

# VOICE

## from Campbellsport

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*View of the sunset from the seventh floor window  
St. Joseph Convent –Campbellsport*

## **January Retreat**

The new year offered the Sisters at St. Joseph Convent another opportunity for renewal. From January 10-15, Sister Jolynn Brehm, FSPA, conducted a preached retreat based on the "Life Giving Questions of Jesus." The predominant theme was "Allow Jesus to answer the question of who you are". Sister urged the retreatants to let the name JESUS be dominant in their lives.

Father Byron Haaland, CSA, Sister Mary Anne Albert, SSSF and Sister Sharon Roedl, SSND were available for those Sisters who preferred directed retreat and Sister Jolylnn Brehm, FSPA could be seen for individual consultations.

*Sister Marie Gross*



**S. Jesse Marie Mortimer was the MC for the event. At right: Sisters Maggie Puhek, Bernadette Kelter and Mary Ann Tauber perform.**

## **Farwell to 2009**

Hollywood's Golden Globe Awards event paled in contrast to the St. Joseph Convent end-of-the-year variety show. Twenty-six Sisters shared their talent to help bid 2009 farewell. Soloists and/or groups enter-



tained the audience on a variety of instruments—piano, violin, harmonica, and flageolet (a flute-like instrument). Dramatic recitations, group plays, and magic tricks brought the program to a close as everyone sang "Auld Lang Syne"

*Sister Marie Gross*

## Squirrels



**Above: The squirrel nest this fall, photographed from S. Ethel Grace Wayerski's 4th floor bedroom window (St. Joseph Statue at the front entrance can be seen in background).**

**Right: the same nest this winter, taken from a 2nd floor window.**

When our elm trees became diseased and had to be cut down, the squirrel population here at SJC-C lost their homes. They now had to be creative and relocate their homes before the winter came.

Two very ingenious squirrels found a perfect location for their new residence— a tree in the front southeast corner of our convent building. It didn't take long before this unusual residence was noticed by the Sisters when they looked out their windows. They took delight in watching the squirrels scurry in and out of their nest (a rather large one, too), chase each other up and down the tree limbs and fight as to who would be the first to enter the nest. Often they saw just the tail of the squirrel—indicating a confrontation for space with the squirrel already inside the nest.

One time I saw one squirrel being toppled over on a tree limb by the other squirrel so that he (she) could be the first to enter. After awhile, they "settled down" and enjoyed their new home.

However, Mother Nature had other plans. The weather turned on our new residents. When we had several days of very cold, windy and rainy weather,

half of their nest was blown down to some lower branches. They lost half of their home. We did not see the squirrels for four or five days. I thought that they had abandoned their nest. I was saddened by this because I was looking forward to seeing baby squirrels in the spring. But one day I looked out my window and I saw the squirrels! They came back to repair the damage Mother Nature had done. I saw them carry one leaf after another back to where they belonged, and soon their home was habitable again. I was amazed at their tenacity to rebuild. Now it seemed as if they were settled for the rest of the winter.

But last week (mid-January) they were nowhere to be seen. Then

one day I looked out my window, hoping to get a glimpse of a tail or a head. I was amazed at what I saw: there was a squirrel climbing up the edge of the building to a projecting ledge!



I think they found a more secure and protected place on the top of the ledge—away from all the wind. Again I am amazed at their ingenuity and "smarts"!

Even though, to this day (January 14), I have not seen my two squirrel friends, I am hoping they are safe and will show us their baby squirrels in the springtime.

*Sister Ethel Grace Wayerski*



## The Wizard of Oz



On December 28 we (the Sisters and invited public) had a visit from historian, author and Emmy Award winner, John Fricke, who discussed his early years as a Wizard of Oz and

Judy Garland fan. He was first introduced to both when he saw the film in its television debut in 1956. He was five years old at the time, and watched it while visiting relatives in Peshtigo in northeastern Wisconsin.

