stephen's Parish in Warwick, NY. I later had the experience of working in an adult living residence in Peekskill, NY where I experienced women who gave a fine example of how to live and grow older gracefully.

I am now living at Marian Woods, Hartsdale, NY. This year I am celebrating my 60th anniversary as a Franciscan Sister. I hope, with all my years of experience, that I have given example as a person who was compassionate, kind, caring and joyful. A person who walks in the footsteps of Saint Francis!



Sr. Francine Kavanah, FSP

Our Many Blessings

My Journey from Ghana in Pursuit of Greener Pastures in the United States of America

My name is Martha Kumi Acheampong; and I am originally from Ghana, West Africa. I am one of the seven children and the daughter of the late Francis Kumi and Mary Donkor Kumi. While growing up in Ghana, my parents raised us to be kind and respectful to others, especially the elderly. Even though my siblings still reside in Ghana, we still share a very close relationship with one another.

My father was the founder of the Methodist Church in Dwenem, my hometown. Consequently, I was raised Methodist, but converted to Catholicism when I married my husband Nsiah. Prior to immigrating to the United States with my husband and young daughter, Nana, I obtained an Associate Degree in Accounting and Commerce which enabled me to be employed as a Junior Banker at National Investment Bank of Ghana.

When we came to the United States in October 1995, we lived in Maryland until 1997 before my family relocated to Colorado when my husband joined the US Army. During my husband's period of service and thereafter, we lived in Colorado for 17 years. I obtained my Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of Colorado (UCCS) in 2003, and my Masters in Business Administration (M.B.A), Finance and Accounting from Regis University, a Jesuit Institute, Denver in 2006. While pursuing the latter, I worked as the Finance Director for Pikes Peak Community Foundation, a not-for-profit, from 2003-2013. My husband obtained both his Masters and Doctorate Degrees in Business Administration. My husband was promoted and accepted a new position at Wells Fargo Bank in Edison, New Jersey, in December 2013. Consequently, my husband and I moved to New Jersey in February 2014. Our daughter also graduated from the UCCS in 2014 with a Bachelor's Degree in English and joined us later. Nana is now an elementary school teacher.

In the latter part of 2014 I responded to an ad placed by the Franciscan Sisters of Peace for a Director of Finance position and I have been working for the sisters ever since. When I am not at work, I enjoy gardening, cooking, cleaning, browsing the web, and spending time with my loved ones.

Cultural differences can be an obstacle for immigrants from a developing country. Our Ghanaian culture is our heritage but most Americans prefer us to assimilate to the American culture. This has not been easy at times for my husband and I since we were born and raised in Ghana, but with perseverance and determination we have decided to keep the best of the two cultures. At my work place, I always rush to help the sisters when they may not even need my help. I am thankful for how the sisters have come to understand and appreciate my culture.

Apart from the spiritual work the sisters do to benefit all, I have gained much spiritually and culturally from my relationship with them. A year ago, I lost my father and my uncle at almost the same period, and the Sisters were there for me. Their spiritual guidance and financial support made me feel at home. Presently I am in the process of adopting my niece, a 13-year-old orphan who presently resides in Ghana. The support I am getting from Sr. Helen Wacker, the Congregation Minister, and from the rest of the sisters is indescribable. All I want to say to the Sisters is, I am glad to be here, and you are all very dear to my heart. God bless you and PEACE be with you all!



Martha Kumi Acheampong

Devotion to "St. Anthony"

St. Anthony was born in Lisbon, Portugal, which was then a part of Spain, in 1195 A.D. and he was named Fernando de Bulhoes. At age 15 he joined the Augustinians Order of Lisbon. There he met and joined the Franciscans. He took the name Anthony after St. Anthony the Great. St. Francis taught him the vows of Poverty and prayer. St. Anthony was such a popular advocate of the gospel message and a brilliant orator and preacher, that St. Francis asked him to instruct his friars in theology, prayer and devotion. The poor, afflicted, sinful, and the sorrowful turned to him for benediction.

In all ways, Anthony of Padua's life is about seeking and finding the most important and often "lost" of this world: the poor, the addicted who have lost their way, the humble Christ, humanity's lost sense of the Incarnation of Christ. St. Anthony died on June 13, 1231 and is remembered as the patron saint of the lost and found.

At the time of canonizing Anthony, Pope Gregory IX spoke of him as the "Ark of the Testament" and the Repository of Holy Scripture." That explains why St. Anthony is frequently pictured with a burning light or a book of the Scriptures in his hands. In 1946 Pope Pius XII officially declared Anthony a Doctor of the Universal Church.

*We Remember -
In Loving Memory*

All those who have gone before us

- Sister Antonia Maguire, FMSC
- Helen Maguire – Aunt of Sister Elaine Maguire, FSP and Audrey Maguire, FSP Associate
- Annette Falkowski – sister of Sister Joanne Picciurro, FSP
- Helen R. Greenleaf – Aunt of Sister Helen Wacker, FSP
- Rosemary McHale – sister-in-law of Sister Marcella McHale, FSP
- John Sandstrom – brother of Mary Sandstrom-Hennigan (former Sr. Ann Margaret 1961)

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



BE REMEMBERED FOREVER...

