

Recent local religious vocations

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration



Sister Eileen McKenzie, Temporary Professed St. John the Baptist, Costa Mesa, Calif.

"I have learned that God speaks very subtly in my deepest desires and through people who say things that move me in a unique way. Learning to listen to God has entailed learning who I am, what I truly desire, and how that fits into God's desires. As I reflect upon where God has brought me, I am filled with surprise, love, awe and gratitude."



Sister Dawn Kutt, Temporary Professed Holy Family, Arcadia

"As my journey toward perpetual vows with FSPA continues, I enjoy my nursing ministry. God has blessed me with an opportunity to use my gifts of healing. The sisters enrich my life with their presence and wisdom. I am touched by their lived stories and prayerful presence."



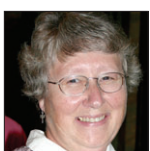
Sister Karen Grochowski, Temporary Professed St. Paul's Newman Center, Univ. Parish, Cheyenne, Wyo.

"As I sit in Mary of the Angels chapel and look at the lard light which symbolizes the wisdom of Franciscans past and present, I am reminded how this journey in our religious community is not walked alone. We are supported by the love of God, and the love and support of community and friends."



Sister Sarah Hennessy, Temporary Professed

"When I seriously began looking at religious life in the Catholic Church, I was strongly considering a community with a missionary focus. I had been trying to find a community that had the FSPA heart and was international. What I realized was that I wasn't willing to sacrifice the FSPA heart to be in an international community. There is nothing to say that there may not be some international component of my life as an FSPA."



Sister Lucy Slinger, Temporary Professed Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Paul, Minn.

"It is with much gratitude that I reflect on the foresightedness of our congregational leaders who chose 'Unity in Diversity' as the title of the key document of our FSPA lifestyle. Francis tells us that it is only by the confrontations diversity brings that we can know perfect joy."



Sister Constance Walton, Temporary Professed Immaculate Conception, Waterville, Kan.

"With FSPA, I can be the woman God created me to be; I can continue the journey to be the whole person God calls me to be; and I can be FSPA for FSPA's charism is a charism that fosters and honors each of us as a unique, beautiful creation of God."



Sister Laura Nettles, Temporary Professed Immaculate Heart of Mary, Los Alamos, New Mexico

"In the faces of our older and newer members I see the Spirit alive. I feel privileged to be a part of such a wise and alive community."



Sister Julia Walsh, Novice St. Peters, Clermont, Iowa

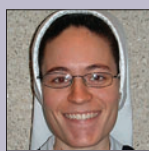
"God intentionally created us very differently and brought us together as one body so that we manifest the body of Christ in today's world."



Sister Kristin Peters, Associate St. Gregory the Great Parish, Chicago

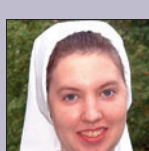
"I happened upon the FSPA sisters at a tea party. When we shared, something in them resonated with something deep in me. I think it was that shared spirit of the love of God."

Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George



Sister M. Renata Heilman, First Year Novice Mary, Mother of the Church, La Crosse

"I chose to enter the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George because of the congregation's fidelity to the Church, simplicity, joy, variety of apostolates, German heritage, Franciscan spirituality, and mostly for the profound peace that I found here. From the first moment I visited, I knew I was at home."



Sister M. Eucharia Lyon, Second Year Novice Blessed Sacrament Parish, La Crosse

"I chose this community because I saw that the sisters treated each other with kindness, love and respect. What also caught my attention was the great joy they carried with them throughout the day which found its source in the daily reception of the Eucharist."



Sister M. Judith Pennington, Second Year Novice St. James the Less, La Crosse

"This was the only community I ever visited. I did write, e-mail and talk to many others, but you could say with this community, it was 'love at first sight.' I was attracted to the joy and love of the sisters. If you have a married vocation, you don't have to date every man you see, only until you find the right one. I think it is the same with a religious vocation."



Sarah Reischl, Postulant St. James the Less, La Crosse

"God was actually the One Who chose the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George for me. He found this community, put it in my life and let me know that this was the one in that silent, still way that He speaks to our hearts, and then gave me the grace to respond to His invitation. I was originally drawn to the community because of its devotion to Christ Crucified and its variety of apostolates, but each day that I am in the convent, I realize that there are many more reasons why God chose this Franciscan community as the perfect 'fit' for me."