He was encouraged in his enthusiasm by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fricke, who were then public school teachers in Milwaukee. They (and other relatives) bought him the entire series of 40 Oz books as Christmas, birthday, and Easter presents. He also received Judy Garland's recordings and was able to see many of her films on television as well. As a teenager, he traveled twice to Chicago to see her in concert and briefly met her when he was 16.

All of this led to his researching these topics for his own pleasure. Over the last 21 years, he has published five books. Three of these are about the greater Oz legend. As the focal point of his lecture, he shared 80 different slides that gave the background story of the making of The Wizard of Oz movie back in 1939. The audience saw costume and make-up ideas that were tested and abandoned; photographs of moments that were filmed but cut out of Oz; and many behind-the-scenes glimpses of the cast and staff at work.



After the slide presentation, Mr. Fricke took questions from the audience. Sister Mary Blanche Mara (100 years young) reminisced about visiting "The Land of Oz Theme Park" in North Carolina in the 1970s.

## Hearts and Roses, Cupids and Love Birds *Origins of St. Valentine's Day*



There are almost as many versions of St. Valentine's Day as there are Valentine cards and the love symbols on them! Well, maybe not quite that many. We do know that there were three St. Valentines, and it is said that all were martyred on February 14.

The Valentine about whom we know the most was a bishop at the time Claudius II was emperor of Rome, about 270 AD. The empire had become so large that a large military force was needed to maintain control. Claudius believed married men could not be good soldiers, so he issued an edict forbidding young men to marry. Bishop Valentine secretly performed many marriages, and was eventually discovered, arrested and executed for doing so.

Another account has it that in 496 AD Pope Gelasius turned a pagan Roman Fertility event (Lupercalia), formerly celebrated on February 15, into a Christian feast honoring St. Valentine, celebrated on February 14. Thus, Valentine became the patron saint to lovers.

Some believe that Valentine's feast became associated specifically with romance and courtship as a result of Chaucer's tale of love birds selecting their mates, titled *Parlement of Foules*

(the Parliament of Fowls, 1382)

*(For this was on seynt Volantynys day Whan euery bryd comyth there to chese his make.)*

One of the earliest Valentine greetings, preserved in the British Museum, was sent in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was in prison in the Tower of London.

*Sister Connie Halbur*

## Gracias, Merci, Thank you



No matter how we say it—it is truly heartfelt. Thank you to all the generous donors for making the holiday season extra special for the Sisters. We received so many items this Christmas Season: health and beauty products, personal needs, candy, books, snacks etc. We found the best way to distribute these items is to set up a “store”. Sisters could come and shop for whatever they wished.

*Thanks again, — the Personal Services Department*

## Hmong Dancers

There were 5 little girls, ages 14, 12, 11, 8 and 6, introduced by their petite teacher. They came from the nearby city of Fond du Lac, where 73 Hmong families live. The families emigrated from Laos in 1976.



These elegantly dressed children demonstrated the clothing and dance of their people which varies slightly, depending on where in the Orient they come from. They fascinated us as we watched their delicate wrist and finger “flippings” and fast foot and hip movements—even the kindergarten child!

Not only were their dresses and hats elaborate and rich, with gold thread, beads and coins, they were heavy and strong! As fascinating this demonstration of Hmong culture was, it was even surpassed by the talented and sweet charm of these 5 children.

*Sister Doris Polt*

## Those Windmills Out There



From our 5th floor windows and an occasional trip to Fond du Lac “those windmills out there” have piqued our curiosity increasingly in the past couple years. On November 24, fifteen of us had the opportunity to receive first hand knowledge of this new energy source when we visited Cedar Ridge Wind Farm. We learned the answers to many of our questions as we viewed a power point presentation given by Rick Lovensuski. We saw how deep the concrete footing is for each turbine, and the thickness of the insulation for the cables that conduct the electricity. We were impressed not only with the careful construction by Alliant Energy, but also with Rick’s understanding of the history and larger picture of the generations of energy. His factual presentation dispelled many of the myths and fears that we have heard.

