



NEWS RELEASE

Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities
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Eleven Sisters to Profess Perpetual Vows

Syracuse, N.Y., Dec. 6, 2011 – On Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011, 11 sisters will make their profession of perpetual vows as Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities at a 4 p.m. liturgy at Mount Alvernia in Millvale, Pa. For the past two years, Sisters Catherine Blahut, Mary Kathleen Bruzga, Margaret Carney, Rita Marie Fritzen, Mary Jaskel, Alma Pukel, Bernadette Schaad, Helen Sirvinkas, Michael Stroyer, Susanne Sutton and Jane Marie Wapinski have been in the process of transferring from their original congregation, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, to the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities.

The sisters minister in a variety of capacities in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Buffalo, N.Y.; Syracuse, N.Y. and the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.

Father Frank Mitolo will preside at the liturgy along with concelebrants Father Gervase Degenhardt, OFM Cap and Father Richard Conboy. General Minister of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, Sister Patricia Burkard will receive the sisters' profession of vows. Sister Margaret Carney, OSF, president of St. Bonaventure University, will give the reflection after communion.

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities is a congregation of more than 500 vowed women religious whose Franciscan spirit motivates them to continue God's work and respond to God's people wherever there is a need. Together, the sisters serve in three countries and 15 U.S. states/territories.

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