

The Little Portion

*School Sisters of St. Francis -- The Panhandle Franciscans
Congregation Founded in 1723*

Changing the World One Soul at a Time

Fall 2012

St. Ann's Catholic Nursing Home -- closed after almost 50 years of caring for the sick.

Can anyone know all the love and care that went into this home, especially by the priests, Sisters, and lay people, many of them working there for over twenty, thirty, or forty years? According to our chronicles, Rose Gordon and Msgr. John Steinlage took the brunt of the building project. The home was officially dedicated on February 17, 1963 by Bishop John Morkovsky. Msgr. Steinlage passed away in 1967, and Msgr. Monroe Matthiesen (Fr. Matt) took over as pastor of St. Theresa's Church and was instrumental in St. Ann's success in many ways until his death in 2008. Father acted as Director and a Board member. He fixed everything himself to save money on repair bills. Monsignor also worked hard to ensure the home's Catholicity, quality of care, and much more. Sr. M. Consilia Feuchtenhofer (worked in the home from 1963-1992) became St. Ann's administrator in the 1960's, with Mother M. Felician Schreiber as activity director. She also served in different capacities from the very beginning. Through the years, St. Ann's was served by several other Sisters: Sr. M. Celine Martinez deserves a special mention as she spent the last several years there loving the residents and employees, praying with the sick and elderly in their last hours, and being an overall spiritual presence.

St. Ann's enjoyed an excellent reputation, at one time ranking in the Top Ten Nursing Homes in Texas. The waiting list often consisted of over two hundred people. The residents enjoyed a camaraderie and family atmosphere, as well as being able to attend Mass and receive the sacraments, if they desired.

As neighbors and co-workers, the Sisters enjoyed knowing the residents and employees, many of them becoming part of our family. Residents were occasional guests of the School Sisters at the convent, enjoying special Feast Day meals and celebrations. Three of the Sisters had family members as residents of St. Ann's.

We are most grateful for the gift of this ministry in our Community's history for so many years. It gave us the opportunity to serve and embrace the dignity of the elderly and infirm. What a privilege it was to be able to care for the people, to pray with them, to celebrate their lives, and to share with them so many memories over the years! It is a very special gift of memories that we will treasure, and only God will know the fruits. We can look back with pride at a place that touched so many people in the Texas Panhandle. May God bless all the people that worked so hard to make it a legacy. May God be praised!