We went outdoors to listen for “the noise” of the turbine a few yards away. But the passing cars on the highway outdid the turbine! We learned, too, that the farmer could continue to plant and harvest his land with minimal loss, and an additional income from the power company.

The control room was even more fascinating. The operation of all 41 turbines is tracked on two computer screens. If a turbine needs a grease job or other repair, the computer indicates which turbine and the type of attention needed.

The garage housed not only the trucks, but space for parts and other supplies. We were also made aware of their tight security and their preparedness for an emergency.

We are grateful for the ingenious people who have learned how to harness the wind, and we hope that Wisconsin will be open to much more of this clean energy. The Cedar Ridge Wind Farm is located on Hwy 45 just east of Eden, Wisconsin and is available for public tours, call 920-477-5051.

*Sister Therese Merrick*

## The Value of a Catholic Education (Catholic Schools Week– Jan. 31–Feb. 6)



**Sisters Jesse Marie Mortimer, Doris Polt, “B” Volpp and Rose Marie Peters formed a panel during Catholic Schools week. They responded to questions presented by visiting students from St. Mary’s School, Mayville, WI, regarding religious life.**

Catholic schools are known for the well-rounded education their students receive. Care is given to provide social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development, resulting in wholesome young people.

The atmosphere of their school is such that students feel safe and content, often considering their relationship with peers and staff as comparable to a family; and their school as a “second home”. As

they are encouraged to express themselves, develop their talents, and support and appreciate each other’s efforts, their self-confidence is developed.



**Sister Emmalin Recker (103 yrs old) colors with a student during Catholic Schools Week.**

This learning experience is not limited to their school family. Rather the need to care for others as an extended family is included in much of what they learn. Activities are planned to be inclusive of and helpful to the local community, and beyond, to needy people throughout the world.

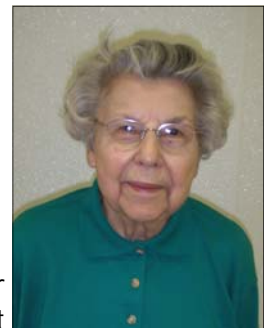
It is the spiritual foundation on which Catholic schools are built that makes possible the attainment of such ideals. In Catholic schools, Children:

- ...pray daily;
- ...learn to know a loving, caring God who provides for us;
- ...learn that every person is a loved and respected child of God
- ...learn to recognize and appreciate all nature as God’s gift to us.

Hence the Catholic school daily helps the student develop into whole Christian individuals, equipped to better their God’s world.

*Sister Helen Pisors*

## Welcome Sister Theresa Lambrecht



Born in Sequin, Texas, Sister Theresa Lambrecht was taught by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word in St. Joseph School. After high school, she went to Daughton Business College in San Antonio. There she met the SSSF through a priest friend who had two of his magazines printed at our Seraphic Press in Milwaukee. After finishing college she did



## Remember When...



### **Family of S. Lucy Windolph, SSSF**

S. Lucy was the second youngest of 11 living children (5 boys and 6 girls)—all entered and remained in religious life except S. Monica. The sons all joined the same order of Franciscans. Five of the six daughters entered different orders of Franciscans and one entered the Carmelites. This picture was taken with their mother Agnes, circa June 1955 when they were all home to attend their father's funeral.

They are top left to right: (baptismal names are in parenthesis)

S. M. Luke (Lucy), S. M. Rita (Rita), S. Oscaria (Catherine), Agnes Windolph, Father Nestor (Bernard), S. Agneda (Adelaide), S. Bernard (Norberta), S. Monica (Dorothy Therese) - Carmelite

Bottom left to right: Father Job (Joseph), Twins— Father Michael (Frank) and Father Raphael (Phillip), Father Agatho (George).

All are deceased except S. Lucy who resides at SJC— Campbellsport, Father Nestor in Brazil and Dorothy Therese in the Milwaukee area.



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