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July 14, 2025

Dear Sister/s,

Summer graces of light, beauty and hope be yours!

Our **Jubilee Year of HOPE** continues to invite and challenge us to be radical and bold proclaimers of HOPE to a world "covered by dark clouds".<sup>1</sup> How can we not respond, especially in the midst of so much despair among our brothers and sisters who live with the fear of deportation and worse? I find HOPE in those who speak up as we were exhorted to do by Cardinal McElroy in March at the Cathedral Prayer in Solidarity. I find HOPE in the interfaith group, led by Bishop Pham, who was present at the Federal Building in June. I find hope in the number of persons from different cultures and religions who unite for events such as these. We stand, speak and act together. We share and nurture hope in our cities and Church. I find Pope Francis' encyclical, <u>Fratelli Tutti</u>, a challenge, an inspiration and a source of hope. You may want to spend some time with it during these weeks of summer.

Mid-summer brings us to the time of year for gathering our Diocesan Census. I ask that you fill in the accompanying form and return it ASAP, *no later than* **August 10, 2025**. If that date is not possible for you, please return the forms as soon as possible AFTER August 10. Our data is needed by those working on the 2026 Diocesan Directory.

Please identify yourself as a 2025 Jubilarian if you will be celebrating your 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> or 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee!

It is important that we have the name & contact information of your MAJOR SUPERIOR (i.e., Superior General) on page 1. It is equally important that we have your REGIONAL or AREA Superior's name on page 2.

Every year there are more requests for **Sisters to speak** at the Retirement Collection Sunday Masses (**December 13** -14). Materials for formulating your presentation are available. I also receive requests for Sisters to speak to groups of students and young adults. **PLEASE** consider signing up for this wonderful way to share your/our story!

Please duplicate the "NEW Sisters" form for anyone you know who has moved into our diocese or will be joining us soon. Should you want to fill in the forms on the computer, a fillable PDF was sent via email and is available on our website. First **DOWNLOAD** the form and **SAVE** it to your desktop. Then **FILL IT IN** and **SAVE** it to your desktop, and \*mail it to me.

If you know of a sister who will be arriving in late August or September, I would appreciate being informed in order to add her name to our mailings and have her name appear in the Diocesan Directory. Also, please let me know if any of your sisters have left or will be leaving our diocese.

The annual Sister's contribution to the Sisters Council remains at \$25.00 for each Sister (payable to the Sisters Council). This is used to cover costs of our Sisters Days which have no additional fees.

\*I look forward to receiving your forms & check by August 10. A self-addressed envelope is provided.

Every Blessing to you,

Sr. Kathy Warren, OSF

Sr. Kathleen (Kathy) Warren, OSF Director – Office for Women Religious

<sup>1</sup> Fratelli Tutti, Chapter 1.

And in imitation of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, "we want to be a Church that serves, that leaves home and goes forth from its places of worship, goes forth from its sacristies, in order to accompany life, to sustain hope, to be the sign of unity... to build bridges, to break down walls, to sow seeds of reconciliation." (FT, #276)

This text was imprinted on our gift of appreciation to Cardinal McElroy.



OFFICE FOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS