

FRANCIS HOUSE



NEWS

FALL 2012

Resident Spotlight: Sister Eloise Emm

Francis House would never have existed without Sister Eloise Emm. She was General Superior of the Sisters of St. Francis when Sister Kathleen Osbelt approached her with the idea of providing a home and family for people in the last stages of terminal illness.

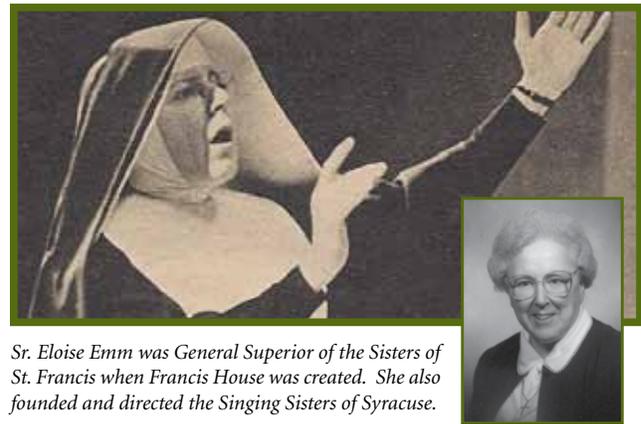
It was a leap of faith for the Sisters to create a unique home, but in the spirit of Mother Marianne Cope, Sister Eloise and Sister Kathleen knew it was something they were called to do.

“Sister Eloise not only supported this idea philosophically, she blessed the project by giving me time off from my regular duties so that I could raise the funds to make Project Home a reality,” says Sister Kathleen. Sister Eloise continued that support by helping to gather community leaders for the initial meeting to discuss “Project Home.” She was a constant advocate and signed every letter of thanks to all those who contributed to the project.

Sister Eloise was a visionary leader. It was during her tenure as General Superior that the current model of shared governance, comprised of the General Minister and a Council of six Sisters elected by the community, was initiated. This was the first time that Sisters were chosen to serve the Franciscan Community exclusively through leadership.

Sister Eloise faced a number of challenges during her time in leadership. The difficult decision to close both the Franciscan Academy and Maria Regina College was made. However, new services took their place, serving the needs of the poor, the frail elderly, the sick and the immigrant population through the Pen and Pages tutorial program, St. Francis Adult Day Care, St. Francis Hospital West in Hawaii, the renovation of Wilson Hall, now the Jolenta Convent and, of course, the opening of Francis House.

There was a very creative side to Sister Eloise as well. Sister loved music. She founded and directed the “Singing Sisters



Sr. Eloise Emm was General Superior of the Sisters of St. Francis when Francis House was created. She also founded and directed the Singing Sisters of Syracuse.

of Syracuse.” This unique group was comprised of approximately 80 sisters. They traveled in CNY giving open concerts, mostly for schools. They even recorded an album. An article from the Geneva Times in 1966, boasts the headline, “Swinging Sisters Score.” It goes on to say “Some of the sweetest vocalizing heard in months resounded throughout Geneva Theatre last night as the “Singing Sisters of Syracuse” entertained before a packed house.” The article mentions many of the titles sung by the Sisters but in particular a dedication to the Director of the Geneva School of Practical Nursing and to all the doctors and nurses at Geneva General Hospital. The title – “Spoonful of Sugar” from the musical Mary Poppins.

“Speaking with Sister Eloise on the day of her arrival at Francis House was a genuine privilege,” says Nancy Light, Executive Director. “Sister knew that she was experiencing first hand what she had sanctioned 23 years ago. Project Home had come full circle.”

“Project Home is a very important ministry which is in keeping with the mission of the Sisters, to care for those who are dying.”

