

Joy in Living the Gospel

Women Religious in the Diocese of Covington

Spring 2026

from Sister Marla Monahan, SND, Vicar for Religious

United in Prayer This prayer for peace, sponsored by our women religious vocation directors, occurs every other month at 6:00 pm in Covington's Main Strasse at the Bell Tower. The next date is Tuesday, March 24, 2026. Future date: May 5. All are welcome. The prayer is also live streamed.

2026 Catholic Sisters Week March 8-14

Celebrating Traditions, Changing the World, Catholic Sisters Week shines a light on the spirituality, mission, and community building of women religious. For more information, catholic sisters week website <https://catholicsistersweek.org/>

2026 World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 26 On this 63rd anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, also liturgically known as Good Shepherd Sunday, we are invited to pray for and promote all vocations.

<https://nrvc.net/292/publication/11357/article/15674-world-day-of-prayer-for-vocations>

2026 Religious Brothers Day, May 1 Religious Brothers Day recognizes the life and vocation of Religious Brothers. It was first celebrated on May 1, 2017, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. It was created by the U.S. Brothers Think Tank composed of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Religious Brothers Conference, Religious Formation Conference, National Religious Vocation Conference, and Brothers representing various religious institutes. Religious Brothers Day is held annually on May 1 throughout the world.

Save the Date The annual Service Day with Sisters is scheduled for Saturday, April 18. More information to follow.

Blessed Lent and Happy Easter!

*"LOOK TO THE PAST WITH GRATITUDE... LIVE THE PRESENT WITH PASSION...
EMBRACE THE FUTURE WITH HOPE..."*

~POPE FRANCIS

OSB



Our community baked 125 pumpkin, pecan, and apple pies for the *Pies for a Purpose* sale supporting the Hispanic community. From peeling apples to boxing pies and washing dishes, everyone contributed...a true community effort.

The sisters partnered with Villa Madonna Academy Elementary to collect funds for the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky, working together to purchase 60 sets of sweatshirts and sweatpants for those in need.



We are blessed to have Sr. Grace, CDP coordinate our Monday activities. We sang Christmas carols led by Sr. Stella, everything from Silent Night to We Wish You a Merry Christmas. Lots of Christmas spirit all around!



Tree-trimming day was full of holiday cheer as many hands pitched in to decorate the trees. The celebration wrapped up the best way possible...with cookies and eggnog.



In January, our Oblates gathered for a meeting and potluck. Even those who couldn't attend in person were able to join us via Zoom, reminding us that our community stays connected near and far.



A foot of snow blanketed St. Walburg, and the Sisters stayed cozy indoors, enjoying the winter view while Sr. Sharon passed the time with a game of shuffleboard.

SJW

Everyone has a different way to enjoy the snow. Sister Patricia Jean likes to shovel and plow when we get snow. Mother Mary Christina and Sister Philomena Marie would rather go sledding. Either way, we all enjoy the gift of snow when God gives it to us. And of course, the school children enjoy their day off.



Sister Philomena Marie and Mother Mary Christina went to Oklahoma City for the 19th Annual Oklahoma Women's Conference. Sister Philomena is from Oklahoma City. She had a wonderful time catching up with friends and speaking to women about their vocation. She also had a chance to greet Archbishop Paul Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City. Archbishop Coakley was the bishop who confirmed Sister Philomena Marie and he is now the President of the UCSSB.

The Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker have a long-term care facility in the Lexington Diocese. The chapel at Taylor Manor needed to be refreshed. It had been 26 years since the last time the chapel was painted. The pews especially needed to be replaced. Thanks to the donation of pews from St. Anne's Retreat Center, the sisters and residents are enjoying the refreshed chapel.



SND

Thanksgiving Meal and Celebration at St. Charles: Our sisters gathered for a delicious Thanksgiving dinner on the St. Charles Campus. All but two of our sisters were able to make the celebration. The meal was prepared by Dan Gifford of our Lourdes Hall staff and assisted by Sr. Janet Smith, ministering in the Dietary Department in Morehead, KY. Several sisters also contributed homemade pies adding a personal and heartfelt touch to the celebration.

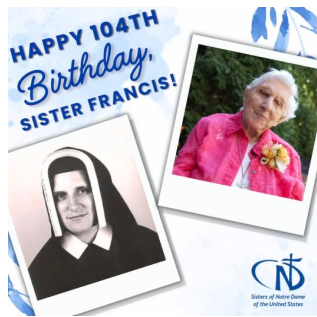
December 6 and 8 – Advent “Adventure to Give” Service Projects: In the spirit of the Advent season, staff, friends and sisters were invited to prayer and service on December 6 at the Grandview office and on December 8 at Lourdes Hall at the St. Charles campus. The fruit of our labor went to serve 70 guests of Hosea House in Newport and 20+ persons experiencing homelessness in Covington.



