Steadfast in Your Love

Here in Belmont, North Carolina, fall is upon us. The trees are displaying an array of colors that enliven our hearts. At the same time, the days grow shorter and the darkness descends all too soon.

It seems with the spike of coronavirus cases, the resulting illnesses and deaths, the continued semi-lockdowns and the political chaos in our country, it is easy to sink into darkness and not notice the beauty surrounding us, the beauty within and the Light that exists even in the darkness.

And so, we pray, give us eyes to see as You see, oh God. …

And we see nature beautiful in its colors, steadfast, faithful to its rhythm of death and resurrection. We see people doing their best, steadfast, faithful to be Light in a time of deep distress.

We see you, our sisters, associates, coworkers and friends, steadfast, faithful to the Light you know. We see You, oh God, ever steadfast, steadfast with your presence, your unconditional love, mercy and forgiveness.

And, we sing … (Click on the blue words below for “Steadfast” by Craig Courtney)
Sister Mary Laurene Favre died Sunday, October 11, 2020, at McAuley Convent in Barling, Arkansas. A Sister of Mercy for 87 years, she was 104 years old.

Sister Mary Laurene entered the Community in Webster Groves, Missouri. For more than three decades, beginning in 1936, she ministered as a teacher at schools in Fort Smith, Little Rock, El Dorado and Tontitown, Arkansas.

From 1961 to 1963, she supervised the dietary department at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center in St. Louis, Missouri. After returning to Arkansas and to education ministry, she later served in medical records at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Hot Springs. She had lived at McAuley Convent since 1994.

Click on her name to read an extended obituary for Sister Mary Laurene Favre.

Sister Mary Noel Frey died Sunday, October 11, 2020, at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. A Sister of Mercy for 66 years, she was 83 years old.

In 1954, Sister Mary Noel entered the Community in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her early ministry included teaching elementary and secondary education in Toledo at St. Vincent de Paul, St. Catherine and McAuley High School and at St. Mary’s Mansfield in Mansfield, Ohio.

In 1992, she received the Woman of Achievement Merit Award of Recognition and the 1993 Elizabeth Coleman Award for her outstanding ministry to the Lorain community. From 1996 to 2012, she served as chaplain at St. Rita Medical Center in Lima, Ohio.

She later received certification and advanced training in pastoral care and ministered in healthcare services and pastoral care. In 1992, she received the Woman of Achievement Merit Award of Recognition and the 1993 Elizabeth Coleman Award for her outstanding ministry to the Lorain community. From 1996 to 2012, she served as chaplain at St. Rita Medical Center in Lima, Ohio.

Sister Mary Noel loved music throughout her life and was a gifted pianist and organist and taught herself to play the guitar. Since 2012, she had lived at St. Bernardine, where she was a liturgist, an organist and a sacristan.

Click on her name to read an extended obituary for Sister Mary Noel Frey.
Justice update

BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION: THREE ACTIONS
Concern has been raised about both voter fraud and a significant delay in knowing the results of the election after November 3, due to the large number of absentee (mail-in) ballots. First, go online to your State Board of Elections to find out how voting is protected in your state and read the Brennan Center for Justice (click on the blue words below). Voter fraud is very rare. Share this with your relatives and friends. Second, when the results in each state will be known depends on when the processing and counting of absentee ballots can begin. If the state does not allow any absentee ballots to be processed and counted until November 3, then the results will take much longer to be known than if the state allows processing and counting to begin earlier. Processing the ballots means checking to see if the voter is registered, the ballot is properly filled out and more. Click on Ballotpedia in blue (below) to find this information about your state. Third, pray often. Click on Prayer for This Election Season in blue (below) and refer to the Mercy Calendar included in today’s attachments.

