

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 10/10/2024

"Honoring the Sisters of St. Francis"

The Sisters of St. Francis were honored on October 10th as the recipient of an Ohio Historical Marker. The Marker commemorates the Sisters, their campus, and their foundress, Mother M. Adelaide Sandusky, born 150 years ago. This Ohio Historical Marker is the seventh in the City of Sylvania, and the 71st in Lucas County. Of the approximately 1,750 markers in Ohio, only three honor the history and accomplishments of Catholic Sisters.

The Sisters presence in Sylvania is a great treasure and resource for our residents, and for our quality of life. The Sisters of St. Francis are based here in Sylvania, but work in seven states in a variety of ministries including education, healthcare, pastoral work, social work, environmental stewardship, and social justice.

The Sisters sponsor Lourdes University, which offers both graduate and undergraduate degree programs, making Sylvania a college town, and bringing to Sylvania all the programming and resources of institution of higher education. Their students are encouraged to participate in our community activities, and also bring collegiate level athletic competitions to Sylvania.

Also, in the Sylvania area, the Sisters have founded and continue to sponsor Bethany House, Sophia Center, Rosary Care Center, Our Lady of Grace Hall assisted living, Convent Park senior apartments, the Franciscan Center and Appold Planetarium. The Sisters and their programs in Sylvania have greatly enriched and impacted many of our lives.

My own memories of the Sisters of St. Francis began while in high school with views into their campus along Convent Boulevard and from Sylvania High School, which in the 1960's was private and very much a mystery to me and my fellow students. But over the years, starting with the Franciscan Center, the beauty, resources and treasures of their campus have been opened up to the public and shared with us.

Sister Sheila Shea, as director of the Franciscan Center, was the first sister I came to know, and became a good friend as she joined to help with several Sylvania committees and commissions. Over the years I have come to know and work with many sisters, and I am truly fortunate to count as friends many of these unique and talented women who constantly work towards a better life for all.

On behalf of the City of Sylvania, congratulations and thank you to all the Sisters of St. Francis for all you have brought and continue to bring to our community. You enrich our lives, broaden our horizons and improve our quality of life. You are truly deserving of this new Ohio Historical Marker!

