In Gratitude of the Gift of Friendship, Presence, New Life, and Gardening

Sr. Glenna and Friends Walk for Cosley Zoo

Cosley Zoo in Wheaton hosted its annual 5k fundraiser this year on Saturday, June 6th. However, like most charities this year, they hosted a “virtual 5k.” Participants registered online to support the zoo, and then were asked to walk the 5k somewhere on their own. I invited a small group of friends from my Weight Watchers support group to meet me on the Peace Path that morning to walk the 5k. It was a glorious day with sunshine and cool breezes. After the walk, we sat and ate our BYO Brunch. Sure, we could have done the walk individually, but in WW we say #bettertogether! We support one another and encourage each other on our journey for better health.

Pictured to the left are Covenant Companion Jeanne Guilfoyle out with Joanne Hambor and Pancake (the dog) “getting takeout in our corona world.”

Pictured to the right is Sr. Magdalena visiting with the Housekeeping staff (socially distanced) on the beautiful patio in Sr. Timmy’s garden.
Three different courtyards around Our Lady of the Angels Motherhouse serve as fertile ground for gardening. The gardens are faithfully tended by Srs. Martha Friedman and Mary Lou Wirtz, and Covenant Companions and Master Gardener, Mary Krystinak,

Sr. Martha is busy tending to all her tomato plants. Most of these plants she started from seeds and grew indoors until it was warm enough outside. The grotto area near Entrance #7 is where Sr. Martha has her tomatoes. Mary Krystinak was able to get her two cherry tomato plants from a local farmer. They are called *Peacevine Cherry Tomatoes*.

Sr. Mary Lou tends to “Timmy’s garden” (named for Sr. Timothy Scharenborg) located across from the Piazza. This is where the Sisters can gather outside to sit on our lovely patio. Currently Sr. Mary Lou is busy harvesting a lot of fresh lettuces in many varieties, that the Sisters are able to enjoy on a daily basis. Beside growing these fresh greens, Sr. Mary Lou also has to keep up with the weeds, which at times are more prolific than the vegetables.

Timmy’s garden has also acted as a safe birthing place. The Sisters have watched 3 female ducks raise their young. When it is time to take her chicks to move to the nearby pond, she will come to the door and wait for us to remove the babies. This usually falls to Ray Ward of buildings and grounds. Ray is an expert and has done this each Summer as we have another batch of ducklings. The baby ducks are taken to a grassy area near entrance #5 and the mother will fly up on the roof as they keep calling for her. She then flies down and leads them to the pond.

The third courtyard garden is tended by Mary Krystinak. Later this year we should see many different types of cucumbers, sweet peppers and some green onions.