

**Associates of the  
Hospital Sisters of St. Francis**



*Sharing in a Franciscan Way of Life  
& a Healing Spirit*

*How about You?*



To know more about us, write, call, e-mail  
or visit us on-line to begin the conversation.

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*Cover photo: St. Francis of Assisi Church (Springfield, IL)*

*“After the Lord gave me some  
brothers and sisters, no one  
showed me what I had to do.  
But the Most High revealed to me that I  
should live according to the gospel.”*

- Adapted from Francis' Testament



# Join with us in the Spirit of St. Francis



## *Who are the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis?*

The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis are members of an international, multicultural Congregation of Franciscan Sisters. They are committed to live the Gospel in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, their founder Father Christopher Bernsmeyer, OFM, their founding Sisters and all who followed them. The core of the Congregation rests in “being and bringing the healing presence of Christ” into the world wherever they are and in whatever they do. In 1875, 20 Sisters came to America from their original foundation in Germany. Since then, the Sisters have served the sick, poor and needy in a variety of settings.

## *Who are Associates?*

Associates are baptized Christian women and men who are part of the extended Franciscan family through an associate relationship with the Hospital Sisters. Associates seek a deeper faith life by living more fully their personal commitment to Jesus. In addition, Associates share in a Franciscan way of life and healing spirit with the Hospital Sisters without taking vows. They join in and form a mutual relationship with the Sisters while continuing to live their own lifestyle. The relationship between the Associates and Sisters carries no legal or financial responsibility between the two parties.



## *What do Associates do?*

Associates emphasize a strong sense of community and gather monthly to share their faith on spiritual and Franciscan topics and participate in some of the Sisters' celebrations. The bonding of the Sisters and Associates reflects a healing spirit and the importance of community that St. Francis himself recognized. From this spirit of community, Associates bring the healing presence of Christ to others wherever they are and in whatever they do in their daily lives.

## *How to become an Associate?*

A person from any Christian faith tradition who is 18 years of age or older who expresses a desire to become an Associate begins an orientation process. The introductory phase consists of 10-12 sessions on the history of the Hospital Sisters' Community and the life and spirit of St. Francis. Before becoming an Associate, each Candidate participates in a weekend retreat to pray and discern his/her commitment.



RuthEllen Davis, Associate Coordinator

*Associates living according to the Gospel . . .*