– Sr. Eloise Emm

FRANCIS HOUSE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Genevieve Saya, Chair
Stephen Block
Sister Jane Bourne, OSF
James Connors
Dennis DePerro
Maureen Drescher
Susan Duerr
Ronald Himberg
Matt Lumia
Joseph Mancuso
Deborah Moore
William McAvoy
Mark Murphy
Patrick Murphy
Kirk Narburgh
Sister Kathleen Osbelt, Emeritus
Benjamin Sio, Ex-Officio
Nancy Light, Executive Director

AUXILIARY OF FRANCIS HOUSE DIRECTORS

Nancy Skahen, President
Kathleen Cahill
Caroline Calimlim
Katherine Considine
Christine Connors
Marge Daily
Nancy Detor
Holly Dowd
Barbara Doyle
Dawn Falge
Debbie Greiner
Maureen Hartnett
Beth Hertel
Mary Kennedy
Cindy Koolakian
Roxanne Kopecky
Mary Jane Lowery
Nancy Marsden
Janice McCarthy
Helene Miglierina
Kim Narburgh
Carol Pietraszek
Louise Sessa

ADVISORS

Sister Kathleen Osbelt
Beth Lynn Hoey
Nancy Light

NEWS FROM OUR HOUSE

is published three times a year by Francis House. The newsletter is distributed free to friends of Francis House. For more information, comments or address changes contact:

Francis House
108 Michaels Ave
Syracuse, NY 13208-1718
(315) 475-5422
E-mail: info@francishouseny.org



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Do remember when you were a child, or even now as an adult, lying on the grass or sitting on the porch and watching the clouds? Did you ever play the game where you studied the clouds and tried to identify as many different shapes and forms that you could find? "There's an elephant – see the trunk and the big, floppy ears. Look at that, a dog chasing a ball. Do you see the cat, his back arched high, paws in front, taking a big stretch." For every person who looks at the same cloud, there is a different image. What we see is colored and influenced by our history, memory, belief and life experience. And no matter how common the experience or memory, there is something in each one of us that influences our perception of it.

As we go through life we're a little like the clouds. Full and robust at one time, thin and frail at another. Life is a series of peaks and valleys, good times and times we wish we could change or control. And, how others view us during these times in our life is influenced by where they are in their own journey.

Francis House is a place where clouds of all sorts come together—and in the coming together are made one. The volunteers

and staff who are full and robust bolster the residents, now physically thin and frail. Members

of our family facing emotional or spiritual challenges encounter others who uplift and support them, sharing in their distress and being present to them in their need. Near or far, it matters not. The ties that bind the people of this ministry are strong. They hold us all together with the knowledge that no matter how we as individuals see ourselves or how others see us, God sees us all as very grand. We are unique, beautiful and very special in God's sight.

Take time to look at the clouds and as you do let your imagination go. See all the variations you can see and then stop and give thanks for the one cloud, for that one special creation, that is you.

In peace and gratitude,

Nancy Light, Executive Director



Auxillary Tea Tremendous Success



The annual Auxiliary Silver Tea was a tremendous success, welcoming over 200 Francis House supporters. We thank Brian and Linda Osborne for opening their beautiful Cazenovia home for the Tea. Pictured from left to right: Kathleen Cahill, Silver Tea Co-Chair, Nancy Skahen, Auxiliary President, Cindy Koolakian, Silver Tea Co-Chair, Nancy Light, Francis House Executive Director and Silver Tea Host Linda Osborne.

Welcome New Board Members

Francis House welcomes three new members of the Board of Directors: Stephen Block, Mark Murphy and Patrick Murphy.

Stephen Block is the Assistant Dean for Administration and Adjunct Professor at Syracuse University's School of Information Studies. His volunteer service includes Council Member at Franciscan Church of the Assumption and Vice Chair of the Board of Regents at LeMoyne College. Steve has volunteered for many years at Francis House events, helping the last eight years at There's No Place Like Home. Steve is also volunteering his time to help create a new IT plan for Francis House.



Stephen Block



Mark Murphy

Mark Murphy is Vice President for Care Management and Ambulatory Services at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center. Mark's career in healthcare includes working as a nurse, nurse practitioner and administration for home care services. He has also authored several articles for nursing periodicals. Mark has served on many non-profit

boards including Liverpool Little League and chairing the Rosewood Heights Board of Directors. Mark has been a long-time supporter of Francis House, participating in our event every year.