*St. Ann's
Catholic
Nursing Home*



*Sr. M. Consilia (left), Fr. Matt, and
Mother M. Felician (right)*



The Legacy and Gift
of this
Beautiful Home



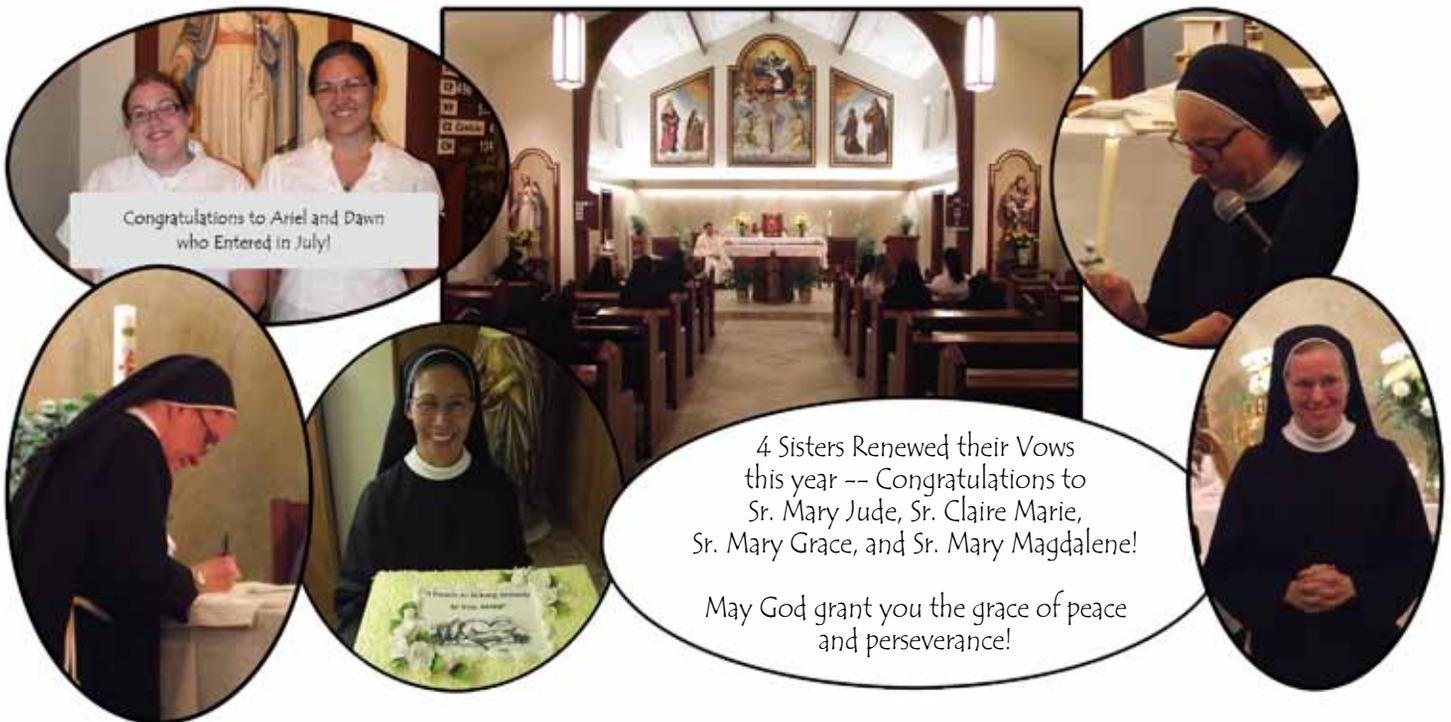
Ariel's Vocation Story "short version"



I was not raised in a religious family and knew very little about God. It was not until I moved to Alabama that I began to wonder who God was. A friend of mine invited me to Mass and youth group during the fall of 2002. I fell in love with the Mass and the Eucharist and continued to go to Mass with her. A few months later, I went on a retreat and had a profound conversion experience; that night, I told the Lord that He could do with me as He would like; little did I know what that fully meant.

After years of wanting to be Catholic, I finally entered the Church in 2007 as a freshman in college. Two years after this, the thought of religious life crossed my mind. I dismissed it because I wanted to be a mom, but it never really left. I went to our deacon, and he advised me to pray and start looking at religious community websites. That summer, I also began spending time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, asking the Lord for guidance. One afternoon, while I was alone with the Eucharist, I audibly heard, "Will you marry me?" I responded, "Me?" and then again, "Ariel, will you be my bride?" I told the Lord yes, as long as He would show me where. A few months later, I stumbled upon the School Sisters' website and began to cry for joy. They had everything I wanted. I emailed Sr. Mary Michael that very afternoon. We exchanged emails for many months, and she suggested that the summer after graduation I should come and visit, which I did. I instantly fell in love with the community.

That summer, I moved to Minnesota to work as a youth minister. While I was there, I was free to fully discern my vocation. That December, I asked for an application. When I returned in March, as part of the application process, I felt as if I was coming home and knew that I was making the right decision. I was accepted in April of 2011 under the condition that my student debt was taken care of. With the help of Mater Ecclesiae, I was able to enter July 15, 2012 as a candidate. I look forward to seeing what the Lord has planned for the future.



"Precious Moments" at School

A little boy was telling Sister that he had a little sister...
Sister said, "I bet you are a good, big brother."
He grinned and sheepishly said, "Well, I'm *BIG*!"