Daughters of Divine Charity



Sister Mary Bernadette, Temporary Professed Akron, Ohio St. Bronislava Parish, Plover

"Faithfulness to the Magisterium, wearing of the habit, Eucharistic Adoration and daily Mass were what I was looking for and found in my community, and I felt so at home. My family said that now when they see me as a sister, they appreciate and feel called to live more deeply their faith and prayer life."

Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia



Sister Maria Caeli Parmeter, Nashville, Tenn. Temporary Professed St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wisconsin Rapids

"I chose my religious community, the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, because of the love I saw they had for Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament and their devotion to our Blessed Mother. Also, when I came to visit I witnessed first hand in each sister a contagious joy and enthusiasm to spread the light of Christ in the convent, classroom and beyond, and I wanted to be a part of that mission."



Sister Mary Gabriel, Nashville, Tenn. St. Peter's Parish, Stevens Point

"When I met our sisters, I was first impressed with the joy of the sisters – from the oldest sisters to the newest postulants, all were radiant witnesses of the love of Christ. I was attracted by the Dominican charism to meet the burning questions of our age with the Truth of Christ. Our congregation also reflects the charism of St. Cecilia – a virgin-martyr, known as the patroness of music because she sang in her heart to God, even amid difficulties and suffering. Besides an attraction to these ideals, I also saw the more tangible witness of the sisters' teaching apostolate, their fidelity to the Church, and their strong community life. All of this attracted me at first, and continues to fill me with gratitude each day."



Sister Peter Verona Bodoh, Nashville, Tenn. Temporary Professed Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Wisconsin Rapids

"My call from God to follow Him more closely as His spouse has enriched my family in ways I had not expected. My parents embraced the sacrifices involved in giving a daughter to the service of God and now God has blessed them by calling another daughter to follow Him in the order of the Missionaries of Charity! Though my family and I are separated by distance, we remain close to each other through our prayers and letters. Almost every week a family member asks for prayers for someone they know who is in need. This union in Christ through prayer has deepened the bond of love between us and we treasure the times when we are together."

Sisters of St. John



Sister M. Ancilla, Sisters of St. John, Princeville, Ill. Second Year Novice Mary, Mother of the Church, La Crosse

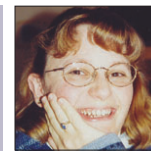
"I think a vocation is more God's choice upon us (1 John:10). I did nothing to merit it! He did not even ask my opinion! So it is He Who chooses and within my response is the choice to say, with and like Mary, 'Yes!' 'Fiat!' every day. So with the Community of St. John is the path He chose for me so that I may reach the sanctity He desires for me. But it is He Who does all in me."

Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis



Sister Barbara Suntava, Temporary Professed

"Gospel living is the heart of the SSJ-TOSF, and that is where my heart is too."



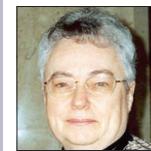
Sister Shannon Fox, Temporary Professed

"The Franciscan spirit of this congregation gives meaning to my life, mission and ministry. The strength of a sisterhood is strength for the journey."



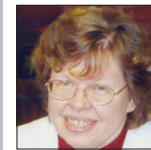
Sister Anne Marie Lubarda, Temporary Professed

"I have always shared the spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis. God led me 'home.'"



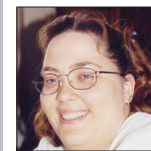
Sister Marge Kalina, Temporary Professed

"I was attracted by the Franciscan spirit of the SSJ-TOSF. I was taught by Franciscans, so the seed was planted early on."



Sister Rosanna Hodlik, Temporary Professed

"I am the second generation to have been taught by the SSJ-TOSF. I believe there was always a Franciscan in me. When the time was right, God guided me to where I belong."



Sister Kimberly Mulhearn, Temporary Professed

"I did not chose the SSJ-TOSF. God chose this congregation for me because the Lord knew I would share the same spirit as these women."



Judy Wood, Re-entry candidate

"I have been working at the Bellflower Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse for 17 years, and I felt the need for a connection to something greater."



Arlid Berrera, Candidate

"I want to strengthen and uplift the poor and downtrodden, and live out the values of service, care and hospitality. This Franciscan community is dedicated to the same values."

