



# HEART TO HEART

Fall 2010

A Newsletter of the SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS



*Dear Friends,*

Since 2004 our congregation has undergone many changes. Some have been visible to you such as our new logo and new name; others are not quite as visible. Who we are today happened when three independent congregations in Syracuse, Williamsville and Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, came together to form a new union known as the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities. During that same time, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Divine Child merged with

the congregation in Williamsville and subsequently became part of the new union. In 2007, the Sisters of St. Francis in Pittsburgh merged into this newly formed congregation. Historically, the three congregations in New York and the one in Pennsylvania have the same foundation and we all share a common Franciscan heritage.

From our individual congregations of origin we have shared with you the good news about our life and ministries through our newsletter, "Heart to Heart." You in turn have been generous in your support of our ministries throughout the years. For this we are most grateful.

Now as one congregation we are moving forward in creating our future with a greater sense of "oneness" even as we serve in a variety of ministries across the continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Peru and Africa. We continue to build our common heart as a congregation and want to share that spirit of oneness with you. To help us achieve this we are moving toward one congregational newsletter rather than the individual publications you have been receiving coming from our regions. Therefore, this issue of "Heart to Heart" is the last issue you will receive by this name. In spring of 2011 you will receive our new newsletter, having a new name, a new look and with good news from throughout the congregation. You will be able to get to know more of us and our ministries. We look forward to your continued friendship and support.

*Peace and Blessings!*

*Sister Patricia Burkard*

Sister Patricia Burkard OSF  
General Minister

## THE FRANCISCAN TAU

*St. Francis adopted the sign of the TAU because the very shape of the Greek letter is the same as that of the Cross, serving as a reminder to him of his Crucified Lord.*

*He honored and embraced it as representing God's love for us and used this symbol as the mark of his followers, "the faithful ones of the Lord."*

*Today, followers of Francis wear the TAU Cross as an exterior sign of their commitment to Christ in the Spirit of St. Francis.*

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*Sister Anne Marie with Sr. Patricia Burkard*



*Leadership with newly professed*



*Sister Barbara Jean and Sister Marian Rose*



## Profession of Vows and Receiving into the Novitiate

*By Sister Ann Kenyon*

Sisters and Associates from various regions of the congregation of The Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities gathered together on August 6th and 7th to celebrate Sisters Cheryl Wint, Anne Marie Saphara, Barbara Jean Donovan, and Kimberly Clouse.

Our Candidate, Cheryl, was received into the Novitiate at a Vespers service at St. Anthony Convent Chapel in Syracuse on Friday night. The ceremony was followed by a dessert reception. Sister Cheryl is now participating in the Third Order Regular Franciscan Common Novitiate program in St. Louis, MO.

On Saturday, the celebration continued with the profession of temporary and perpetual vows at a Eucharistic Liturgy and a luncheon that followed. Sister Anne Marie professed temporary vows in the presence of her

family, Sisters, Associates, and friends. She moved to St. Clare Convent and began ministering as a graphic artist in the congregation's communication office in Williamsville, NY on September 1st.

After 2½ years in the transfer process, Sister Barbara Jean completed the transfer process by professing perpetual vows as a Sister of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities. In addition to Sisters, Associates, and co-workers, several Sisters currently in the transfer process were also present. Sister Barbara Jean will continue to minister as administrator of St. Francis Social Adult Day Care in Syracuse, NY.

Sister Kimberly renewed her temporary profession of vows for three years in the presence of Sisters, Associates, and friends. She will continue her studies at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY where she expects to obtain a bachelor's degree in philosophy and religious studies in May 2011.

Sisters Caryn Crook, Laura Hackenberg, and Amy Williams continue their journey with us as temporary professed sisters and Sister Reyna Jesusa Onton Nahui as a canonical novice in Peru. We are grateful for the life that each of these women brings to our community.

*New novice, Sister Cheryl Wint with Sr. Anne Kenyon and Sr. Patricia Burkard*



## Greetings From Our Senior Sisters

*By Sister Mediatrice Hutchinson*

For many years you have generously helped to support us in our elder years. We would like to share with you how you have helped us enjoy our time and continue to be involved with life. During the year you are always in our prayers and we ask God to keep you safe and happy.