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own
understanding.

- Proverbs 3:5



School Sisters of St. Francis
**Harvest of Blessings
Benefit Gala 2012**

Saturday, November 17

6:30 - 11:00 p.m. (serving the meal until 8)

Sunset Center "Red Room", 3701 Plains Blvd., Amarillo, TX

Each \$100 ticket donation is a chance in the raffle. Need not be present to win.

For those able to share the evening with us, the ticket includes Beef Tenderloin Dinner for 2, beverages, fabulous homemade desserts, quality live and silent auctions, Calcutta Boards, handmade crafts, dancing to AFK, *a surprise or two, and lots of fun!*

Reverse Raffle Grand Prize Choices:

7 Day Hawaii Trip for 2 (Valued @ \$11,522) or 3 Night N.Y.C. Trip for 2 (Valued @ \$9,054)

For More Information or to Buy Tickets, go to
www.panhandlefranciscans.org/gala

Make checks payable to: The School Sisters of St. Francis, P.O. Box 906, Panhandle, TX 79068
Ask for Sr. Mary Michael at 806.537.3182, ext. 21 a 501(c)3 organization

Gala Auctions

- **Extreme Room Makeover**
Courtesy of Furniture Fashions, Ivy Painting, Amarillo Paint and Supply, and others
- **Pearl and Diamond Necklace**
Courtesy of Graham Brothers
- **Got Beef?** Meat Package courtesy of KC Council in Nazareth and Paidom Meats (Beyond Organic)
- **Grape Celebration** Unusually Fun Wine Package!
- **Palo Duro Canyon From the Air**
Plane Ride Courtesy of Advanced Leveling
- **Art Corner Extraordinaire**
Courtesy of several outstanding local artists
- **Hunting Package**
Courtesy of Leland Outfitters & KC's in Dalhart

- For an updated list, visit our website -

Volunteers Needed!

We will need special help with appetizers, homemade desserts, auction cakes, cleanup, serving, and other things as well.

If interested, please contact us for more info:

Sr. Mary Michael: 806-537-3182, ext 21
srmarymich@gmail.com
Ann Beddingfield: 806-248-0362

May God reward you!



School Sisters of St. Francis
P.O. Box 906
119 Franciscan Way
Panhandle, TX 79068

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

There is so much more news
than we can fit into this little newsletter!

If you'd like more information
about our daily doings:

E-NEWS

(can sign up on our website)
www.panhandlefranciscans.org

BLOG

panhandlefranciscans.blogspot.com

[Facebook.com/schsrs](https://www.facebook.com/schsrs)

*All of our Benefactors, Friends, and
Relatives are happily remembered
in our daily prayers and included
in a monthly Mass just for them.*

This Years' Wish List:

- 2 NEW TREES NEEDED

We hope to add new trees to our newly
renovated Rosary Garden - \$1,000 (\$500 ea)

- NEW STONES and PLANTS

for Rosary Garden - \$300 total

- PASSION GARDEN SPONSORSHIP

We are looking for a Sponsor to underwrite
our next outdoor project: the Passion
Garden (a large winding path honoring the
fourteen Stations of the Cross. Each Station
will need a bench, landscaping, and image)

- HARVEST of BLESSINGS GALA 2012

Come celebrate with us!

Important Announcement!

If you would like to remain on our paper newsletter list,
please contact us through one of these ways:

- 1) Through our website "contact us"
- 2) Calling us: 806-537-3182, ext. 21
- 3) Mailing us a little note

As it is expensive to send out news by snail mail, we
want to send only to those who do not have email and
who really want it. If you do not
respond, we will remove you from the list.

God bless you all!

Election Reminders:

"Responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation."
-- Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

Please remember to vote this November. It is our moral obligation to form our conscience according to the Gospel and to vote accordingly. For lots of good information about what is happening in the government and the Catholic response is at this website: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/>