



A quarterly newsletter on call and discernment published by the
Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Greetings of Peace and Every Good!

May the blessings and joys of this Easter Season be yours! Welcome to the spring issue of Journey, a quarterly newsletter published for women reflecting on God's call in their lives. I hope you find material in this issue that is helpful for your prayer and reflection. The theme for this issue is **Called to Believe in the Midst of Doubt**. Like Thomas in the Gospel reading in this issue, may we put aside our doubts and fears and place our trust in God.



Barbara Kwiatkowski, OSF
Vocation Director

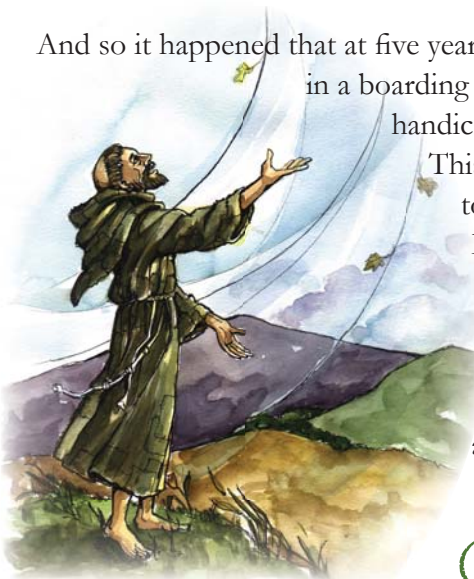
REFLECTION

Each issue of *Journey* features a reflection by one of our Sisters on her own call to religious life. In this issue, *Irmã (Sister) Luzia Aparecida Daniel*, who lives and ministers in Brazil, shares her vocation story. *Lú*, as she is affectionately known, teaches music and Braille at the Instituto San Damiano, our elementary school in Goiânia, Brazil as well as in the local parish there.

My name is Sister Luzia Aparecida Daniel. I am the only child of immigrant Italians who came to Brazil in the 1930's. My father died shortly after my parents arrived in Brazil and my mother died when I was four and a half years old. Prior to my mother's death, when I was very young, I lost my sight when I was given the wrong medication by a pharmacist for an eye infection.

And so it happened that at five years of age I was placed in a boarding school for the visually handicapped in São Paulo.

This school still exists today and is run by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. It was in this boarding school that I grew up in faith, age and the grace of God.



When I was seven years old, I thought of becoming a religious sister. This thought became so much a part of my life that on the day of my First Holy Communion I said to Jesus, "Jesus, I want to belong only to you and to no one else." I don't know if I knew what I was saying, but Jesus did, and He took it seriously.

The Sisters at the boarding school and other persons tried to take this idea out of my head. I think they thought that my disability would prevent me from living religious life as a Sister. However, as I grew, this idea stayed with me and each time I thought of it, it became stronger than before. When I finished my studies, I asked the Sisters who ran the boarding school if I could enter but was denied. I went and knocked on the doors of various other Congregations of Sisters, asking to be allowed to enter but was not accepted in these Congregations either. Because of this, I decided to live my life as a religious would in the world.

"Jesus, I want to belong only to you and to no one else."

- *Irmã Luzia
Aparecida Daniel, OSF*



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Go where the journey leads...

REFLECTION (CONTINUED)



Irmã Luzia has students up and moving during music class.

After a while, I received an invitation to work in the state of Goiás in a school recently built for the blind in the city of Goiânia. Here I became acquainted with the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate. After I got to know the Sisters, I told them of my desire to live religious life as a Sister and asked if I might enter their Congregation. The Sisters agreed to accept me for an experience of living with them to see if I could adapt to religious life. My “experience” worked out well! I have lived the consecrated life as a Sister of St. Francis for twenty-seven years. I am very happy in this life and

have dedicated myself only to Jesus, my love, and to His Church. As I related earlier, Jesus took very seriously the words I spoke to him on my First Communion Day!



Irmã Luzia works one-on-one with a student who is blind.

IRMÃ BEATRIZ PROFESSES VOWS

On Saturday, January 30, 2010, Irmã (Sister) Beatriz de Sousa became the newest professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate in Brazil. In professing her vows, Beatriz made a promise to live in poverty, chastity and obedience for three years, according to the Rule and Life of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis and the



Irmã Jeronima (on left) receives Beatriz's vows at the Chapel of San Damiano in Brazil.

Constitutions of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate. Irmã Jeronima Marques da Costa, Regional Coordinator of the Congregation in Brazil, received Beatriz's vows in a special ceremony within a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Dom Washington of Goiânia. Our Sisters



Sister Peggy Quinn (on left) and Sister Barb, visiting from the United States pose for a picture with Beatriz on her special day.

and family and friends of Beatriz were invited to continue the celebration at a small reception immediately following the Mass. Irmã Beatriz will live and minister in the small town of Santo Antônio de Esperança in the State of Goiás, Brazil.

CHECK THESE OUT!

Come Be My Light by Mother Teresa, Doubleday, 2007.

This book chronicles Mother Teresa's spiritual journey including her service, her reflections on her spiritual life and her struggles in her relationship with God.

