A pandemic and bitterly cold weather did nothing to stop the celebration of Fat Tuesday, otherwise known as Mardi Gras, Pączki Day, or Shrove Tuesday.

The Wheaton Franciscans celebrated by distributing gift bags to Sisters and staff living and working off campus. The gift bags included traditional Mardi Gras beads and traditional Polish jelly-filled pastry known as a pączek (PON-check). The more commonly used name for these is pączki (POONCH-kee), which is the plural pronunciation for this sweet treat.

Pictured: Sr. Glenna (left), Cherl Valdez (center, and Sr. Melanie Paradis (right)}
The 2020 Jubilarians received a delightful Valentine surprise from the Regional Leadership Team and the Wheaton Franciscan Community. A beautiful bouquet of fresh flowers was delivered through the snow and cold, and across the miles to brighten the days of the 6 Sister jubilarians and the 3 Covenant Companions jubilarians.

Although the pandemic prevented the Community from gathering in June 2020, the flowers were a beautiful reminder that the jubilee celebration continues.