On Wednesday, November 10, Wheaton Franciscan Sisters gathered with Our Lady of the Angels staff for the 2021 Associate (employee) recognition luncheon. This year 10 associates were honored for a total of 165 years of service ranging from 5 to 40 years a person.

In their opening remarks, the Regional Leadership Team reminded attendees that on March 13, 2020, life changed at Our Lady of the Angels as it did across the globe. It was on March 13, 2020, that the building was closed to the public. Associates able to work from home did so ... and the weeks turned into months and the months turned into a year, and now nearly 20 months later this group can finally gather together in celebration.

2021 Honorees and Years of Service

Luis Garcia—5
Jennifer Humecke—5
Juana Muñoz—5
Janet Budzicz—10
Sharon Devo—10
Mitchell Galauner—15
Cherl Valdez—15
Cheryl Ward—25
Ray Ward—35
Terry Higgins—40

We hope you enjoy a few photos of this special celebration. Congratulations all
In Thanksgiving

The Regional Leadership Team offered this prayer as an expression of deep gratitude, appreciation, and admiration for ALL Our Lady of the Angel associates.

"Each of you has demonstrated incredible gifts and talents in your particular jobs. Each and every one of you has brought courage and strength, creativity and resilience, empathy and kindness to each and every task that was put before you."

Thank you, Building Maintenance Staff,
For countless ways, you keep the building safe and comfortable, and well-maintained.
Thank you Groundskeeping staff,
for keeping the land and the gardens beautiful so we all had a place in nature to escape to and be inspired by.
Thank you Housekeeping staff,
for keeping the building spotless, for cleaning all the living and working spaces, and always doing each task with a smile.
Thank you, Hospitality and Dining Room staff,
For feeding our bodies and our souls with nutritious and delicious delights.
Thank you to all the associates in the Living Well,
For your care and loving service of the sisters who reside here at OLA.
Thank you to the associates in Regional Administration and Finance who worked remotely.
You creatively adapted your homes into workspaces and stayed connected with email, Zoom, and Teams conference calls.
Thank you Technology Teams,
For providing all the computer equipment, digital technology, and software to help the rest of us do our jobs and stay connected. For setting up the Chapel live stream so we could worship together at a distance.
Thank you Liturgy and Worship staff,
For prayerful and meaningful services, outreach projects, and seasonal prayer gifts.
We have tried to name every work area and I hope that you found yourself in one or more of these areas...We are truly thankful to each of you
And today on this day of employee recognition – we recognize YOU!

The Regional Leadership Team
Sr. Melanie   Sr. Glenna   Sr. Rosie
November 10, 2021
2022 will be the 150 year anniversary of our presence in the United States and 75 years presence in Wheaton.

As we open this year of anniversary, we know the year will include events of celebration: a day of reflection in March, an arts festival, special liturgy with the bishop of Joliet at the feast of St. Clare, the dedication of the St. Clare contemplative garden, website pages/social media posts and archival displays all to commemorate our presence as Wheaton Franciscans.

Our theme for this year is:

Wheaton Franciscan Presence: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow
We remember yesterday, we live today, we hope tomorrow.

What we have done in the past and what we continue to do into the future is only a small part of who we are. It is our presence, our living as Franciscan Sisters, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, along with our Covenant Companions, our Associates, our families, friends, and faith community, all of us together; the presence of love is important.

Let us follow in faithfulness the foundation our foundress laid out for us, living our charism of love.

Let us live into the life God offers us, now, knowing that those sisters who came before us did the same.

Let us remember our ability to meet the needs of the times in new ways.

Let us be courageous and hopeful to take the necessary next steps together in creating a future of hope for all.

I formally open this year of jubilee.

May we

Remember who we were yesterday
Recognize who we are now today
Become who we are called to be tomorrow

Let us never let an opportunity for being a presence of love pass us by.

Sr. Melanie Paradis
October 30, 2021
The Blessings of Technology

Prompted by the pandemic, the Wheaton Franciscan engaged in an opportunity to deepen dialogue with one another and to expand awareness of global connectedness. Many met together regularly in late 2020 and early 2021. Encouraged by this work, Sisters Fran, Diane, and Pat N. reached out to the General Council to see if it would be possible to "experiment" by asking Sisters throughout the Congregation if they would like to meet via Zoom.

The intention is to help us get to know one another better. The first gathering was on October 15, 2021. It went so well that all of the participants are willing to meet again.

Liturgy Team Retreat

In late October, the Liturgy team, Fr. Phil Horrigan, Covenant Companion Paige Samdal, Sharon Devo, Melanie Turner, and Melanie Teska, Director of Liturgy, spent a few days at Benet Lake Retreat Center. The beautiful setting provided the perfect backdrop for dreaming and planning.