

Franciscan Sisters Festina Alumni

<i>Helen Elsbernd</i> 1952	<i>Maryam Gosling</i> 1952	<i>Marian Massman</i> 1952	<i>Joan Hageman</i> 1953
<i>Sr. Mary Mark</i>	<i>Sr. Mariam</i>	<i>Sr. Carmelia</i>	<i>Sr. Vernamae</i>
			
<i>2018</i>			



Franciscan Sisters

<i>Helen Elsbernd 1952</i>	<i>Martha Gossling 1952</i>	<i>Marcella Hackman 1959</i>	<i>Agatha Hackman 1957</i>	<i>Maryann Massman 1952</i>	<i>Joan Hageman 1953</i>
<i>Sr. Mary Mark</i>	<i>Sr. Mariam</i>	<i>St. Anice</i>	<i>Sr. Phyllis Ann</i>	<i>Sr. Carmelia</i>	<i>Sr. Vernamae</i>

Festina Alumni

June 1956

Festina Celebrates Jubilees of Natives

The Witness August 10, 2008

LA CROSSE, Wis. - Five of the six Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration who are celebrating their jubilees are from Festina. Another member of the congregation, also from Festina, will reach her golden milestone next year. A celebration will take place on Sunday, Aug. 10th beginning with the 9 a.m. parish Mass at Our Lady of Seven Dolors Church in Festina. An open house at the Parish Center will immediately follow the Mass until 3 p.m.

Golden

Sister Marian (Carmelia) Massman pursued a career in teaching. She ministered in elementary schools in Iowa and Wisconsin for 23 years, and then in parish ministry in Iowa for the next four years. From 1987 to 2000, she served as retreat coordinator at the Franciscan Spirituality Center in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, with eight months of the first year spent also as acting director.

During those ten years, she gave T'ai Chi Chih Joy Thru Movement retreats, classes and workshops at the center and in several states. Her freelance ministry since 2000 is focused on the T'ai Chi Chih movements and healing modalities that promote harmony and wholeness in body, mind and spirit.

Sister Maryam Gossling taught in elementary grades for three years and taught art in high schools for five years before teaching art at Viterbo College in La Crosse, Wis. (now Viterbo University), 1970-1977. She taught art at Wahlert High School in Dubuque for two years.

She then moved to California where she worked as a graphic artist for Franciscan Communications in Los Angeles for seven years.

From 1986-1993 Sister Gossling worked as a freelance artist in Los Angeles and Oakland. She was appointed FSPA Central Region secretary, 1993-1998.

While serving on the Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center Core Group, 1994-2003, she continued as artist-in-residence at Prairiewoods until 2003. Currently she lives in Cedar Rapids, where she paints and teaches workshops on painting icons.

Sister Helen (Mary Mark) Elsbernd taught five years on the junior high level, before she earned a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Illinois. In 1969 she joined the Viterbo College (now Viterbo University) faculty and in 1976 was named academic dean at Viterbo, a position she held for 13 years.

From 1989-1994 she served as vice president for educational affairs at Marycrest College in Davenport and its successor, Teikyo Marycrest University.

In 1994 she was elected FSPA vice president. After a sabbatical in the fall of 2002, she became the director of Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center in Hiawatha, a position she holds today.

A jubilee celebration for the golden jubilarians was held at St. Rose Convent in LaCrosse, Wis., on June 14, 2018

Sister Joan Hageman, also a native of Festina, took part in the celebration. She will celebrate her golden jubilee in August of 2009. Sister Joan (Vernamae) Hageman entered FSPA in 1954, made her first profession in 1959 and her final profession in 1964. She ministered as a homemaker for 15 years in Roellville, Dodgeville and at St. Rose Convent Bakery, in Wisconsin; Bellevue and Breda, Iowa; and Provo, Utah. From 1976- 1983 she served as activity director at Villa St. Joseph in La Crosse, Wis.

She then earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Grandview College in Des Moines. In 1990 she moved into pastoral care at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines as chaplain, and then to St. Mary's Hospital in Centralia, Illinois.

For the past 11 years, she has ministered as receptionist, decorator, artist and gardener at Villa St. Joseph in La Crosse.

Diamond

Sister Marcella (Anice) Hackman entered the field of education, ministering as an elementary teacher for 34 years in parochial schools in Iowa and Wisconsin. After earning a degree in pastoral education, she worked in pastoral ministry for 10 years in parishes in Osage and Guttenberg, before moving to La Crosse. From 1994-2000 she served in pastoral care at St. Francis Medical Center (now Franciscan Skemp Healthcare). She is retired at St. Rose Convent.

Sister Phyllis Ann Hackman is another diamond jubilarian. After first vows, she was assigned to homemaker work for the sisters at missions in Wisconsin and Washington before final vows. Next she went to Province Home for Health Care in Minnesota, South Dakota and Guam, 1948-1968. Next, she returned to Viterbo College (now Viterbo University) for her Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics. In 1980 she received her pastoral studies degree from St. Louis University. She then worked in Belleville, Illinois, as a chaplain until 1993, when she moved to New Hampton, where she worked in pastoral ministry until 2003. She is now retired at St. Rose Convent in La Crosse, Wis. A jubilee celebration for the diamond jubilarians was held at St. Rose Convent in La Crosse, Wis., on April 19.

Based in La Crosse, Wis., the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration consist of about 350 women religious engaged in furthering the work of the Catholic Church and the Gospel.