

St. Francis Woods Campus News

November 2025

Issue 264

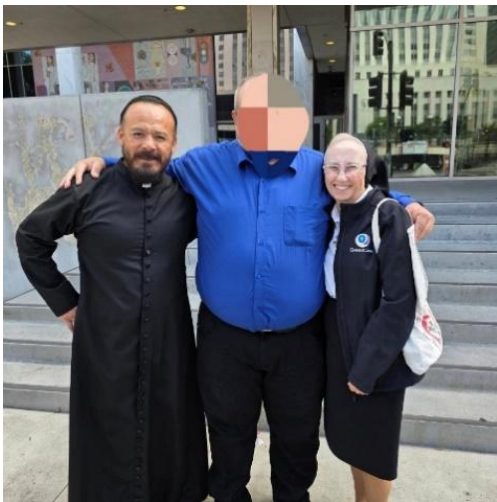
"SET ABLAZE THE FIRE OF GOD'S NEWNESS ... COMMUNITY, CHURCH, COSMOS"

A POWERFUL TWO-WORD PRAYER

"If the only prayer you ever say is, 'Thank you,' it will be enough." – Meister Eckhart

I have often read this quote, but seldom reflected on its meaning. Think about it ... if the only prayer we say is, "Thank you," those two words are powerful and beautiful. They are extremely important to offer to others and to God. It should automatically come out of our hearts and mouths. People can be easily hurt when we treat them like we expect them to wait on us. God created us all equal, so...

[Click for more from Sr. Mary Paul Shisler](#)



IMMIGRATION COURT ACCOMPANIMENT

I recently joined Ana Grande, Laressa Ortiz (Program for Torture Victims), Fr. Cortez, and Jose—a Guatemalan asylum seeker and torture survivor—at an ICE check-in. With his lawyer failing to file critical paperwork, the situation was dire. For 24 hours, the team worked tirelessly, fearing detention and deportation.

That morning, we prayed, cried, and held each other, calling on God and all His angels. After three tense hours, the officer said, "You may leave." Those three words meant freedom.

The night before, I couldn't sleep, imagining what it would be like not knowing if you'd be here tomorrow. God heard our cries. "Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and He answered me, freeing me from all my fears." Blessed be God. God hears the cry of the poor. - Sr. Ruth Agee

TWO NEW FSSH ASSOCIATES WELCOMED IN 2025

By their "Yes" in 2025, Lee Menichella of the California Circle and Elaine Beland of the Frankfort and Chicago Circle joined the FSSH Associates, a community of peacemakers, justice-seekers, and everyday mystics. They walk with companions who hunger for righteousness, seeking peace and fraternitas. They join the Associates in living the Gospel in parishes and prayer spaces, classrooms and office cubicles, kitchens and neighborhood corners. The Associate call is a simple yet powerful path, marked by compassion, sustained by prayer, and always open to the Spirit's invitation to do the works of neighborly love. - Pat Tomich, Assistant Associate Director



GROWING IN AWARENESS THROUGH BIRDS AND BIRD-FRIENDLY COFFEE

Did you know we can help protect our feathered friends beginning with which coffee we choose to hold in our hands each morning? Much of the world's coffee is grown on cleared land, stripped of the forest canopy that birds need for food and shelter. But Bird Friendly® coffee, certified by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, tells a different story, one of harmony, not harm. As coffee lovers, in a small way, we too can make a difference. If you would like to know more about bird-friendly coffee or bird migration see these links:

[Smithsonian Bird Friendly®](#)

| [What is bird friendly coffee?](#)

| [Live Bird Migration tools - BirdCast](#)



“AND THEY WATCHED HIM CLOSELY...” Mk 3:1-5

Lord, here you want to do good for the man with the withered hand and yet those in religious authority were out to get you; and it boils down to the fact they just don't like you—and they do not value the well-being of another man they consider lesser than themselves. They instead use him to help condemn you. Help me in the discernment of spirits and to do good in your eyes. Lord, keep me from being judgmental and from ignoring a call to be compassionate when a fellow human being is rejected or neglected. Let me also be bold—not afraid of what others think when I choose to tend to the needs of those not otherwise treated as worthy of notice or care. Help me to do what is morally right even when some disapprove. – *Sister Dominic Dybel*

DONATIONS FOR MANTENO VETERANS HOME BEING ACCEPTED FOR VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11

To show our appreciation for the sacrifices of those who served our country, and in memory of our Sister Mary Shawn Mitchell to whom this cause was particularly dear, we are again collecting personal items, snacks, and other miscellaneous things that are needed by the residents at the Veterans Home in Manteno. **Before Sunday, November 9, simply place your gift in the designated boxes in the front lobby of the Motherhouse or the downstairs chapel entrance. A list of requested items will be provided near the donation boxes and at <https://fssh.net/>.** In Sr. Mary Shawn's words: "May all the good you do for others come back to you a hundred-fold. Our Sisters ask God to bless your giving hearts!" – *Sr. Therese Carew*



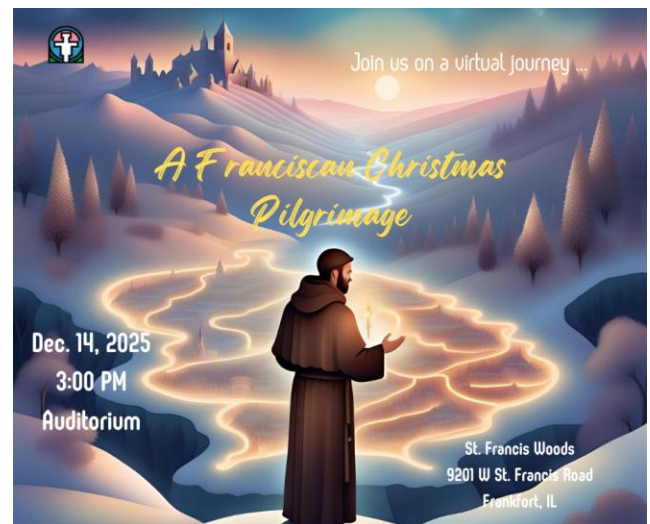
SANTAMENTAL CHRISTMAS

SAVE THE DATE... and RSVP early! Holiday calendars fill quickly and so will the waiting list for our free family event, Santamental Christmas! Although we will accept walk-ins, an RSVP will ensure your immediate entry and a goodie bag for each kiddo!



A FRANCISCAN CHRISTMAS PILGRIMAGE

As we near the end of the Jubilee year, join us for a virtual Franciscan pilgrimage, a journey to holy places to grow spiritually and to experience God's wonder and goodness. As pilgrims of hope, lives and hearts can be changed because of what is encountered on a pilgrimage.



PROGRAMS AT THE PORTIUNCULA CENTER FOR PRAYER

- [GONG MEDITATION WITH BENJAMIN SAVAGE](#) - 11/07/2025 - 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- [AN EXTRA-ORDINARY TEA PARTY ON AN ORDINARY DAY](#) - 11/10/2025 - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- [THANKSGIVING - A SACRED STOPPING PLACE ON THE WINTER JOURNEY](#) - 11/18/2025 - 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.