

# News From Home

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## *A Few Thoughts from Sr. M. Christine*

Dear Friends,

Each August I like to take the opportunity of sharing a little about our Franciscan Community with you. (We follow the Rule of St. Francis, and we were founded in Germany at the parish of the Martyr St. George.) This is the month during which our Sisters celebrate their journey through religious life with the Rites of Reception and Profession.

Reception is the day on which our Postulants of one year receive the Order's habit and white veil, and their Sister names. Now known as Novices, they spend two years studying and practicing living the vows; they study theology, human formation, deepen their prayer lives, and spend time in our various local apostolates (areas of work).



**Our Motherhouse in  
Thuine, Germany**

At Reception, each Novice is given the name of a Saint who becomes her model and intercessor. The Novice may have a special devotion to a particular saint or choose a name that is significant to her. She discusses it with our Provincial Mother and together they decide the name she will receive. Each Novice receives the name Mary or a form of Mary (i.e.: Marian, Maria) as part of her name, since Mary is our Mother and example. The Novice writes a paper explaining what the name means to her and shares this with all the Sisters.

The new Novices join the second-year Novices in the Novitiate and are taught and guided by the Novice Directress. During the last half of their second-year of Novitiate, the Novices are sent for a six-month period to one of the 11 daughter houses of our American Province to experience Community life and work. They may assist in a grade school or high school; work in our hospital or our Mother of Good Counsel Home; help at our day care center or at the home for retired priests in Nebraska; or assist with housekeeping duties at our Motherhouse in Alton. They

return in February to our Motherhouse to prepare for the next step, taking their first vows in August.

After two years, and with permission, the Novice makes her First Profession; she makes a public profession of her vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. During this ceremony, the newly "Professed Sister" receives her Breviary (the official prayer book of the Church), the Rosary of the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a black veil in place of her white veil, and the crucifix which is worn only by members of our Franciscan Congregation.

After taking her First Vows, the newly Professed Sister (now also known as Junior Sister) will receive her assignment. It may be further education or assignment to a particular work at one of our convents. The Junior Sisters are under the direction of a Junior Directress. They renew their vows each year for at least five years before they are permitted to take their final vows.

When a Sister takes Final Vows, she receives a simple gold band which represents her total dedication and spousal relationship to Christ.

God has been so generous to our Community, continually blessing us each year with a consistent number of young women who are willing to follow Christ's call to the religious life in our Franciscan Congregation. On August 2 we will receive three postulants into our Novitiate during their Reception Ceremony, and our second year Novice will take her First Vows.

I have included the picture below of our Sisters who have begun a retreat in preparation for their Reception and First Profession. Please keep them in your prayers.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

*Sister M. Christine*

Sister M. Christine



Sr. M. Clare, Kara, Rebecca, and Brianna



## God's Voice Mail

We have all learned to live with "voice mail" as a necessary part of modern life. Have you wondered, what if God decided to install voice mail? Imagine praying and hearing this:

*"Thank you for calling My Father's House. Please select one of the following options:*

*Press 1 for Requests...*

*Press 2 for Thanksgiving...*

*Press 3 for Complaints...*

*Press 4 for All Other Inquiries.*



*What if God used the familiar excuses:*

*I'm sorry, all of our angels are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and will be answered in the order it was received, so please stay on the line.*

*If you would like to speak to:*

*God, Press 1 for Jesus, Press 2; for the Holy Spirit, Press 3; If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are holding, please press 4.*

*To find out if a loved one has been assigned to heaven, Press 5, enter his or her Social Security number, then press the pound key. (If you get a negative response, try area code 666.)*

*For reservations at My Father's House, please enter J-O-H-N followed by 3-1-6. For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive here.*

*Our computers show that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow. This office is closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again Monday after 9 a.m. If you need emergency assistance when this office is closed, contact your local pastor."*

Thank God! You can never call Him too often...you only need to ring once and God hears you. You'll never get a busy signal. God takes EACH call and knows each caller personally.

When you call, the Lord will answer. You will cry for help and he will say "Here I am." "Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." (Jer 29;12-13).

-Author Unknown <http://www.creativeyouthideas.com/resources/humor/gods-voice-mail/#ixzz5uPcppEut>

## August Coming Events

Bingo—Mondays /Saturdays

Exposition/Benediction—2nd

Sing-A-Long w/Ed—3rd

Pianoman Trio—7th

Birthday Party—8th

Sing—a-long w/Ed—9th

Pizza Potluck—13th

Music w/Sr. Brenda&Louise—15th

Ice Cream Social—16th

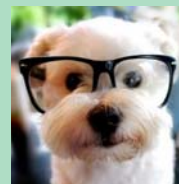
New Orleans Jazz Festival—20th

Movie: Lion King—21st

Harp Music w/Jim Harris—22nd

Baseball Day—28th

RT/Fold & Deliver NFH—30th



It's almost school time!

Like us on **FACEBOOK**  
and check out our web-  
site at [www.mogch.org](http://www.mogch.org)!

### Laundry and Labels

If the Home does your loved ones laundry, be sure to label all clothing including socks, intimate apparel, sweaters, and scarves.



Also, it's a good idea to check previously marked items and make sure they are still legible! Thank you for your cooperation!

### Annual Auxiliary Recollection Day

Auxiliary members are invited to the Annual Recollection Day: Sunday, September 15th, 10 a.m.—1 p.m.

Schedule of the day:

\*Mass at 10 a.m.

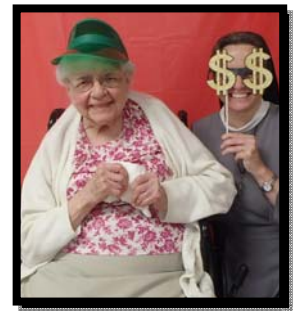
\*Brunch

\*Spiritual Talk by Fr. Otto Schneebeck, CM

We look forward to seeing each of you there, and serving you as a token of our appreciation for all that you do for us, our staff, and our residents throughout the year!

Join the MOGCH Auxiliary! We hosts events such as the annual Trivia Night, the Father's Day luncheon, yearly Christmas raffle, and the Staff Appreciation luncheon. Interested? Email Mary Jo Colagiovan- ni at [colag@swbell.net](mailto:colag@swbell.net) to find out more!





Our residents, along with a group of volunteers from Wisconsin, enjoy a Vegas experience!



See Facebook for more photos!



Working on fine motor skills, residents focus and create beautiful Button Art!



There's only one remedy for summer heat- ICE CREAM! Everyone enjoyed hot fudge sundaes, music, and movie clips from the movie, "Meet me in St. Louis."



Residents and family enjoy a Cardinal's game while filling up on hotdogs, nachos, and ice cream!

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FYI—

I've found that if you tuck one part of your pant leg into your sock, people expect less of you.



**Donate Items for Gift Baskets!!**

Help! We need items for silent auction baskets for the golf tournament. We can use almost anything!

Most of our golfers are men so items that appeal to men are very welcomed. Please contact Marsha Heine at 314-383-4765 or [mheine@mogch.org](mailto:mheine@mogch.org) with your items or for any questions. Many thanks!



Visit our Community's website:  
[www.altonfranciscans.org](http://www.altonfranciscans.org)