We at Jolenta Convent have so much to be thankful for each day. We are blessed with excellent nursing care through the PACE Program and Franciscan Home Care. Our nurses are family to us and each gives from their heart. So many times they will go the extra mile for our care both physical and spiritual. Many of the nurses have taken us to the movies, picnics and their family gatherings. We recognize how God has blessed us with such caring people.

We also have the opportunity to go on many excursions, individual and group outings, participate in days of recollection, retreat and the privilege of daily Eucharist. We stay involved in the major discussions around the future of our community.

We plan and direct our schedule, the departments that serve the convent, as well as all the holidays and holy days that we celebrate.

Our outings have taken us to apple farms in Lafayette, a nature tram at Beaver Lake, shopping trips to Wegmans and Wal Mart, picnics at Alverna Heights, high tea at Stella Maris, drives in the fall to see the season change. At home we have Bunko and Wii bowling once a week. We participate in a Transitions Program for exercise and balance. Through the Transitions Program we participate with Dr. Dale Evers, PT, PhD in training new physical therapy students from University Hospital by helping them to understand the aging process. During the year we have two days of planned group activities a week with Sr. Eleanor Grace. Anna Grunder, HHA assists Sisters with challenges to go outside, have exercise on the second floor, and one-on-one conversations.

We are so truly blessed to be here and have you to help us to live out our days in God's good graces.



*Pictured from left to right are Catherine Richardson, Shirley Wiginton, Golf Chairman, Michael Magely, and Connie Whitton, committee member.*

# The 7th Annual Fairway to Heaven Golf Tournament Another Success!

The sun was not in the sky, but supporters of the Sisters of St. Francis had sun in their hearts as they played a heavenly round of golf at the Fairway to Heaven golf tournament held at the Cavalry Cub in Manlius on September 27, 2010.

Nothing dampened the spirits of the golfers especially when the Sisters of St. Francis drove around the course, wishing golfers well and sometimes praying for divine intervention when necessary to improve a foursome's score.

The Sisters are thankful for all who participated – sponsors, donors, players, dinner guests and ongoing supporters. The tournament was again, sold out and was a wonderful success raising over \$86,000 in profit for the Sisters of St. Francis in retirement.

Special thanks to the Fairway Heaven committee who worked behind the scenes to make this tournament another victory for the Sisters – Chairperson, Michael Magely, Committee Members – Dr. Brian Anderson, John Bonura, Susan Clancy-Magley, Karen Connell Wheeler, Paul Drescher, Ron Himberg, Sr. Mediatrix Hutchinson, Mark Kenville, Larry Lubber, Bill McAvoy, Myles McHale, Bill Murphy, Rev. Thomas Ryan, Frank Smith, Sr. Elizabeth John Timson, Rob Toole, and Connie Whitton.



## 150th Anniversary 50/50 Raffle Winner Receives \$7500!

As a special addition to the Fairway to Heaven Golf Tournament, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Sisters of St. Francis' presence in the Syracuse Diocese, a special 50/50 raffle was held. Only 100 tickets were sold at \$150 each. The ticket was drawn at the Fairway to Heaven Golf Tournament. \$7500 went to the Sisters and \$7500 went to the lucky winners, Charles and Jacqueline Butterfield. Both are faithful to the sisters of St. Francis in sharing their time, talent and treasure and have so generously gifted back a portion of their winnings. Congratulations!

*Pictured from left to right are Susan Clancy-Magley, Charles Butterfield, Sister Rose Marie Colasurdo, and Sister Elizabeth John Timson.*

# Kids Helping Kids! Reaches \$50,000 In Contributions!!!



*Pictured from left to right, Sr. Margaret Patrick Fay, Miranda Magley, Sr. Caryn Crook.*

Miranda Magley started Kids Helping Kids! when she was a sixth grader at Immaculate Conception School in Fayetteville. Now, five years later and a junior at Christian Brothers Academy, she, along with assistance from her sister Julia, has raised \$50,000 to help kids attend Camp Alverna.

