Welcome to the "Jubilant July" issue of Blessings, the monthly photo newsletter from the Wheaton Franciscans. This issue of Blessings includes photos from the Jubilee Celebration on June 26, 2022, an award from People's Resource Center in recognition of the Wheaton Franciscan's milestone anniversaries, a new colony of honeybees, photos from one of the gardens, and an update on the sacred Kickapoo Red Flint corn.

People's Resource Center Extends Gratitude

On June 16, 2022, the People's Resource Center (PRC) extended its deepest gratitude and congratulations to the Wheaton Franciscans in honor of our 150th anniversary in the United State and 75th anniversary in Wheaton.

In the letter of gratitude, the PRC wrote, "Since PRC's founding in 1975, a member of the Wheaton Franciscans has guided our mission through service on the Board of Directors. Countless Franciscan Sisters have extended PRC's mission through volunteerism. Your grace and wisdom have seen PRC through many good times as well as challenges."
With Grateful Hearts We Rejoice!
Jubilee 2022
Bee'licious

Late this Spring, beekeeper Al Scepurek delivered a second hive to the campus and two new colonies of bees, one Carniolan and one a Saskatraz hybrid. The Saskatraz honey bee is relatively new on the scene of beekeepers.

Each hive starts with about 10,000 bees and will grow to 30-40,000 bees at the height of summer. Each hive will produce about 25 pounds of honey.

Did you know You Can Help Save Honey Bees Even If You’re Not A Beekeeper?

- Use Pesticides At The Correct Time of day (dusk)
- Plant a Bee-Friendly Garden
- Contact A Local Beekeeper To Remove Honey Bee Swarms
- Don’t Disturb Beehives & Report Any Disturbances You Notice
- Support Small & Local Beekeepers
- Provide a Safe Watering Place (AKA Bee Bath)
- Plant a Bee-Friendly Tree
- Educate Yourself on Honey Bee Behavior
- Share Any of These Ideas With A Friend

More Info

Photo 1 - The hives are in the West Courtyard.

Photo 2 - The beekeeper is checking the Super for progress on honey production.

Photo 3- Bees are on their way to a full capped honeycomb (75% capped).

Photo 4 - Bees safe in their new home at OLA.
How Does Your Garden Grow?

The gardens around Our Lady of the Angels motherhouse are growing well. The gardens are enjoying the heat of July and the tender loving care of our gardeners. The gardeners enjoy the heat a little less than the plants and are grateful when God waters the plants.

Below are photos of the sacred Kickapoo Red Flint Corn as of mid-July.

A Three Sisters Garden

For many Native American communities, three seeds -- corn, beans, and squash -- represent the most important crops. The crops of corn, beans, and squash are known as the Three Sisters. When planted together, the Three Sisters, work together to help one another thrive and survive. For centuries these three crops have been the center of Native American agriculture and culinary traditions. It is for good reason as these three crops complement each other in the garden as well as nutritionally. Click here to learn more about a Three Sisters Garden.