

Fourteen Joliet Franciscan Sisters Celebrate Jubilee



80th Jubilarians Sisters Dominic Krivich, Barbarine Houdek and Agnes Marie Kovacic

Recently 14 Sisters celebrated their jubilee at the Cathedral of St. Raymond as friends and family gathered to mark this beautiful celebration. Sisters Agnes Marie Kovacic, Barbarine Houdek and M. Dominic Krivich celebrated their 75th jubilee and Sisters Janet Rieden, Faith Szambelanczyk, Brigid Jacobs, Teresa Noser, Donna Maria Baier, Sylvia Post, Kathryn Stimac, Rose Marie Surwilo, Mary Catherine Uchman, Rita Mandella and Maria Bui celebrated their 60th jubilee. A missing presence was that of our beloved Sister Rose Spatny, who was an 80th Jubilarian this year. She died two weeks before this event. She did however, celebrate with her Sister Jubilarians at a special Mass held for Sisters who live at Our Lady of Angels in May. Sister Faith, who gave the reflection on behalf of the Jubilarians, said "Sister Rose achieved her jubilee wish and dream...to celebrate this day with her God."

In her opening remarks, Sister Dolores Zemont, president of the Joliet Franciscans, stated that the 15 Jubilarians were celebrating 965 years of collective service. Many had served in ways that were traditional to the Congregation, namely teachers, parish ministry, congregation positions, health care, to name a few. However, some had chosen ministries that were non-traditional to the Congregation. These included psychotherapy, AIDS Ministry, Crisis Line, adoption agencies, companioning senior citizens and a Sister who works in a hospital and cuddles newborn babies. "To say we are grateful for their lives of service would be an understatement. We are in AWE at the breadth and intensity of their commitment to their Franciscan life and all that they have contributed to the church and the world.

As she ended her reflection, Sister Faith quoted the words on a poster that is in her office. This poster was part of the Sister's 145th Congregational Anniversary celebration which was on exhibit at the Joliet Historical Museum a few years ago. "The poster resides in my office. It



Sr. Rose Spatny

says, "We are Women of Faith...we are educators, administrators and campus ministers. We serve in health care and hospice...we work in parishes and dioceses; we are artists, musicians and writers. We minister to the poor and incarcerated. We serve in social service agencies. We are counselors and mentors. We are daughters, sisters, aunts and friends. Yes, we are all of these and more...We are the Joliet Franciscans!"



60th Jubilarians Top: Sisters Maria Bui, Rita Mandella, Faith Szambelanczyk, Donna Marie Baier, Rose Marie Surwilo, Teresa Noser, Kathryn Stimac. Bottom: Sisters Brigid Jacobs, Mary Catherine (Kay) Uchman, Janet Rieden and Sylvia Post.