Thank you to all who supported our Lenten food drive held in collaboration with Catholic Sisters Week. With your generous support and the outstanding financial support of the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters, we were able to bring much-needed awareness to the current increase in food insecurity, as well as financial donations to support the work of the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack initiative, and Neighborhood Food Pantries. We are also grateful to the IBVM community for their support in promoting and donating to this event.

In addition to these local organizations, the Wheaton Franciscan sisters made donations to three other organizations supporting food insecurity. It is difficult to determine how much money was raised because payment by check did not go through our online account. We do know that our pantry donation required seven shopping carts and four additional armloads to empty the goods from Covenant Companion Paige Samdal’s vehicle. The donations were met with great thanks.

In addition to financial and pantry donations we are very grateful to the enthusiastic and generous volunteers who collected the pantry goods: Sr. Julie Stapleton Nick Noe The Leonard's The Ruggaber's Augustine Family Tramel Family Beamer Family Sr. Melanie Paradis Sr. Bea Hernandez Sr. Sylvia Wehlisch Sr. Barb Nelson Paige Samdal Jeanne Connolly
Spring Preview

Sr. Melanie and Sr. Glenna enjoyed an outing to the Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago and immersed themselves in the beauty of spring flowers, towering palm trees, flowering cacti, and more. Happy First Day of Spring!

Coffee-time in Community

The Sisters and staff from the Living Well take time to enjoy coffee, cookies, and cake together. From left to right, Sr. Mary Beth, Cheryl Ward (standing), Sr. Pauline, Sr. Mary Lou, and Sr. Theresa.
**FAITH FORMATION**

**FAITH IN OUR HOME**  
by Susan Dunn

My mother, Naomi Hroncich, is a covenant companion of the Wheaton Franciscan Community. She lives in a Senior Community in Geneva, Illinois. When COVID began in March 2020, we welcomed her into our home where she was able to gradually adjust to social distancing, wearing masks and learning to ZOOM.

As a catechist at St. Boniface, our faith formation class had been designing cards to mail to my mom, who in turn shared them with her senior community. It was fun community service for them. When everything went virtual, our daughter, Ava, wanted to continue with this project. Grammie suggested she send cards to 15 nuns at the Wheaton Franciscan Community who were in isolation because of COVID and other health issues. Ava was so excited to help cheer them up!

Ava designed Easter cards and we also hand painted wooden eggs to send. The nuns were thrilled, and some wrote Ava letters of thanks and sent her blessings. What 7-year-old doesn’t love mail?

Ava has dedicated herself to continuing to recognize her “nun friends” with Halloween, Christmas and Valentine creations. She is very particular with her art work and signs each one individually. Sometimes they take a few weeks to complete.

When we learned during Kitchen Table Faith that the Parish Connection this month was to make cards for the sick, isolated, and lonely in our parish, Ava was quick to ask if her cards to the Franciscans would count. We told her, absolutely! Her “Good Luck” St. Patrick cards have just been mailed and she is already thinking about what she should do for Easter!

**KITCHEN TABLE FAITH:**  
ALL HOUSEHOLDS, ALL AGES!

Join us **Wed, March 3, at 7pm** for our monthly edition of Kitchen Table Faith LIVE! Our March theme is, *The Kingdom of God is Like...* and our Scripture focus will be on the Kingdom parables and Jesus’ preaching about the Kingdom.

**Family Scripture Hunt.** As a family see how many parables you can find in the Bible that begin with or include the phrase, “The Kingdom of God is like...” Look in these three chapters first: Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 13.

Discuss with a friend or member of your household these questions:

- What is the Kingdom of God? How would you define it?
- Where is the Kingdom of God? Who lives within the Kingdom?
- When does the Kingdom of God come? Is it here or yet to come? Or both?
- How can you live in the Kingdom today? How can you help bring it about?
- With whom could you share about the Kingdom of God?

Questions? Visit [https://stbonifacechurch.org/main-dishes](https://stbonifacechurch.org/main-dishes) or contact Amy Slick at aslick@stbonifacechurch.org or 515-850-1883.
When this is over, may we never again take for granted
  A handshake with a stranger
  Full shelves at the store
  Conversations with neighbors
    A crowded theater
    Friday night out
  The taste of communion
    A routine checkup
  The school rush each morning
    Coffee with a friend
  The stadium roaring
    Each deep breath
    A boring Tuesday
    Life itself.

When this ends
  may we find
  that we have become
  more like the people
  we wanted to be
  we were called to be
  we hoped to be
  and may we stay
  that way — better
  for each other
  because of the worst.