

CONNECTIONS

Newsletter



July 2022



David Gruver pauses to smile at OLV

MEET OLV'S JACK OF ALL TRADES

Eight years ago the Sisters of St. Mary made a very wise decision: hiring **David Gruver** as their yard manager. David grew up on Fort Worth's west side and attended Arlington Heights High School. Since then he has done a number of different things, which enabled him to travel the world. His longest stint was following his father's footsteps at Lockheed Martin where he worked for 20 years.

Now as yard manager, David does all the work on the grounds at OLV. He mows and trims the expansive lawns, maintains the outdoor equipment doing upkeep and repairs himself, trims the 264 trees as needed, tills the spot for the vegetable garden, and anything else that needs to be done. His duties occasionally expand to handyman work when one of the Sisters asks him to do something for

them. (Shhh! Don't tell anyone.) David loves his job and he loves working with the Sisters.

He takes pride in what he does and his "boss," **Sister Camella Menotti**, thinks

the world of him. David likes to work for people that appreciate him and that he most certainly does.



Sister Camella and David pose together

A SISTER'S LIFE OF TENDING

Sister Anselma Knabe's green thumb is at it again. Each year she waits patiently until the freezing weather has passed, then she gathers her bench and hand tools and begins working the soil. She used to carefully select her plants, but now that she no longer drives, she's glad to have bedding plants brought to her by generous friends.

Growing up in the German community of Munster, Texas, Sister Anselma learned the meaning of hard work. After obtaining a master's degree she spent years teaching at various Sisters of St. Mary schools.

Sister Anselma later went to work with **Gail Schatzman** at the North Texas Catholic Bookstore. While there, Sister Anselma began maintaining the courtyard when she had time off from selling books and religious articles. Through her years at the bookstore,

Sister Anselma became known and loved by many people from the Dallas-Fort Worth area who visited the bookstore. Sister Anselma remained at the bookstore until it closed in 2015 and now lives at OLV.



Sister Anselma Knabe with her garden



SISTER LOUISE SMITH: LOVER OF STORIES, KEEPER OF ARCHIVES

Sister Louise Smith was born in Rawlins, Wyoming and moved to Texas with her family in 1939. She attended Our Lady of Victory College and entered the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur in 1946. Like many of the other Sisters, she taught elementary school, but later added singing and piano to her teaching skill set. She taught in Dickinson, Sherman, Wichita Falls, Lockport, NY, and spent her last seven years teaching at OLV Elementary.

Sister Louise has always loved books, which led her to obtain a Master's in Library Science at the University of North Texas. After graduating, she became the librarian at Bishop Dunne High School in Dallas, then moved on to become the Collections Librarian for Music at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada — a position she held for 20 years.

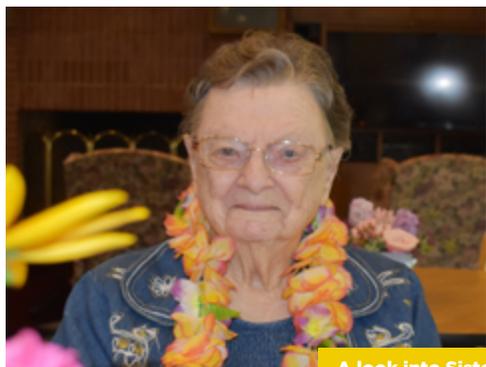
Sister Louise eventually returned to OLV to be “recycled” (her word for retired!). Now she serves as archivist for the Western Province and the job suits her very well. She is meticulous and well organized. Using her professional expertise, Sister has researched and implemented programs designed to “index materials digitally so that

information can be located and disseminated online.” She is definitely the go-to person for SSMN historical information and the keeper of many, many stories.

Sister Louise has the important job of organizing and protecting 150 years of SSMN history.



SSMN BIRTHDAYS



A look into Sister Teresa Honkomp's Birthday celebration



On her birthday in May, **Sister Teresa Honkomp** liked to refer to her age as “double eights” (88). A celebration was held at OLV where she now lives. She joined the community in 1951 and taught school and served as principal for many years. Her niece, **Judy Winaski**, who taught at OLV Elementary, joined her for the party.

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

May 10 - **Sister Teresa Honkomp**

May 28 - **Sister Lola Ulupano**

June 14 - **Sister Clara Vo**

June 19 - **Sister Ginny Vissing**

June 23 - **Sister Mary Jean Warmuth**

June 24 - **Sister Jane Conway**

CREATING AND RESTORING AT OLV

Sister Camella Menotti showing off her power tools



Would you have guessed there's a woodshop onsite at OLV? If you ever wander behind the OLV Center and into the old laundry building, you may just find **Sister Camella Menotti** hard at work.

Sister Camella was taught woodworking by her father and has continued the trade for many years. Using a collection of tools that would impress almost anyone (many of which she inherited from him), she has created and restored many things. These days Sister especially enjoys making walking sticks and recently started a large project of refinishing OLV's dining room chairs one at a time.

When she is not in her workshop, Sister Camella supervises maintenance at OLV. Make sure you read about her friendship with David Gruver in this month's Jack of All Trades article!

THIS JULY 4TH

SISTERS
OF SAINT MARY
AUXILIARY · RAFFLE

Watch for the **Sisters of St. Mary Auxiliary** Annual Raffle this 4th of July! The **Auxiliary** provides flowers, food, special occasion meals and necessary needs for OLV. **The Auxiliary** is a **501(c)(3) corporation**.

DONATE

<https://www.ssmnwestern.org/contribute>



A WORD FROM OUR SISTERS

The Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur, Western Region, wish to echo the sentiments of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and extend their condolences to the communities of Uvalde, TX, Buffalo, NY and Laguna Woods, CA — and to the friends, family, coworkers and neighbors who lost a loved one in the heartbreaking violence of these most recent days.

As Women Religious we believe unequivocally that every person is created by God with a dignity and worth too great for words. Because this truth is part of the foundation we stand on and serve from, we must also be vocal about the continual pattern of mass shootings, gun violence, and racist-fueled actions in our country.

Children deserve to attend school in peace. Teachers deserve to go to work in peace. Brown and black men and women deserve to buy groceries in peace. Asian Americans deserve to worship in peace. And they all deserve for the rest of the world to speak loudly and clearly that their lives are precious.

As the Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur, we raise our voices to this end: We will continue to do our work of tearing down gun violence and white supremacy — piece by piece and day by day. We will not give up on these urgent matters. We will continue to work towards a more just and peaceful world. We will not give up.