When Miranda learned that the Sisters of St. Francis needed financial assistance to rent a bus so kids from the city of Syracuse could attend Camp Alverna, she took action! She asked her school

principal, Mrs. Sally Lisi, if she could hold a Dress Down Day to benefit Camp Alverna. She called it Kids Helping Kids! and the idea took hold. From there, she reached out to other schools requesting they hold Dress Down Days or Spirit Days, followed by parishes that put information she provided into their bulletins. The response was positive and Miranda found herself enlisting her sister Julia's help because corresponding with principals and pastors, providing flyers to all of the schools and most importantly, responding to every donor with a thank you letter and photo sheet of the kids at camp became a big job! Wanting to create awareness on a bigger scale about Camp Alverna, Julia created a website: [www.kidshelpingkids-syr.com](http://www.kidshelpingkids-syr.com).

Miranda is happy to help. She said "I love to help the kids who attend Camp Alverna. It is a wonderful place for kids to spend time learning about nature, peacemaking and caring for the earth." Miranda emphasized that "the amount of money raised would not have been possible without the amazing support from school students, their families and the generous donors throughout the diocese." She added that "Immaculate Conception and St. Rose of Lima schools have sponsored a special day every year dedicated to kids attending Camp Alverna and I am grateful for their ongoing support." Miranda said other schools that have helped include Holy Cross, Holy Family, Bishop Ludden Junior Senior High School, and CBA.

Sr. Margaret Patrick Fay, Administrator of Alverna Heights couldn't be happier about the personal interest the girls have taken in Camp Alverna. "We have expanded the summer camp to include more children and offer day-camps throughout the year. Additionally, we provide a special day camp for girls ages 12 - 14 who have outgrown Camp Alverna. Best of all, we can pay for busing for all of the children. What a difference this has made!"

"I am glad that Kids Helping Kids! provides an opportunity for more kids to attend camp and to have quality programming" said Miranda. She added, "None of this would be possible without the Sisters and the incredible support of other kids and the community."

## Help the Sisters of St. Francis through Planned Giving

Did you know that more than 80% of Americans contribute to the nonprofit groups of their choice throughout their lifetimes, but only 8% of people choose to contribute their support through planned giving? Including a charitable gift in your will or estate plan can help the Sisters of St. Francis who are in need of your financial assistance to continue their work well into the future.

By making a bequest or other "planned gift," you can continue to help the Sisters of St. Francis who are making a difference in our community. What better way to touch the future? Remembering the Sisters in your planning will allow you to incorporate your vision for a better world long after your lifetime. Through your help, the lives that are touched by your generosity can be part of your legacy.

Rest assured that gifts large or small are important. Charitable giving is not only for the wealthy! The Sisters of St. Francis are most grateful to all supporters!

For more information, contact Susan Clancy-Magley in the Development Office at 315.634.7026.

## *In Memoriam*

Sister Mary Jude Stewart

September 7, 2010



**“Some people come into our lives and quickly go.  
Some stay for awhile and leave footprints on  
our hearts and we are never the same.”**

*(Author unknown)*

Dear Friends,

A dear sister friend of mine gave me a plaque with this quote a few years ago. I treasure it. The quote reminds me of the people whose

lives we have touched in our ministries as Franciscan women:

- Our care for the sick and the shut-ins –  
consoling them, praying with them.
- Our life together as sister to sister –  
encouraging one another, supporting each other in our mission.
- Teaching and guiding the youth of today at all levels of education.
- Working with the immigrant community so they  
may have a better future.
- Serving the poorest of the poor in Kenya and Peru.

While we think we may have served them, our lives have been blessed even more by all those who have “left footprints on our hearts”, leaving us with treasured memories.

The footprints of praise and gratitude are imprinted on our hearts as we celebrate once again this year, the vowed commitment of

three women who, in August, chose to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis. At the same time a wonderful young woman was received into the congregation and new life continues this year with the entrance of another candidate. We have also been blessed with 16 sisters who are in transfer to our community. All speaks of new life, new ministries, new people to serve. God is good!

Of course, the most treasured footprints that have been left on our hearts are those of all of you, our partners in ministry. Our mission would never be possible without your friendship. Your financial and moral support enable us to continue being women at the service of life.