Patrick Murphy is Sales Representative for Murphy and Nolan, Inc. in Syracuse. After graduating from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Patrick worked in the healthcare marketing field in New Jersey. In 2005, Patrick returned to Syracuse and joined the company founded by his grandfather. Patrick volunteers for several organizations in Syracuse. He first volunteered at Francis House doing yard work for his community service project in high school. He has been a strong supporter of our ministry ever since that day, including being a member of the event underwriting committee.



Patrick Murphy

We are grateful for the commitment Steve, Mark and Patrick have made to our ministry. Thank you for giving your time and talent to Francis House.

Save the Date

October 10th 5:30 pm -8:30 pm

There's No Place Like Home
Horticulture Building, NYS Fairgrounds

December 4th • 7:00 pm

Memorial Mass & Gazebo Lighting
Forms for dedicating a light for Gazebo Lighting will be sent in October.
St. Anthony Motherhouse Chapel, 2500 Grant Blvd.

November 23rd - December 24th

Auxiliary Pin Sales
at Destiny USA

The Vessel Called Francis House

My Mom was invited to Francis House at the hospital. We had heard whispers that she might go there, before we knew she wanted to go there.

Francis House is like a kind, roomy vessel, that prepares each resident for take off. You can buckle your seatbelt in this vessel, or not. You can tell your loved ones important information. Instead of oxygen masks in this vessel, prayers are provided to all that enter. Family members can board, but only residents take off.

No flight attendants, but wonderful caregivers, as close as the breath on your face, who leave you to your privacy, until called to help.

Every resident has an aisle seat and a window seat with attention to comfort in a recliner or a bed. The emphasis in this special vessel is on personal comfort.

This vessel has a pilot like no other--all knowing, all seeing, all feeling. He can navigate all earthly storms and finds heaven every time.

Take off is at different times to reach resident according to their body's needs and ability to let go of earthly pleasures.

Residents feel, as my Mom verbalized, "as if they are in the palm of God's hand."

Residents are transported to land beyond where ills are healed. They are embraced by loved ones who have passed before. They can walk, talk and feel again.

Residents enjoy nourishment on this vessel of a special kind, made with love by volunteers and blessed by God himself.

If you ever are offered the special ticket, rejoice with your family. You will never have a more spiritual experience.

By Janine Sandy,

daughter of former resident Shirley A. Tyminski

Volunteer Spotlight:

Don McCall

Between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. most people are heading home from a busy day to have dinner and relax. There are a special group of people that instead of heading home, come to Francis House to prepare and serve dinner to our residents. One of those special people is Francis House volunteer Don McCall.

Although Don is retired, he is rarely sitting still. He enjoys golfing regularly with a group of close friends. He also enjoys skiing. An avid sports fan, Don has visited several sports training camps including the Jets camp in Cortland and baseball Spring training camps in Florida.

Since retiring from the banking business, Don has volunteered his time for various organizations. He was a volunteer driver for many years for the Laker Limo and FISH organizations in his hometown of Skaneateles. He would drive people who couldn't drive or didn't have cars of their own to doctors appointments, shopping and other errands. Don also volunteers washing pots and pans at the Samaritan Center in downtown Syracuse and as President of his condo association.

Two years ago, Don saw an announcement for volunteers needed for Francis House in his church bulletin. It wasn't long before he was at Francis House talking with Volunteer Coordinator Rea Carver. "We are lucky to have Don as part of our family," says Rea. "It is sometimes difficult to have our 4 to 7 volunteer shift covered. Don is so dependable and always upbeat and positive about coming in. He is such a giving person to so many."

Don is grateful to give back to his community. Born and raised in Syracuse, Don graduated in the third class at LeMoyne College. "Those were the days you wore a jacket and tie to school," recalls Don. He served in the Army, stationed for a year in France during the Korean War.



Volunteer Don McCall with Becky Shaver, Francis House caregiver.

