

Franciscan Federation Honors Oldenburg Franciscans in Education Ministry

The Franciscan Federation, an organization of Franciscan Sisters throughout the United States, gathered in New York in June of 2017 for input on Bonaventure's Journey into God: Franciscan Inspiration for the 21st Century. They passed a resolution to act for justice, and presented awards in education to Sisters who exemplify living the gospel of Jesus and the work St. Francis of Assisi. Two Oldenburg Franciscan Sisters, Srs. Bridget and Irma Arnold, were among those honored for their living witness as educators in Evansville, IN.

S. Bridget Arnold, OSF and S. Irma Arnold, OSF are siblings. Both have taught for almost fifty years in primary and intermediate grades, mostly in rural Catholic schools in the Evansville diocese. In addition to being excellent teachers, they serve as mentors for less experienced teachers, are active parish members and avid gardeners. They freeze and can produce from their garden and share its abundance with others. In addition, S. Bridget plants and harvests a garden with her students each year. When needed, both of them assist their brother with the family farm. S. Irma enjoys sharing her faith with new Catholics as Coordinator of the RCIA process. Srs. Bridget and Irma received the Educators award at the June Franciscan Federation meeting in New York because of their dedication to the teaching mission of Jesus and their love for their students and embodying Franciscan values in today's world.