Leading by example

City honors congregation for involvement in civic projects

The Sisters of St. Joseph led off this year's Fall Fest Parade as Grand Marshals of the annual Concordia event.

The honor by the Fall Fest committee recognized the sisters for our work in establishing the Neighbor to Neighbor center in downtown Concordia and for leadership in the Year of Peace effort, which kicked off at last year's Fall Fest.

Year of Peace events have included a film series in collaboration with Cloud County Community College, a citywide "Civility Pledge" campaign, a weekly newspaper column written by a wide range of Concordia residents and book studies and workshops.

About a dozen sisters rode the "We Love U Concordia" float during the parade through downtown Concordia Sept. 25, while several others walked along side. Still other sisters and Motherhouse employees took spots along the parade route to cheer them on.

Neighbor to Neighbor also had a Fall Fest booth to sell a variety of handmade items, including Christmas tree angels made by women who have visited the center at 103 E. Sixth St. Also available for sale were "Heavenly Bits" dog biscuits, which are made by sisters to help support the center.

ABOVE: Sister Judy Stephens, left, waves to the crowd as she walks along side the Grand Marshal's float in the Fall Fest parade through downtown Concordia Sept. 25. About a dozen other Sisters of St. Joseph are riding in the float.

MIDDLE LEFT: Sisters Ramona Medina, right, and Christella Buser, center, chat with a customer at the Neighbor to Neighbor booth at Concordia's annual Fall Fest celebration.

AT RIGHT, TOP: Sisters of St. Joseph — including, from left, Francis Margaret Otter, Lucille Savoie and Teresa Rigel — cheer on entrants in the hourlong Saturday morning parade.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Sister Pat Eichner, who designed and help create the grand marshal's float, has last-minute directions just as the parade is ready to begin.