Welcome to the "Joyful June" issue of Blessings, the monthly photo newsletter from the Wheaton Franciscans. This issue of Blessings includes photos from our Kickapoo Red Flint Corn planting ceremony on May 23, 2022, the Annual Franciscan Federation Conference, and last, but not least, our Celebration of Presence on June 11, 2022, in recognition of the 150th anniversary of presence in the United States and the 75th anniversary of presence in Wheaton, IL.

Blessing of the Kickapoo Red Flint Corn Plot

On May 23, 2022, Sr. Bea Hernandez welcomed those gathered. She said, "As we begin this Laudato Si week honoring Mother Earth, our common home, we remember the sacredness of the land on which we stand and the Potawatomi people who once called this land home."

We gathered to bless and honor this sacred land utilizing rituals and symbols from both our Wheaton Franciscan and Native American traditions.
The Annual Franciscan Federation Conference was held in Pittsburgh June 3-6, 2022.

An extension of the virtual 2021 conference, this year's gathering sought to include a wide variety of people with a Franciscan spirit.

Author Brian McLaren and Sr. Ilia Delio offered insight and inspiration as the Federation continues to explore ways of "expanding the tent" and moving creatively into the unknown.

Sr. Maureen Elfrink, Covenant Companion Jeanne Connolly, and OLA partner in ministry Ellen Masuret represented the Wheaton Franciscans.

A Pittsburgh tradition at large gatherings is a "cookie bar" supplied with homemade cookies of all shapes and sizes. The opening reception provided an array of cookies including a Tau Cross-shaped cookie.
A Celebration of Presence
June 11, 2022
Thank You!

It was a joy to gather again in person; for some folks, it was the first time they met one another in person. Thank you to the many, many volunteers and to our collaborators in ministry. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us and to those who celebrated with us in spirit. We love you and are so grateful to have you in our lives!