Brennan Center for Justice
Ballotpedia
Prayer for This Election Season

FRATELLI TUTTI: ON HUMANITY
Pope Francis issued a new encyclical called Fratelli Tutti, On Fraternity and Social Friendship. This 90-page document could be considered a synthesis of the Pope’s fundamental vision and principles, previously expressed in his speeches, homilies and exhortations. This encyclical is meant for all humanity—especially in the values that should permeate our social and political interactions. He speaks of kindness that involves “speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement” and not “words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn.” Kindness is not just a personal virtue, but something that needs to permeate culture. Because kindness “entails esteem and respect for others, once kindness becomes a culture within society it transforms lifestyles, relationships and the ways ideas are discussed and compared,” he writes. “Kindness facilitates the quest for consensus; it opens new paths where hostility and conflict would burn all bridges.” For a study guide, click on the blue words (below). For an eight-page summary, click on Twelve Themes from Fratelli Tutti in blue (below).

Study Guide
Twelve Themes from Fratelli Tutti

Cast your vote for the common good
Because we are each other’s keepers, we have a responsibility to exercise our right to vote … for the common good of all mankind. In Sister Marilyn Sunderman’s essay, “Intersecting Realities: The Common Good, Jesus’ Ethic, Politics and Catholic Social Teaching,” published by the Mercy International Association on October 11, she examines how the common good, the ethics of Jesus, politics and Catholic social teaching come together to provide a framework of government that exists for the sake of everyone.

Sister touches on the timeless insights of St. John Chrysostom, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Augustine and various popes. This includes Pope Benedict XVI, who reflected that “The more we strive to secure a common good corresponding to the real needs of our neighbors, the more effectively we love them.”

Sister Marilyn also includes this excerpt from Chris Marshall in “A Prophet of God’s Justice”: “Any modern political programming
that marginalizes racial, ethnic or social groups, and which ignores or exacerbates the plight of the weak and downtrodden to promote the interests of the strong is diametrically opposed to the politics of Jesus.”

To read her entire article, click on the blue words below.

The Common Good

Riding out Hurricane Sally near Gulf Shores

by Sister Regina Ann Hatton

For several days in September, the Gulf Coast experienced torrential downpours and some coastal flooding before Hurricane Sally made landfall just before dawn on September 16, 2020, near Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Our Mercy on the Gulf at Lagoon Run #314, where many Sisters of Mercy have spent enjoyable vacation time, was miraculously spared significant damage! The condominium was empty because Hurricane Laura was threatening the Gulf Coast, and people canceled when they heard Hurricane Sally was coming. A number of other units in the 42-condo complex showed signs of water damage from wind, rain and roof leaks, but we did not. The management company hired a construction crew to help clean up, inventory, organize and handle repairs.

Outside, the pier was damaged, and the pool and the parking spaces under Lagoon Run had evidence of high water. Thank God the new elevator was not yet installed. They will hopefully begin the installation process in November.

On Friday, September 25, Sister Marilyn Graf and I—who schedule the vacations and manage the upkeep of the condo—were able to go inside for the first time after the storm. Everything was just as we left it! Our God is an Awesome God, and we are grateful.

Book review

by Sister Victoria Vondenberger

Winter Grace: Spirituality and Aging

by Kathleen R. Fischer

(theologian and counselor)

(Upper Room Books, 1998)

An invitation to age with grace, this book is a burst of hope in a society that overvalues youth. The slowing of our lives allows us to meet people and situations with greater care and attentiveness and invites us to live more intentionally in the present moment. As with Eucharist . . . Do this in remembrance of Me . . . taking time to remember can make God’s love present again with power.
When we are less busy, we have time to choose to open our receptivity to God’s healing of our unfinished stories. Even painful experiences can be gifts. The author reminds us how important touch is, which all of us have realized anew during the necessary distancing due to the 2020 coronavirus crisis. Especially for those suffering from dementia, touch is poignantly healing.

A key idea is “redemptive diminishment,” echoing Teilhard de Chardin’s ideas that the unavoidable emptying of ourselves as we age can make more room for God in us. This wise book says that no length of time is too short for God’s purposes. We are never too old to begin to age well. I am reminded of Catherine McAuley, who founded Mercy in the last 10 years of her life.

