



133-year-old red building has served many ministries

The red brick building that is today Manna House of Prayer was built in 1884 as the first Motherhouse of the newly arrived Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia. The building at Fifth and Olive streets served as the convent and a boarding school, but it soon became apparent that a bigger building was needed to house Nazareth Convent and Academy.

So in 1903, the Nazareth Motherhouse opened at the corner of 13th and Washington streets, and the sisters converted their old home into St. Joseph Hospital.

An addition was built in 1915, and the significantly larger facility remained a hospital until 1951, when the sisters built what is now Cloud County Health Center.

The Sisters converted the building into a nursing home and it served as St. Anne's Home for the Aged until 1977, when the new Mount Joseph Village was built on the west edge of Concordia.

Meanwhile, three Sisters of St. Joseph had opened Manna House of Prayer in Clyde and were reaching out to the community there.

By April 1978 the sisters in Clyde moved their program to the newly renovated brick building in Concordia, and it was dedicated as Manna House of Prayer.

Its mission, then and today, is to be a place where people of all faiths come for personal and communal prayer, ongoing education, retreats and workshops, quiet time and counseling. Sisters who live there also provide youth ministry, facilitation services, spiritual direction and counseling.

ON THE COVER: Sisters and staff gather in the Manna House parlor for a group photo — the only time they are all together in one place all day. In the foreground are, left to right, Cecilia Thrash, Sister Janet Lander and Sister Marcia Allen; in back are, left to right, Sister Jean Ann Walton, Susan LeDuc, Sister Pat Eichner, Paula Tatum, Joreen Wilcox and Sister Betty Suther.

New communications director takes over Messenger duties

A Kansas native with degrees in journalism and law has been named the new communications director for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia.

Catherine M. Doud succeeds Sarah Jenkins, who has retired after eight years with the sisters.

Doud, who lives in Minneapolis, Kan., has a bachelor's degree in journalism and communications from Kansas State University and a law degree from the University of Tulsa. She most recently worked as a copy editor with the Salina Journal and previously worked as an editor and writer for a variety of publications, including the Arkansas City Traveler, Muskogee Phoenix and Arabian Horse Express.

"I am looking forward to sharing the stories of the sisters and the incredible work that they do for the community and the world," Doud said.



CATHERINE DOUD

"Sarah has led the way in using social media to keep the Sisters of St. Joseph current and interactive with communities and families around the world. That's a great base to build from."

Doud began her new job March 13 and worked with Jenkins for a couple of weeks to learn more about the communications office.

Jenkins, who came to the communications job after a 31-year career as a news reporter and editor, stepped down early this month.

In her new position, Doud is responsible for all external communication from the congregation and its ministries, including its websites (csjkansas.org and manna-house.org) and social media sites.

One of her primary duties is serving as editor of *The Messenger*, writing, editing, designing and producing the sisters' quarterly newspaper.

The communications director also produces brochures, booklets and other printed materials and serves as a staff photographer for the congregation, among other duties.

Marymount

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sor at a rehab center and working at a rehab/long-term care facility in Jacksonville. I have also been a pastoral musician for many years, primarily at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

Recently, I had the opportunity to volunteer with the Sisters of St. Joseph to help teach quilting and sewing. My friend Linda Ricke, who is an accomplished quilting instructor, and I drove from Florida to Manna House of Prayer in Concordia in January 2017 for a month of volunteering, service and retreat.

Linda found the volunteer opportunity through Ignatian Volunteer Corps, and when I heard about it from her, I said, "I want to go!" Several

people have commented on the "craziness" of going from Florida to Concordia in the middle of winter, but it was an enjoyable adventure. We met many wonderful people, taught some valuable quilting and sewing skills and had a chance to pray and reflect on our lives.

While at Manna House, I heard for the first time the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph stated in a simple and concise way: "love of God and the dear neighbor." This concept of serving others was a theme through my early education at Sacred Heart and my nursing education at Marymount.

I did not always recognize this at the time or practice it, but I have found "service to others" to be the purpose and great joy of my life.

Thank you to all who taught me this by your example at Sacred Heart, St. John's Hospital and Marymount.