Seeds of Faith: Practices to Grow a Healthy Spiritual Life by Jeremy Langford, Paraclete Press, 2008. This book includes everyday practices to deepen and enrich your faith. Each chapter concludes with questions to consider and suggestions with applications to the spiritual life.

www.catholicsoncall.org Catholics on Call assists young adults with reflecting on God's call. Through their website and the programs they offer, you can learn more about opportunities for service in the Church and how God might be calling you.

www.bustedhalo.com An outreach of Paulist Young Adult Ministries that provides feature stories, reviews, interviews, commentaries, discussions and connections to retreat, worship and service opportunities.

www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html This site has all kinds of resources including daily reflections, prayers and audio and online retreats.

CELEBRATING 145 YEARS!

On August 2, 2010, the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate will celebrate the 145th Anniversary of the Congregation's founding by Mother Alfred Moes. Not only have the Sisters ministered in Joliet since 1865, but they have served in many states and foreign locations over the years.

From June 6th until October 10th, to help celebrate our 145th anniversary, the Congregation will have a special exhibit at the Joliet Area Historical Museum in downtown Joliet. We are both honored and excited to share our story with visitors to the museum. This exhibit is generously sponsored by Great Lakes Advisors, Inc.

We'll have plenty of photos and artifacts for you to see. There is a collection of drawings done in the early 1900s by one of the Sisters. They have a humorous touch while telling the story of life in the convent. And have you ever wondered what method was used to assign the Sisters to the different schools in which they taught? We don't want to spoil the surprise. You'll just have to come and see for yourself. More information is on our website: www.jolietfranciscans.org.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20: 24-29 Appearance to Thomas

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Questions for Reflection

- What doubts or questions am I presently struggling with? How have I successfully dealt with my struggles in the past?
- How is Jesus calling me to deepen my faith and trust in him? What am I being called to risk?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, you teach me in this passage that it is faith that matters most, not sight. In the midst of my struggles and doubts, help me to put everything into your hands and to trust that you have my best interests in mind. May I, like Thomas, come to a place of complete confidence in you, proclaiming, "My Lord and my God!" Amen.

THE JOURNEY

"Where are you going?" I asked.

"To places I have never been," was the answer.

"What do you plan to do?" I asked.

"My purpose will be evident at journey's end."

"Who has planned your itinerary?" I asked.

"Its plan will be revealed at times most unlikely."

"Why would you consent to such a vague plan?"

I asked.

"I accepted the challenge when I accepted life,"
was the answer.

By Mary Eleanor Rice

UPCOMING EVENTS

Prayer Evenings, 4th Tuesday of Each Month

Join the Joliet Franciscan Sisters for an hour of prayer once a month. Prayer evenings are held at the Joliet Franciscan Center, 1433 Essington Road in Joliet at 7 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of every month. Dates for the next few months are **April 27, May 25** and **June 22**. Refreshments and an opportunity to socialize follow the prayer.

Discernment Evenings

The Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association sponsors **The Called Series**, evenings dedicated to helping people reflect on their baptismal call. Evenings include prayer, speakers, discussion and opportunities for private reflection. Upcoming dates and topics are **April 5---Called to Marriage/Single Life, May 4---Called to Religious Life**. Evenings are held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Cenacle Retreat Center, 513 W. Fullerton Pkwy. in Chicago. For more information or to register, contact CAVA@archchicago.org or call 312-534-5240.

*Have a blessed and joyful
Easter season!*



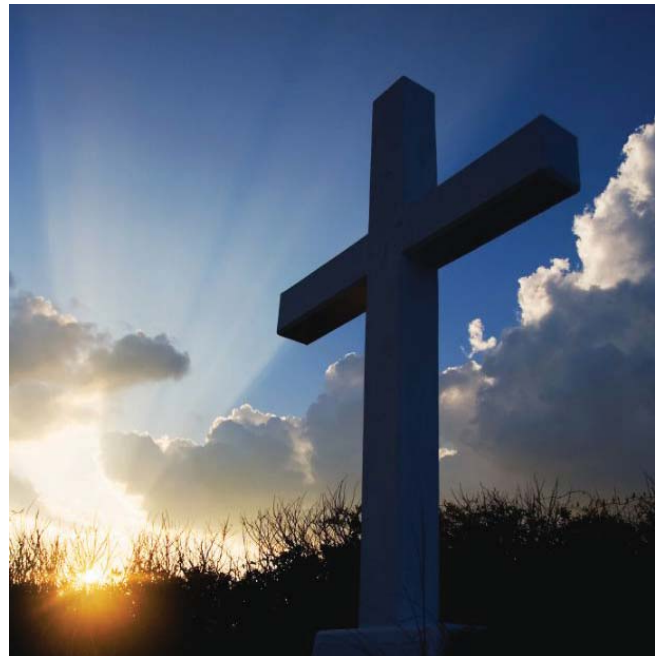
*Sisters of St. Francis
of Mary Immaculate*

April 25, 2010 World Day of Prayer for Vocations

In 1963, Pope Paul VI designated Good Shepherd Sunday as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. As we celebrate this feast, we recognize the vocation of all Christians given at baptism and ask God's help in remaining faithful to that vocation. We pray especially for those who are discerning their life vocation that they may be open to God's call and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

June 19, 2010, Sisters of St. Francis Celebrate Jubilee

The Joliet Franciscans, along with their families and friends, celebrate the religious commitment of Sisters who have anniversaries of 25, 50, 60 and 75 years of service to God and to the Church.



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