More Mercy

You’ll find additional news and information from the Sisters of Mercy in these publications:

- **Mercy eNews**, weekly online newsletter from Mercy International Association
- **Investing in Mercy**, monthly newsletter from Mercy Investment Services
- **Mercy Now**, biweekly newsletter from the Institute
- **MESA Flash**, weekly e-newsletter published by Mercy Education System of the Americas
- **¡Viva! Mercy**, bimonthly magazine published by the Institute

Today’s attachments

- Directory changes for Thursday, October 15, 2020
- Extended obituary for Sister Mary Laurene Favre
- Extended obituary for Sister Mary Noel Frey
- Vote With Mercy Prayer Calendar

Stay connected

Please send Karel Lucander (karellucander@bellsouth.net) your news, photos and captions by **Friday, October 30**, for publication in the next issue of CommunityeNews, which will come out **Thursday, November 5, 2020**. Stay well and keep in touch!
# South Central Directory Updates

**October 15, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAST NAME</th>
<th>FIRST NAME</th>
<th>SECTION</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Blair     | Sr. Christine | Sister | Ministry | Sisters of Mercy  
424 S. Van Buren Ave  
St. Louis, MO 63122-4113  
Title: Discernment & Service in Mercy |
| Kuhlmann  | Sr. Joanne Agnes | Sister | Email    | joannekuhlmann@bellsouth.net |
|           |             |         | Cell     | 704.900.9794 |
|           |             |         | Residence| Sacred Heart Convent  
500 Sacred Heart Circle  
Belmont, NC 28012-7621 |
| Williams  | Sr. Kelly   | Sister | Residence| Sisters of Mercy  
5381 Pine Needle Dr.  
Columbus, GA 31907-1804 |
|           |             |         | Ministry | Sisters of Mercy  
5381 Pine Needle Dr.  
Columbus, GA 31907-1804  
Title: Discernment & Service in Mercy |
| Kendra    | Louise     | Associate | Status | Deceased |

*Email updates to: [ms2support@sistersofmercy.samanage.com](mailto:ms2support@sistersofmercy.samanage.com)*
Will we all meet in heaven?
Oh what joy even to think of it.

Catherine McAuley

Sister Mary Laurene Favre
Religious Sister of Mercy
March 28, 1916 – October 11, 2020

Sister Mary Laurene Favre was born in Conway, Arkansas, the daughter of Leo C. Favre, who was a native of Switzerland, and Josephine Ficker Favre. A Sister of Mercy for 87 years, she entered the Mercy Community in Webster Groves, Missouri, on September 8, 1933.

Starting in 1936, Sister Mary Laurene was an elementary school teacher for 42 years at schools in Fort Smith, Hot Springs, Little Rock, Eldorado, and Tontitown, Arkansas.

In addition, she supervised the dietary department for two years at the Motherhouse in St. Louis, Missouri, and spent 11 years in the Medical Records Department at St. Joseph Hospital in Hot Springs.

After retiring from those ministries, Sister Mary Laurene had lived at Catherine McAuley Convent since 1992.
Her ring motto was “All For Jesus through Mary.”
Father William Elser will celebrate the Funeral Mass for Sister Mary Laurene, who was his fifth-grade teacher, per her request.

**Funeral Mass (private)**: Friday, October 16, 2020, at Catherine McAuley Convent, Barling, Arkansas

**Interment**: Calvary Cemetery, in Fort Smith, Arkansas
Sister Mary Noel Frey
Religious Sister of Mercy
November 28, 1936 – October 11, 2020

Sister Mary Noel Frey, born Imelda Sylvia Frey, was one of 13 children born to Mary Ann Hunkele and Jerome George Frey, Sr., of Kirby, Ohio.

A few months after graduating from Union Building High School in Upper Sandusky, she entered the Sisters of Mercy of Cincinnati in 1954. At her religious reception in 1955, she received the name Sister Mary Noel, and she pronounced her perpetual vows on August 16, 1960.

