



# ServantNews

## Franciscan Servants of the Holy Family



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Dear family and friends, Peace and All Good!

It is here again; the December somewhat-frenetic race toward Christmas is upon us. At the same time, the Season of Advent invites us to slow down a bit, to take on a more focused, reflective approach to the celebration of our Savior's birth. It is a season of preparation and of hope which sets us on a path.

St. Paul's letter to the Romans (12:2) provides us with this great challenge: "Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." Attempting to live this challenge daily affects our focus, our goals, our attitudes and decisions, and therefore our joy, fulfillment, our relationships, and closeness to God.

The culture in which we live is not always our friend, and so we must be intentional and reflective in how we live, always seeking the Good. This makes for a good reflection during the Advent Season, or any time of year, for that matter.

2024 has been a full year:

In late March, I left my position at St. Mary's Home for Mothers in Liberty MO, a maternity home at which I lived with the single moms prior to birth, and after. It is a beautiful, life-affirming ministry for both the moms and their babies.



Chatting with college students in Colorado



Annual Living Nativity—  
see other side for this year's info.

In early Spring I directed a retreat, "What It Means to be a Woman Today," for the women of St. Mary's parish in Nevada, MO. In later Spring, I attended my annual retreat, which provided ample time for prayer and reflection.

On a cold and windy May 4th, as part of the 2022-25 National Eucharistic Revival, **BeholdKC** was held at the National WWII Memorial in downtown Kansas City. It was a beautiful, faith-filled, event for our Church as we celebrated Jesus' True Presence in the Eucharist. As well, every 25 years, a Holy Year is declared by the Holy Father. 2025's focus will be **Pilgrims of Hope**. Many celebrations will be held in Rome and throughout the world.

In June, I assisted with the Atchison Girls' Retreat, with its focus on Vocations. This was a fantastic experience with 40+ girls in grades 4-12.

This past year, I spent several days at Bishop Miege High School having



Visiting with a Miege student

conversations with the young ladies about vocation discernment.



(Left) The youngest sibling in our family decided that we would celebrate her 60th birthday with tie dye.:)

In August, I began a part-time position as Faith Formation Assistant at Corpus Christi Church in Lawrence, KS. I'm

really enjoying ministry with the children and families.

I continue to serve one of the Secular Franciscan fraternities in the KC area as Spiritual Assistant, and help with regional level events as well.

Whether I'm visiting families at the parish, or with relatives, directing retreats, praying beside the bed of a dying friend, hiking on a trail, working in the garden or leading our team of volunteers through the thousand details for our Living Nativity, life is full, and busy, and good.

I'm grateful!

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cont. As we prepare for the Christmas season, let us conform ourselves to Christ, to be transformed by the renewal of our mind, that we may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” God bless you and your family during these Advent and Christmas seasons!

Sister Doris

### ***A Prayer For Families***

*Heavenly Father,  
you gave us the gift of each other  
and made us a family.  
Bless our family today with an  
abundance of Your love,  
the grace to forgive and to ask for  
forgiveness, and to be generous in  
serving each other,  
that we may be a sign  
of holiness and unity in the world,  
becoming more each day,  
like the Blessed Trinity,  
and the Holy Family at Nazareth,  
a communion of life and love. Amen.  
Holy Family,  
help us grow in holiness and unity.*

**6th Annual Living Nativity**—a group of dedicated volunteers have been preparing for our annual Living Nativity. This event provides a tangible way of celebrating and reflecting on the birth of Jesus. Join us if you can!

**The reason for our hope—on display**



### **Novena for Families**

Join the Franciscan Servants of the Holy Family in praying a novena, (you may use the prayer above, or another) December 21-29, asking for the intercession of the Holy Family for your own family, and the needs of all families. We ask for protection of family life, for guidance in the midst of joys and challenges, in gratitude for our many blessings.... Sunday, December 29 is the Feast of the Holy Family. *Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!*

With gratitude for your prayers, for the many volunteers, and financial help, **thank you** for helping further the Franciscan Servants' ministry to families:  
*helping families grow in holiness and unity.*

**God bless you!**

The Franciscan Servants of the Holy Family  
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[www.kcfranciscans.org](http://www.kcfranciscans.org)

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