As Sisters of St. Francis, we are celebrating 150 years of service to the Diocese of Syracuse. God, indeed, has blessed us in so many ways with good memories of dedicated service to God’s people, and fond remembrances of good friends such as yourselves. Your “footprints are lovingly imprinted on our hearts”, and “we will never be the same”. We humbly offer you our prayers of praise and gratitude, as together we continue to build the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Peace & good,

*Sister Marian Rose Mansius, OStF*

Assistant General Minister



*Rooted in the Gospel and  
energized by the spirit of  
St. Francis and St. Clare,  
we seek to be women  
of vision living in right  
relationship with  
God, one another and  
with all creation.*

## Class of 1955 Reunion

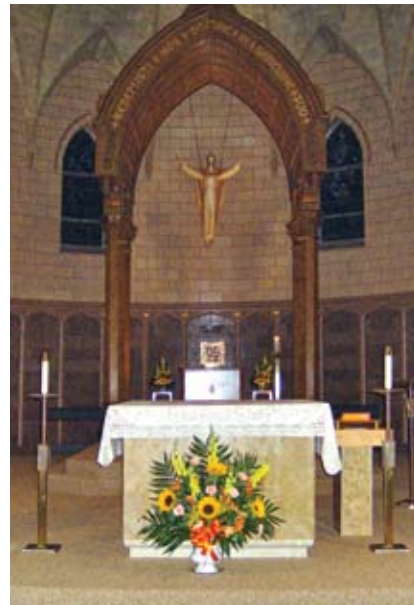
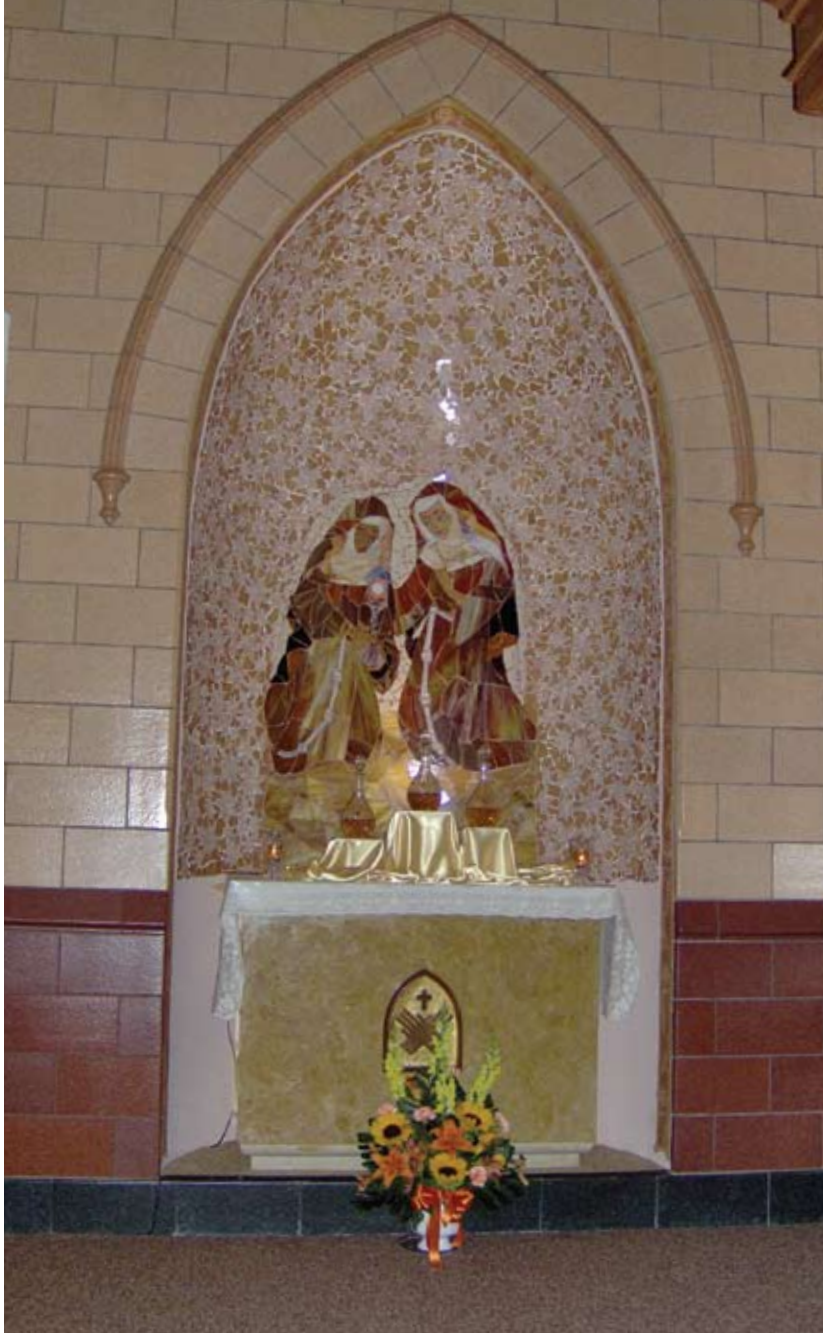
The Convent School Class of 1955 held a 3 day reunion sleep-over in Alexandria Bay at Sharon Leeret Williams cottage. 55 years have gone by quickly for some and dragged for others. We had a great time just sitting around and talking.