December 12 - Staff and Sister Christmas Luncheon at St. Charles: The Staff Christmas party was held on December 12 at the Charleston Room at the St. Charles Community campus. The staff at the Grandview Office and at Lourdes Hall enjoyed a festive meal together followed by a few seasonal games and songs.



December 14 - The SND Christmas Party at St. Charles: The community Christmas Party was held on Sunday, December 14. The sisters gathered at the Charleston Room on the St. Charles Campus making it possible for all the sisters in the region, those living at the Lodge and Lourdes Hall to attend. It was a warm and joyful occasion, marked by shared conversation, laughter, and the blessing of being together.



January 9 - Sister Mary Francis Dirr's 104th Birthday: On January 9, 1922, Mary Teresa Dirr was born in Cheviot, Ohio. Mary entered the Sisters of Notre Dame at the age of 21 and took the name Sister Mary Francis. As the oldest Sister of Notre Dame living in the U.S., she is a pioneer of inclusive education and spent decades advocating for children of all abilities. Professed August 13, 1946, Sister Mary Francis has lived nearly eight decades of vowed religious life. She served as a teacher, principal, special education educator and occupational therapist, including work at St. Aloysius Orphanage in Cincinnati and the Diocesan Catholic Children's Home. Honored for over 20 years on the Inclusive Education Committee, she promoted the vision that students learn differently, not less. Today, she continues her ministry in the Apostolate of Prayer.

Sr. Mary Sharron Goller was born on February 23, 1939, and passed away on January 30, 2026. Sister Sharron devoted many years to Catholic education, ministering as a teacher, administrator and principal in schools throughout the Diocese of Covington and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Her last years in active ministry were at Holy Cross High School, where she served as a special education and religion teacher, and a grant writer. After retiring in 2018, she continued to volunteer at Holy Cross for several years.



Ash Wednesday Day of Recollection: Every year, we sponsor an Ash Wednesday Day of Recollection. This year, in collaboration with Notre Dame Academy, we sponsored this day of spiritual inspiration and personal reflection. We welcomed a little over one hundred sisters and friends, many of whom have made this journey with us in the past. Msgr. William Cleves was the speaker for this day.

February 18 – 19 - Sister Emma Kim's Visits: Sister Emma Kim, from our South Korean Province, arrived in Pittsburgh on February 2 and was welcomed by two CDP sisters who drove her to their provincial center about a half hour away. While in Pittsburgh Sister is translating for the Congregation's Constitution Commission which runs through the 13th. All this work is part of their effort to merge into a single international unit. Before returning to Korea, Sister wanted to make a visit to our Province. She arrived in Cleveland on Saturday February 14 and left from the Cincinnati airport on Friday, February 20. It was a whirlwind visit during which Sister Emma was able to meet sisters she knows from Cleveland, Toledo, and Covington.

CDP

We're delighted to share just a few of the things the Sisters of Divine Providence have been up to lately!

Christmas Assembly

On December 26th and 27th, we gathered for a Christmas Assembly filled with celebration and thoughtful reflection. Sr. Kristin Matthes, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, led an afternoon session



where she encouraged us to consider how each figure in the nativity story used their unique talents in service to both the community and God. She reminded us that we, too, possess special gifts and are called to use them similarly. The assembly included updates on province matters, opportunities for prayer, and meaningful time spent together. Of course, we feasted well too!

Music and Movement at Holy Family

A group of sisters at Holy Family enjoyed some Latin-inspired dancing and music a few days before the Superbowl. Dancing is good for the body, mind, and spirit, and it makes for fun community bonding too!



***Laudato Si'* Communal Reflection**

We continue to pray with Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. Sisters and Associates gathered on Zoom on Valentines Day to reflect on the ways in which God is calling us to care for creation. We remain committed to challenging ourselves to take actions that protect our environment and keep us mindful of what a gift creation is.



Associates of the Congregation of Divine Providence 50th Anniversary

This year marks the 50th anniversary of our Associate Community, which remains dedicated to living the Providence Charism with commitment and zeal! We opened the year with a heartfelt prayer and gathering, and we're



looking forward to the other events that will be sprinkled throughout the year to commemorate this milestone.



Newsletter

CP

Our Passionist Sisters continue to remember our world, Church, and us in their prayer.



MONASTERY
OF THE
SACRED PASSION
ERLANGER, KY



Thank you to our Newsletter contributors: Sister Shauna Bankemper, SND, Sister Leslie Keener, CDP, Becky Motley for OSB, Mother Mary Christina Murray, SJW.