Don raised his family in Skaneateles, and continues to live there today. Don is a widower and has three children. His daughter Suzanne also lives in Skaneateles. His oldest son Timothy lives in the Syracuse area. Don travels at least once a year to spend time with his son Thomas who lives in California.

Don says he is happy to be part of the Francis House family and work side by side with staff members. "They are outstanding," says Don. "These houses are run so well and the caregivers are so loving to our residents."

Don says it is the little things that make residents feel comfortable. He remembers one resident who wanted a Hoffman hot dog. "We didn't have any in the house, so I ran out and got hot dogs and non-alcoholic beer. It made his day. I'll never forget it." Don says he is usually the helper for the other volunteer who cooks dinner. "Although I've perfected the grilled cheese sandwich!"

Don says everyone should consider volunteering. "Come to Francis House and see it for yourself. It's a special place."

Thank you Don for all you do for Francis House!

**Make a difference in someone's life—become part of our family.
Call Rea Carver, Volunteer Coordinator at 475-5422**

Donor Spotlight: Jim Prioletti, Ameriprise



Jim Prioletti, certified financial planner at Ameriprise, visits with Adrienne Kelley, Francis House Special Events and Development Coordinator, at Francis House. Jim is one of the lead sponsors of this year's *There's No Place Like Home*.

In his two years of involvement in Francis House, Jim Prioletti, certified financial planner at Ameriprise Financial Services, has been generous in his support. This will be the second year Jim will be a major sponsor for *There's No Place Like Home*.

"I knew of Francis House," explains Jim, "but I didn't truly understand it until I visited. When I walked in the house for the first time, I was impacted by the atmosphere of comfort. It is a positive, upbeat place. You feel like you are in someone's home."

Jim says the often unspoken part of the mission of Francis House is its support for families. He recalls his own father's last days spent in a hospital. "It was a wonderful facility, and the focus was on my father as it should be. But we, the family, didn't receive support. At Francis House the whole family is supported and everyone feels welcomed and loved."

Jim is especially proud of his involvement in *There's No Place*

Like Home. "I've been to a lot of events in town, and this is the most comfortable, most enjoyable event around," says Jim. He feels that it appeals to everybody and is affordable.

Adrienne Kelley, Special Events and Development Coordinator, is grateful for the support Jim provides both through his company and personally. "Jim inspires others with his giving," says Adrienne, "he understands what philanthropy is all about. He gives from the heart, both financially and volunteering his time, and understands the impact every person can make."

Jim is grateful he has the ability to give to Francis House and other organizations in our community. "Whatever you have, you can give something," adds Jim. "We are not here by ourselves and we need to help each other. I want my children to know the wonderful things that can happen if we care and support each other."

Co-Chairs Kirk and Kim Narburgh
and the family of Francis House invite you
to join us as we celebrate 21 years!



*There's
like ^{no place}
home*

MAJOR SPONSORS

James F. Prioletti, CFP®, ChFC®
Certified Financial Planner®



Teri & Ed Perry

EVENT SPONSORS

Anaren

Michael & Noreen Falcone

Dr. Michael and Dr. Colleen O'Leary

MONEY SPONSOR

M&T Bank

GRAPHICS & PRINTING SPONSORS

Automated Graphics Inc.

Bentley-Hall Inc.

Plan and Print Systems

Print Solutions Plus, Inc.

Tickets can be
purchased at
the door



For more information, contact Adrienne Kelley,
475-5422 or akelley@francishouse.org.

The Caring Fund

in honor of
Sister Kathleen
Osbelt

We have reached
\$1.4 million in
support for The
Caring Fund. We
need your help to
reach our goal of
\$2 million.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, donors, friends and family members who have given your support to our campaign to establish an endowment for Francis House. To date, over \$1.4 million has been raised towards our goal of \$2 million. We hope to reach our goal by the end of the year.

Francis House was created and has grown because of the supportive community that surrounds us. We have been inspired by the members of our Francis House family who have come forward and given sacrificially to ensure this campaign is successful.

