



Bismarck

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Sister Kathleen Atkinson is a Benedictine Sister from the Annunciation Monastery in Bismarck, who spoke her life vows in 1985 and has dedicated her life to service, compassion, and justice, embodying the highest ideals of faith in action through her work in the community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Sister Kathleen founded Ministry on the Margins, a grassroots organization committed to supporting individuals who are incarcerated, homeless, or otherwise marginalized, offering radical hospitality, dignity, and hope to all who walk through its doors; and

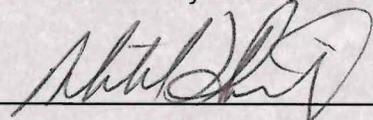
WHEREAS, Ministry on the Margins began offering coffee houses in January 2022 in response to a community need for a low-barrier shelter during brutal weather conditions. About half a dozen individuals were provided services that first evening. Today, those services continue, with attendance averaging about 62 people per night; and

WHEREAS, through her visionary leadership, tireless advocacy, and unwavering belief in the worth of every person, Sister Kathleen has transformed lives, built community, and inspired countless others to serve with humility and love; and

WHEREAS, Sister Kathleen Atkinson is retiring from her formal role at Ministry on the Margins, leaving behind a legacy of faith, courage, and community that will endure for generations. This legacy includes not only the programs and services she helped create, but also the spirit of compassion and inclusion that continues to ripple through the lives of those she has touched to "Let all be received as Christ".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Michael Schmitz, Mayor of the City of Bismarck, on behalf of this City Commission, do hereby proclaim December 10th, 2025, as "**Sister Kathleen Atkinson Day**" and urge the community to join in celebrating Sister Kathleen's remarkable heart and find ways to build a more just and compassionate world, locally, regionally, nationally, and abroad, in her honor.

Signed this 25th day of November 2025.



Michael Schmitz, Mayor
Bismarck Board of City Commissioners