Sister Mary Noel was a Sister of Mercy for 66 years. Her early ministry included teaching elementary and secondary education at St. Vincent de Paul, St. Catherine and McAuley High School, all in Toledo, as well as at St. Mary’s Mansfield. She earned a bachelor’s degree in history and Latin from Our Lady of Cincinnati College and a master’s degree in religious studies from the University of Dayton. She also received certification and advanced training in pastoral care and was a
professional hospital chaplain for more than 25 years, providing care at a variety of hospitals in northern Ohio, including St. Charles Hospital of Oregon, Lorain Community Hospital and St. Rita’s Medical Center in Lima.

In 1992 she received the Woman of Achievement Merit Award of Recognition and the 1993 Elizabeth Coleman Award for her outstanding ministry to the Lorain community. Then, in 2011, she was further recognized as a Legend of St. Rita’s for her pastoral work at that hospital.

Sister Mary Noel loved music throughout her whole life. A gifted pianist and organist, she taught herself the guitar when it became popular for use in the Catholic Church. Her arrangement of the “Our Father” is still used in parishes and in the Mercy Community. In addition, Sister Mary Noel served as director of music at St. Paul in Chains of Huron, Ohio, and as chair of the Music Committee of the Toledo Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

Sister Mary Noel retired in 2012 to St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio, where she continued to enjoy an active life and remained eager to share her gifts as a liturgist, organist and sacristan. She also loved nature, especially flowers. She took daily walks through the Our Lady of the Pines grounds, seeking new blossoms and then using them to create beautiful bouquets to decorate St. Bernardine chapel for each liturgical season.

**Funeral Mass (private service):** October 16, 2020, at St. Bernardine Home, Fremont, Ohio

**Interment:** Our Lady of the Pines Cemetery, Fremont
Daily Prayers leading up to Election Day 2020

*In the lead up to the election, we as members of the Mercy family approach our voting by taking the time to educate ourselves, engage in conversations and to prayer.*

Each day, in addition to those who are casting the votes and running for office, we ask you to bring into your heart and spirit, those who are most impacted by the different issues that are part of our Mercy’s Critical Concerns: Anti-Racism, Earth, Immigration, Nonviolence and Women as well as the act of voting in this year. We acknowledge the intersection of many of these issues and share our gratitude for how your prayer like over these weeks will help the collective spirit of the nation.