Teri and Ed Perry have generously supported Francis House for the past six years, including being major sponsors of There's No Place Like Home. When asked why they support the work of Francis House, they replied, "This home represents a "gateway to heaven" for a person in his or her final stage of life to live in dignity with honest, caring and loving people. We are proud to show our support to a humble organization with open arms of love and true heart."

Like many other supporters of Francis House, Teri and Ed eagerly supported the campaign for The Caring Fund. Says Ed, "the name 'Caring' says it all. It is the foundation for the future of Francis House and if you care, as we do, about this 'place of grace,' care enough to give them all the support you can."

For more information on The Caring Fund, go to www.francishouseny.org or contact Beth Lynn Hoey, Director of Development at 475-5422.



Teri and Ed Perry support
The Caring Fund



LEAVE A LEGACY®

We ask you to consider leaving your legacy to support our ministry at Francis House. By naming The Caring Fund of Francis House in your will or other planned giving vehicles, you will be impacting the lives of our residents and family members for many years to come.

The most popular legacy gift, or planned gift, is a bequest in your will. You can make a gift of a specific dollar amount or percentage of your assets after all designations and expenses are paid. There are other giving vehicles that provide income for you or a loved one while you are alive. There are also giving vehicles that provide for your loved ones first and give a remainder of your assets to your favorite charity.

As with any financial decision, you should contact your accountant or financial advisor to discover what type of gift is best for you.

Thank You...

-  ...Anaren employees for spending their Community Day installing bricks in the Walkway of Blessings and washing windows in all of the houses
-  ...Pier 57 in Liverpool for the huge donation of wish list items for our pantry.
-  ...Jean Moth for making reminder phone calls to our volunteers.
-  ...Employees of Hancock & Estabrook for choosing Francis House as their Charity of the Month for September
-  ...Jesuit Novices for volunteering every Friday evening.
-  ...Holy Family Seniors for their gift and donations to the pantry
-  ...Don Geisser for coordinating the annual Maureen Geisser Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit Francis House.
-  ...Louis J. Viviani for holding his own golf marathon. Louis challenged himself to golf as many consecutive holes of golf as possible. He asked friends and family to sponsor him per hole and donate to their favorite charity. On August 13th, Louis completed 100 holes! He raised over \$6,500 for local charities, including \$245 for Francis House!



In May, Indi Shelby was recognized for her service as a board member. We are grateful to Indi for her many years of support and her dedication to our ministry. Indi is pictured with Francis House Executive Director Nancy Light.

Nancy Light, Francis House Executive Director, accepts a check from the Camillus Elks Lodge #2367 Auxiliary. Pictured are Norma Dauenhauer, Liz Lozpone and Leni Loftus



Founders Corner

What Makes A Saint?

On October 21st, the canonization of Marianne Cope will take place at the Vatican. Please pray for our many friends and family that will be traveling to Italy to be witness to this amazing moment in the history of the Sisters of St. Francis.



What makes a saint? There have been many answers to that question over time, but if we consider that a saint is someone who is close to God, and God is Love, then we can be sure that a saintly person is one who has great love for all one's brothers and sisters, for all creatures.

We know that Marianne Cope deserves the title "Beloved Mother of Outcasts" because she had great love for those shunned by society. When on the leadership Council for the Sisters of St. Francis, she made sure that the incorporation charters of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Utica and St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse declared that the hospitals were open to the sick without distinction to a person's nationality, religion or color. As the Administrator of St. Joseph's Hospital, she insisted that the physicians treated those suffering from alcohol addiction, prostitutes, unwed mothers and those with terminal illnesses. At that time, those people were shunned by society.

In accepting the mission to care for those with leprosy (Hansen's disease) in Hawaii, she took on a ministry that no other group of sisters or nurses would. It was a ministry which would isolate the sisters as much as it did the patients. Not only were these patients cared for, they were accepted and loved unconditionally. Marianne Cope and the Sisters of St. Francis made their lives as dignified as possible, advocating for better living conditions, planting trees, fruits and vegetables on an otherwise barren peninsula; teaching sewing, crafts, music, games, poetry, prayer, and holding classes.

