August is upon us! Where did the summer go? Although summer is technically not over until September 22, there is a gentle shift as those of us in the Midwest prepare for Autumn.

The gardeners and farmers are busy harvesting a bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables – ripened tomatoes, sweet corn on the cob, and zucchini, as well as peaches and ripe melons. Below are a few photos of Sr. Martha Friedman caring for her many tomato plants, and the first fruit of her labor.

To help us hang on to the sweet taste of summer, this issue of Blessings takes us back to the Root Beer Float social the Sisters held in the courtyard, aka Sr. Timmy’s Garden, on July 1.

In this issue, we also meet Ellen Masuret, the new Our Lady of the Angels (OLA) Administrator, and LemLem Abraham, our newest Housekeeping associate.

Have a wonderful and safe August!
Where do you live now?
I live right here in Wheaton. I have a cute little Cape Cod house not very far away.

Where did you work before coming to the Wheaton Franciscans?
I spent the past 35 years working with Seniors, specializing in Senior Housing. Most of my experience has been managing Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Memory Care communities. My experience also includes long-term and short-term nursing facilities, home health, and hospice. I am a Certified Dementia Practitioner and a trainer for many dementia programs.

What is your favorite past-time/hobby?
Gardening and photography are my hobbies. I will spend hours chasing a bee around the garden trying to catch it at the right angle on a flower bud with its wings outspread just to make the perfect shot.

Do you speak more than one language fluently?
I studied Telegu in college. It is a South Asian language, and they speak it in India along the Bay of Bengal. I only know a few words and phrases now. It was learning the culture and a language made up of symbols, unlike the English alphabet, that was so fascinating.

What are you grateful for every day?
I am grateful for my family, past and present. My grandparents were my influencers in to my field of Gerontology. They were also my study subjects as I learned and observed.
Tell us a little about your family.

I have a twenty-three-year-old son named Tomas. He lives in Indianapolis. My Mom and three sisters live in London, and my two brothers live in Germany.

Where do you live now?
I live off of Main Street in Wheaton

Where did you work before coming to the Wheaton Franciscans?
Before coming here I worked at Anthology of Wheaton in the Housekeeping Department.

What is your favorite past-time/hobby?
My favorite pastime is listening to religious music.

Do you speak more than one language fluently?
I speak three languages English, Tigrigna, and Amharic.

What are you grateful for every day?
I am grateful for working here at Our Lady of Angels. I’m very, very happy God blessed me to have this job. Every day I thank God.