Pictured in the photo are:

Standing left to right: Carole Andrews Glowacki, Arlene Hier Seamans, Mary Ann Abend Donnelly, Carol Rosenberger Kopp, Pat DeLaney DiFlorio, Mary Lou Walsh Cahill, Rosemary Cirando Coyne.

Kneeling: Sharon Leeret Williams and Carol Myers Murphy.





## Blessing Of Mother Marianne Shrine and Altar of Repose in St. Anthony Convent Chapel

By Sister Rose Marie Colasurdo

The evening of October 4th, the feast of St. Francis, was one of joy and happiness. This was the day we long awaited—the blessing of a shrine dedicated to Blessed Marianne where the reliquary with her remains is now placed. It is indeed a beautiful setting and befitting to this great woman.

The tabernacle has been moved from the side altar and is now on a new altar of repose that is behind the altar in the sanctuary under the baldechino with the Risen Christ above it. The new altar is

beautifully crafted and matches the wood of the baldechino.

The side altar with the mosaic of St. Clare and St. Agnes of

Prague in the nave now holds three carafes that contain the holy oils that are blessed at the Chrism Mass during Lent. They represent healing since these oils are used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick. It is very appropriate to have them placed there since St. Clare, Blessed Marianne and St. Elizabeth of Hungary (in the stained glass window above the new shrine) are known as “healers.”

Bishop Cunningham was the main celebrant of the Mass. Also present were retired Bishop Moynihan, retired Bishop Costello and eight priests who concelebrated with the Bishop. Sisters, Associates and all those involved in the renovation were in attendance as well. A dinner followed in St. Anthony Convent dining room for the sisters, priests and invited guests.

The chapel is beautiful in its simplicity and permeates an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. It has been a haven of prayer for all those who seek Blessed Marianne’s intercession.

*Sisters of St. Francis*  
1860 - 2010

Celebrating 150 years in the Diocese of Syracuse with  
*Praise and Gratitude*

*Pictured from left to right are:  
Sister Antonia Legnetto,  
Sister Ann Kenyon,  
Sister Rosemary Palladino.*



*Sister James Peter Ridgeo, Sister  
Jmaes Therese Downey, and Mary  
Downey Gualtieri*



## A Celebration of Thanksgiving for 150 years in the Diocese of Syracuse

By Sister Rose Marie Colasurdo

The evening of June 5th was one filled with joy, praise and thanksgiving as friends and benefactors of the Sisters of St. Francis gathered with the sisters from the Central New York Region to honor and thank the sisters for their presence in the Diocese of Syracuse for 150 years. Father Justin Biase, OFM, Conv. was the celebrant of the Mass as well as the homilist. He just returned from Assisi, the hometown of St. Francis. He described the beauty, splendor and inspiration of this holy place and the fact that his spirit is still very much alive today. His message to us was to continue to be inspired by his charism and life by using our unique gifts and talents that God has given to each of us to use in our present ministries and lives.

The music and choir were under the direction of our very own talented Sister Terri Laureta. Music included two songs she composed, one written for the 150th anniversary, "God, Gracious Friend" as well as her beautiful, "Sacred the Journey."

The celebration continued after Mass with a festive catered spread of seafood, meats, pastas, salads and desserts under a tent on the lawn next to the solarium of St. Anthony's Convent. The sisters and guests mingled together and enjoyed the evening.