The values of acceptance and unconditional love were the foundation of the creation of Francis House. We are blessed by all of you who participate in our ministry. Whether you provide hands-on help at the house or give financial assistance, you are part of our Francis House family. As I attend the canonization, I will offer a special prayer for all of you who make this ministry possible.



WISH LIST

Grocery store gift cards
Postage stamps

FOOD

Applesauce snack cups
Bisquick
Broth: chicken, beef, vegetable
Brownie, cake & cookie mix
Cereal: Cream of Wheat, rice crispies, corn flakes
Chocolate chips
Coffee: regular & decaf
Cooking oils: olive & vegetable
Cooking spray
Crackers: Ritz, club, saltine
Creamora: plain and flavored
Dessert mix (no-bake cheesecake, etc)
Frostings
Fruit snack cups: mandarin oranges, mixed fruit, pineapple tidbits
Gravy: chicken, beef, turkey
Hot chocolate
Jam/Jelly
Jell-O snack cups (reg. & sugar free)
Juice: cranberry, apple, V-8
Muffin & quick bread mixes
Mushrooms (small cans)
Pancake syrup & honey
Pie fillings: raspberry, cherry, etc.
Popcorn (microwave) butter flavor
Pudding snack cups:(reg. & sugar free) instant & cook-n-serve
Soda: 12 oz. cans (diet & regular)
Soup: chicken noodle, cream of chicken, cream of mushroom & tomato
Spaghetti sauce (jars)
Sugar: regular & brown
Tomatoes: stewed, diced, crushed
Tuna: (cans) regular & light
White vinegar

PAPER GOODS

Aluminum foil & plastic wrap
Freezer & storage bags (all sizes)
Kleenex
Napkins & paper towels
Paper cups (3 oz.)
Plastic cups (small)
Plastic silverware

HOUSEHOLD

Bleach
Dishwasher detergent
Disinfecting wipes
Dryer sheets
Laundry detergent (phosphate free)
Liquid hand soap and sanitizer
Lysol kitchen cleaner
Swiffer sheets (dry)
Toilet bowl cleaner
Trash bags (13 & 30 gallon)

RESIDENT SUPPLIES

Baby wipes: unscented
Body powder
Mouthwash (travel size)

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Alcohol pads
Bag Balm
Benadryl
Immodium

We Pray for Our Residents Who Have Died Since the Last Newsletter

Ralph Austin
Adelyne Baldwin
June Cecil
Kellie Corbett Barbour
Phyllis Bedet
Mahlon "Ed" Brooks
Joan Clancy
Dwight Craver
Elaine Cremins
Robert DePeter
Robert Desormeau
Susie deVito
Valerie Dixon

Sr. Eloise Emm, OSF
Wilma Gilmore
Susanne Grevelding
Grace Hall
Jennifer Hamilton
Melvin Haselmayer
Gloria Higgins
Michele Humeston
Marlene Kolodziejczyk
Geraldine Makow
Judith Mauro
Dorothy McMahon
Marjorie Mignacca

Elizabeth Mozley
Betty Nieman
Jane O'Connor
Elaine Patterson
Nola Quince
Mario Ranalli
Carmen Restuccio
Ernest Rivard
Marilyn Schwanke
Herbert Seifter
Rita Seligman
Nicholas Silvaggio
Thelma Taylor

Monica Thiele
Donna Thompson
Bernard Townsend
Shirley Tyminski
Kristen VanKeuren
Rosemary Vavalo
Margaret Vidulich
Margaret Wise
Lynda Young
Beverly Zachow
Carmella Zingaro



We Also Pray for Our Current Residents

Joseph Bonzek
Budd Deyo
Gloria Holmes

Rose McCarthy
Philip McGovern
Edith McKinnon

Victoria "Vicky" Fiesinger
Lloyd Potter
James Schultz

Edward Walker
Barbara Weston

