



Sisters of Saint Francis of the Providence of God
Confidently, Joyfully, We Go Forward!

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Our hope is not in the new
year but in the **One** who
makes *all* things **new**.

Hope

CALENDAR

January 01	New Year's Day – Administration Office and Day Care closed
January 01	World Day of Prayer for Peace
January 03	Feast of the Epiphany
January 06	Chapter Planning Committee Meeting -Zoom 11:30 AM
January 07	Viterbo Faith Sharing -Zoom 2:00 PM Fratelli Tutti Ch 3&4
January 14	Associates Meeting – Zoom 6:00 PM - Fratelli Tutti Ch 1&2
January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 20	USA Presidential Inauguration Day
January 21	USA 100 th Anniversary Committee Meeting -Zoom 1:00 PM
January 29	CSLC Meeting – Zoom 10:00 AM



BIRTHDAYS & FEAST DAYS

January 09 Ir. Joanice B
January 13 S. Hilária F

January 15 S. Janet B
January 25 S. Marita B



BAPTIST HOMES HELPS CONNECT FAMILIES WITH RESIDENTS

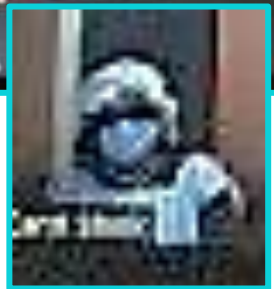
Like so many institutions, Baptist Homes has been dealing with continued cases of Covid-19 which have increased over the last few months. Restrictions on visits have been severe, so we have had little physical contact with Sister Theresa except for two visits in October before the virus began spreading through the facility.

In an effort to brighten the lives of the residents at Baptist Homes for Christmas, luminary bags were sent to the families to decorate and return with Christmas wishes to their loved one in residence there. Sister M. Edward generously decorated our bag for Sr. Theresa complete with Christmas wishes and a reminder that she is loved by her Sisters.

ASSOCIATES AND SISTERS MEET BY ZOOM TO SHARE CHRISTMAS STORIES

We are all learning to navigate Zoom technology as we attempt to keep our contacts up with one another. The Associates have met three times by Zoom throughout the Fall. They are thrilled that a good number of Sisters are joining them, especially since there are few opportunities to get together during this pandemic.

The monthly meeting in December showed some variety in content as we opened with a Christmas prayer and shared with each other our favorite memories of Christmas. So many wonderful stories were told of Christmas customs and experiences. A good number of the 13 participants wore Christmas sweaters or tops. But, Joan Ammon outdid everyone coming as "Mrs. Claus".



Meetings from January through April will focus on faith sharing and discussion from chapters of "Fratelli Tutti", the most recent Encyclical of Pope Francis. This effort is in union with so many Franciscan congregations that are studying this document, which reminds us that we are all brothers and sisters and are responsible for one another and our Mother Earth.

VACCINATIONS BEGIN AT PRESBYTERIAN SENIORCARE



Good news. The skilled nursing community at The Willows has received tentative dates for hosting on-site COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all residents and team members through their pharmacy partner, CVS.

Sister Sylvia Krafton, age 99, will be our first member to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which comes in two doses 30 days apart. The tentative schedule for the first clinic is Monday, January 11th between 11am – 5pm for residents to receive their first dose, and Monday, February 1st between 11am – 5pm for residents to receive their second dose.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AND PLANNING FOR THE NEW YEAR



The Franciscan Child Day Care Center held its Staff Inservice Meeting on December 9 for safety and fire training and prepare for their upcoming annual inspection. It also gave the staff the opportunity to celebrate Christmas together with gifts from the Sisters and Board of Directors and individually bagged dinners. Sandra Merlo, Director, is shown here sharing some of the expectations for the inspection.



Of course, you can't have a childhood Christmas without Santa. This jolly ol' man visited the children, safely distancing through the window this year. The kids were anxiously awaiting his arrival and began to jump and shout when he appeared! Santa left bags of goodies for each one and took the children's "Letters to Santa" back to the North Pole with him.



DRIVE-THROUGH CELEBRATIONS END THE SCHOOL YEAR IN BRAZIL

Our schools in Brazil have ended a very difficult school year, where students tried to continue learning online and teachers adjusted to new teaching modes. Meanwhile administrators attempted to keep the schools solvent with reduced tuition and continued salaries. They are in the process of admissions for the new school year – hoping to retain the number of students they have had, since many families are hurting due to the pandemic.



But, the schools continue to find ways to connect and keep

their school spirit high. São Miguel Arcanjo School held a Christmas Drive-through to end the school year.



São Francisco de Assis School in Barbacena provided baskets of food to their students. Pio XII School held a drive-through graduation for their students.

EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES IN SERVICE OF LCWR MISSION



The Leadership of Women Religious has served religious communities for over 50 years, offering services to leadership groups, workshops, written materials and consultations and many opportunities for dialogue on important issues. Annual dues from member congregations assist in providing the funding necessary for these services, but LCWR also

seeks grants to help with expenses.

With great joy and deep appreciation to the Gerald and Henrietta Rauenhurst Foundation (GHR), LCWR announced that it received a grant in the amount of \$967,000 to further its mission and services to its members and to religious life of the whole. The 30-month exploratory grant supports a three-fold direction as LCWR continues to discern a future filled with hope.

The grant focuses on these areas:

- dismantling white privilege and racism at the organizational, systemic level
- furthering the national discernment on the emergent future of religious life
- continuing efforts towards national and international collaboration for mission and religious life.

The grant spans the timeframe of January 2021 – June 2023.

LCWR worked with CARA, a research organization to look at the demographics of congregations in the United States. Our congregation will be utilizing some of the resources of LCWR from this study in our next **General Chapter Preparation Meeting on February 13. So, please mark your calendar!**

**Happy New Year
Blessings!**