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JOLIET FRANCISCAN PROFESSES PERPETUAL VOWS



On April 28, Sister Deborah Ann Gaughan, became the 1256 perpetually professed member in the Joliet Franciscan Congregation.

Though she felt called to become a Sister while in first grade, she experienced many unexpected turns and challenges throughout her life that made her doubt. However in the end, God called her by name and she willingly responded.

Pictured with with Sister Deborah Gaughan (center) on her special day are, from left: Sisters Mary Jean Morris, Mary Ann Hamer, Deborah, Clarita Schumacher and Maria Pesavento.

Gaughan entered the novitiate of the Joliet Franciscan Sisters on August 8, 2010. During this time she learned more about the Congregation while also spending time in ministry.

Her first ministry placement was at the St. Louis Crisis Nursery for children who are at high risk for child abuse in St. Louis. This opened her eyes and her heart to children in need.

In 2012, Gaughan professed her first vows and then renewed her vows in 2015, while completing her studies for a Master of Social Work degree. She graduated from Aurora University on May 8, 2016 and also obtained a child welfare employee license.

During the offertory and the presentation of gifts, five roses were brought out. Each represented a loved one who had died. One was for her father Patrick Gaughan, another for Godfather Jimmy Gaughan, and the final three were for her prayer sisters, Sister Marie Grunloh, Sister Rose Spatny and Sister Anne Wayrowski.

Throughout the profession ceremony, in the readings, in the prayers for the Faithful, in the words shared by Father John Regan and Sister Maria Pesavento, to the music chosen of this special occasion, God was truly present and He again reminded Gaughan of His plan for her.

Gaughan willingly professed her vows of living in poverty, in chastity and in obedience according to the Rule and Life of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis and the Constitutions of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate.

Right: Sister Deborah signs the congregation ledger witnessed by Sister Dolores Zemont, president of the congregation and Rev. John Regan, celebrant at the Mass.



She then accepted a ring, given to her by the President, Sister Dolores Zemont, as a sign of Jesus' love and faithfulness and as a reminder of her commitment to Him and to His people.

According to its website, the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, as Sisters of St. Francis, embrace the Gospel way of life. They accept the challenge Jesus first gave Francis of Assisi, "Go, rebuild my Church. Under the patronage of Mary Immaculate, they open themselves to the Spirit of God at work within them, while following the example of their foundress, Mother Alfred Moes.

Left, Sister Dolores Zemont places a ring on Sister Deborah's finger as a sign of her religious commitment.

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