By naming the Sisters of St. Francis of Peace in your Will.

For further information, contact:

Director of Development
Sisters of St. Francis of Peace
20 Ridge St., Haverstraw, NY 10927
(845) 942-2527, Ext. 107

The Sisters thank you for your continued support of their ministries.

Please indicate on the enclosed envelope if you will name the Sisters of St. Francis of Peace in your will or already have named them in your will.



**Peacemaking...
Our Journey**

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Director of Development

Sister Clare Kelleher, FSP



Sister Clare Kelleher, FSP

You are invited! You may have noticed in reading our Newsletter that I have been trying to collect and share the lives and stories of our sisters as told by themselves. Now, I want to go beyond that – I want to hear from you, learn about you and most specifically learn about a sister who has affected you, (living or deceased). These articles/stories are meant to be short, could be anecdotal, but most importantly are your experiences representing your life impacted by a sister.

It's important to tell stories because there's more to life than we realize. It's a time of passing on lessons and inspirations to others. "A story has no beginning or end: arbitrarily one chooses that moment of experience from which to look back or from which to look ahead." Graham Green, *The End of the Affair*.

"When we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we freely received and must share with others."

– LAUDATO SI #129, POPE FRANCIS

If you would like to share your Sister Story please send articles to dirdev@fspnet.org or to Sister Clare Kelleher, FSP 20 Ridge Street, Haverstraw, NY 10927.

April Calendar Raffle

Our April Calendar Raffle was another successful year for us - after all expenses and prizes were awarded our net profit was \$27,693, plus an additional \$5415.00 in donations. We are especially thankful for the success of our calendar giving program which assists our retired and infirm Sisters residing at Marian Woods Convent and in Cabrini Nursing Home.

2017 APRIL CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge and thank you, our generous donors, for your contributions. Only with your help are we able to continue our ministries. Therefore, you share with us in spreading the Gospel and building up God's Kingdom. Thank you for your support, and may God continue to bless you.

DATE	NAME	TOWN	AMOUNT	SOLD BY
4/1	Stella Slesarchik	Haworth, NJ	\$200.00	Sr. Joanne Picciurro
4/2	John C. Letizia	New Milford, NJ	\$500.00	Sr. Joanne Picciurro
4/3	Charles Sanko, Jr.	Hazelton, PA	\$100.00	Sr. Helen Shebelak
4/4	Antoinette Durante	Elmwood Park, NJ	\$100.00	Sr. Carolyn Nicolai
4/5	Dolores Gsumaria	Kinnelon, NJ	\$100.00	Sr. Ellen Denise O'Connor
4/6	Lawrence Lagatol	Lavallette, NJ	\$100.00	Sold by Mail
4/7	Therese Ingannamorte	Harrington Pk., NJ	\$100.00	Sr. Joanne Picciurro
4/8	Carisa Friedman	Pompton Lakes, NJ	\$100.00	Ms. Angela Conte (Mail)
4/9	Fran Cerabona	Yorktown Hgts., NY	\$300.00	Sr. Dorothy DeYoung
4/10	St. Clare's Friary	Yonkers, NY	\$100.00	Sold by Mail
4/11	Liz Bray	Haworth, NJ	\$100.00	Sr. Joanne Picciurro
4/12	Betty Roeser	Leonia, NJ	\$100.00	Sr. Pat McDermott
4/13	Thomas Dunne	Flushing, NY	\$100.00	Sold by Mail
4/14	Anne Marie Eklund	Beverly Hills, MI	\$100.00	Sold by Mail
4/15	Vincent Mascelli	Lincoln Park, NJ	\$100.00	St. Joseph's Church
4/16	Edward Echeverria	Yorktown Hgts., NY	\$500.00	Sr. Dorothy DeYoung
4/17	Amy Jakimas	Lincoln Park, NJ	\$100.00	St. Joseph's Church
4/18	Richard Palka	Leonia, NJ	\$100.00	Sr. Pat McDermott
4/19	Ann M. Morton	Teaneck, NJ	\$100.00	Sr. Maureen Kelly
4/20	Allison Blake	Flemington, NJ	\$100.00	Sold by Mail
4/21	Kim Lomonaco	Lincoln Park, NJ	\$100.00	St. Joseph's Church
4/22	Cecilia Buechner	San Antonio, TX	\$100.00	Sold by Mail
4/23	Sean O'Keefe	New York City, NY	\$300.00	Sr. Mary Elaine Sullivan
4/24	Peggy Reilly	Hoboken, NJ	\$100.00	Sold by Mail
4/25	Ann Cavallo	Kent Lake, NY	\$100.00	Sold by Mail
4/26	Sharon Tanner	Oradell, NJ	\$100.00	Sr. Joanne Picciurro
4/27	Bill Doyle	Mineola, NY	\$100.00	Sr. Kathleen Doyle
4/28	Barbara Dunkin	Dumont, NJ	\$100.00	Jeanne Calabrese (Church)
4/29	Sean Scully	Yorktown Hgts., NY	\$100.00	Peter Scully (Church)
4/30	Angela Yannotti	Bogota, NJ	\$300.00	Sr. Maureen Kelly