<p>| Oct 5  | As we enter into what is likely to be an extended election season, pray for <strong>civil discourse among candidates and the electorate.</strong> |
| Oct 6  | Be attentive to the <strong>cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor</strong> as you study candidates’ positions. |
| Oct 7  | Pray that elected leaders will <strong>embrace diplomacy rather than military action</strong> to resolve conflict. The State Department budget ($41 billion) is less than six percent of the Department of Defense budget ($712 billion). |
| Oct 8  | Pray that white Americans lay aside their white privilege and take action to recognize and <strong>reject the systemic racism</strong> that continues to plague the United States four hundred years after the first enslaved Africans were brought to what is now the U.S. |
| Oct 9  | Pray for <strong>women</strong> who must consider the demands of caregiving when making plans to cast their ballots. |
| Oct 10 | Pray for <strong>voters</strong> who have to take into consideration wildfires, extreme storms, pollution alerts and other impacts of climate change and the extraction of fossil fuels as they make plans to cast their ballots. |
| Oct 11 | Pray for the <strong>children and parents, separated by U.S. immigration policy</strong>, who have not yet been reunited. |
| Oct 12 | Pray that city, county and state officials will recognize that <strong>civilian law enforcement is not military action</strong> and will not seek or accept military grade weapons and other equipment for use in local law enforcement. |
| Oct 13 | Court actions in recent years have seriously weakened the 1965 Voting Rights Act leading to use of a variety of tactics to suppress the franchise in communities of color. Be alert and pray those whose <strong>voices are being suppressed</strong> by the tactics in your area—such as loss and/or relocation of polling places, long lines at the polls, intimidation of voters, and report to local election officials. |
| Oct 14 | Pray for the <strong>health and safety of people working at the polls</strong> during early voting and on Election Day. |
| Oct 15 | Reflect on these words of Pope Francis: “<strong>Healthy politics calls for greater involvement and inclusion</strong> of all leaving no one in the margins and such politics does not plunder and pollute natural resources that are not a bottomless pit but a treasure given us by God to be used with respect and intelligence.” – Pope Francis, visit to Cesena, Italy, 2017 |
| Oct 16 | Remember all the <strong>immigrants held in detention</strong> who face increased risk of exposure to the coronavirus due to crowding and frequent transfer between detention facilities. |
| Oct 17 | Pray that elected leaders will <strong>shift money from the Department of Defense budget</strong> to programs addressing critical human needs, both domestic and global. The coronavirus pandemic has clearly demonstrated that the most serious threats to our security cannot be remedied by military action. |
| Oct 18 | People of color are overrepresented in the U.S. criminal justice system. Pray that elected leaders including judges will <strong>acknowledge the racial biases</strong> that riddle our legal system and take swift action to assure equal justice for all. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Prayer Request</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>On this centenary of women winning the right to vote, pray in <strong>gratitude for all the women</strong> who marched, wrote petitions, endured hunger strikes and made other sacrifices so that their descendants could participate in the electoral process.</td>
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<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>asylum-seekers</strong> whom the Migrant Protection Protocols are forcing to wait in dangerous Mexican border towns for court dates that could be months or even years away.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>Pray that our elected leaders will acknowledge <strong>U.S. complicity</strong> in creating conditions that force people to flee their home countries and move U.S. foreign policy in a new direction.</td>
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<td>Oct 22</td>
<td>Seventy-five years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear weapons remain a threat. Pray that elected leaders will <strong>abandon efforts to modernize the U.S. nuclear arsenal</strong> and reengage the U.S. in international nuclear arms control treaties that the current administration has abrogated.</td>
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<td>Oct 23</td>
<td>Reflect on these words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “We will have to repent in this generation <strong>not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people.</strong>” (Letter from a Birmingham Jail, 1963)</td>
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<td>Oct 24</td>
<td>Join the U.S. bishops in pledging to “<strong>root my political viewpoints in the Gospel and a well formed conscience</strong>, which involves prayer, conversation, study and listening.”</td>
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<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>Pray with and share with others the <strong>U.S. bishops’ postcard</strong> that calls us to <strong>protect life, preserve that which sustains life and care for Our Common Home.</strong></td>
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<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>Pray for a <strong>change of heart</strong> so that U.S. citizens come to recognize immigrants as sisters and brothers eager to use their gifts in service to their communities.</td>
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<td>Oct 27</td>
<td>Easy access to firearms including military-grade weapons has led to the United States having the highest level of gun violence in the industrialized world. Pray that elected leaders will <strong>frame gun violence as a public health issue</strong> and enact policies that address root causes of this ongoing crisis in the U.S.</td>
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<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>The Coronavirus pandemic has highlighted <strong>disparities in access</strong> to health care, housing, employment and nutritious food which have made communities of color more vulnerable to serious illness and death from COVID-19. Pray that elected officials will prioritize these areas and formulate concrete plans to overcome these historic gaps.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 29</td>
<td>Pray for all the <strong>young women who are finding their voice</strong> this election season and voting for the first time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 30</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>voters who are still discerning</strong> how they will vote, that they will consider how their choices will impact our Critical Concerns – Anti-racism, Earth, Immigration, Nonviolence and Women.</td>
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<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>Reflect on the words of civil rights icon John Lewis, in a 2012 speech in Charlotte, N.C.: “My dear friends: Your vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the <strong>most powerful nonviolent tool</strong> we have to create a more perfect union.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Reflect on the words of Pope Francis: &quot;We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: <strong>good Catholics immerse themselves in politics</strong> by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern.&quot; - Pope Francis, 9/16/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>Pray for <strong>patience for the American people</strong> in the likelihood that we need to wait days or even weeks for official election results.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 3</td>
<td>ON this Election Day, pray for those going to the <strong>polls today</strong>, that they will be guided by the Spirit, for poll workers who may be under great stress and for those who may be tempted to engage in violence, that they might find peace in their hearts.</td>
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