*Pictured from left to right: Sister Mary Christopher Dixon, Colleen  
Dwyer-Bonura, and Barb Fernandez*

# Camp Time at Alverna Heights

By Sister Margaret Patrick Fay

Two camps were held this summer at Alverna Heights: Camp Alverna and Girls Camp Alverna. Girls Camp was July 6 -8 for girls ages 12-14 who have aged out of Camp Alverna. Last summer a two day camp was held. Since it was such a success it was expanded to three days. 10 girls participated in the program. The girls did a variety of activities: zumba, yoga, and swimming. Even though the temperature was in the 90's they had a great time with the zumba and far outlasted the adults. Crafts included tie dying tee shirts, making ribbon bulletin boards, decorating mirrors, taking pictures and then making scrapbooks. For many this was the first time scrapbooking. Sr. Eileen gave them a pony presentation and even those who were hesitant at first were soon grooming the ponies. One of the highlights of the camp was when some area ladies came and gave each girl a hot hand wax and manicure. Hopefully in the future we can expand to a week camp.

In August the laughter of 43 children could be heard all week at Camp Alverna. The



*Sr. Margaret Patrick Fay pictured with two campers.*

weather cooperated with warm and sunny skies. Alpacas from Brierhill Farm were a hit and the children not only learned about them, but got to touch them and even take some fleece home. A disabled animal rescue showed the children how abused animals could be rehabilitated and needed love. Children could be seen painting rocks to look like lady bugs or mice, running around during a scavenger hunt, and swimming. Hammering was heard one day as the children made bird houses, rain gauges, or time capsules. The teens who volunteered at Camp were not afraid to jump right in and participate in the activities with the children. Some taught the children how to swim. When a professional dancer taught the children some dance steps the teens were seen leaping across the room also. A story teller related earth tales to the children and had each one of them express their own stories through art. Ladies from St. Augustine's parish manned the kitchen making sure that each day there was a healthy breakfast and lunch for all to eat. The week ended with an Olympics complete with tree round medals.

I would like to thank all who helped to make both camps successful. Those on the planning committee, presenters at the camps, adults and



teens helping at the camp: leaders, cooks, and behind the scenes helpers. To those who donated to the camp thanks: Byrne Dairy for milk, Wegmans' for reusable bags, Saucy Swan for baked ziti, John and Janet Bianchini for pulled pork and macaroni and cheese. A big thank you goes out to Julia and Miranda Magley who spearhead "Kids helping kids" through which many gave monetary support for camp without which we could not have Camp Alverna.



## Gregory J. Griffin hired as Congregational Development Director

The Sisters of St. Francis are pleased to announce that Gregory J. Griffin has been hired as Congregational Development Director. In this newly created role, Greg will be responsible for the effective planning, organization, direction and coordination of fundraising activities for the five regions of Franciscan Sisters located in Syracuse, NY; Williamsville, NY; Hastings, NY; Millvale, PA; and Honolulu, Hawaii.

"It is truly a blessing to be hired by the Sisters of St. Francis in this capacity," said Griffin. "The opportunity to marry my faith convictions with my God-given skills as a fundraiser and a leader is exciting and I look forward to helping the Sisters of St. Francis to be able to carry out their sacred mission of service, to those in need in the community and around the world, for years to come."

Mr. Griffin's background includes fourteen years of higher education and not-for-profit fundraising, alumni relations, and communications in senior level positions at St. Lawrence University, Syracuse University and SUNY Oswego. Most recently, he worked as Northeast Regional Development Director for Christian Blind Mission-U.S. Greg has established relationships with hundreds of individuals, associations and Catholic and Christian faith communities both locally and throughout the Northeast.

He has a B.A. in English Writing from St. Lawrence University and an MBA in Strategic Planning/Marketing from Alfred University. A native of Camillus, Greg, his wife Casey and their daughters Taylor and Emma reside in Liverpool, NY, and are members of St. John's Catholic Church.



### **Development Department:**

**Sr. Elizabeth John Timson, OSF**  
Director of Donor Relations  
315-634-7005

**Susan Clancy-Magley**  
Director of Development  
315-634-7026

**Sr. Rose Marie Colasurdo, OSF**  
Administrative Assistant  
Communications  
315-634-7006

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*Information for comment or  
publication may be submitted  
by mail, FAX (315) 634-6973,  
or telephone (315) 634-7005  
for the Development Director.*

**Sisters of St. Francis**  
1118 Court Street, Suite 32  
Syracuse, New York 13208



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