“May the Risen Christ, who flung open the doors of the tomb, open our hearts to the needs of the disadvantaged, the vulnerable, the poor, the unemployed, the marginalized, and all those who knock at our door in search of bread, refuge, and the recognition of their dignity.”

—Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi address, April 21, 2019
Kitty Hanley wrote one of my favorite poems, called “Early Gardening.” This little gem speaks so clearly of these first Spring days.

*These first shoots are always a surprise.*
*What with the snow and all, I’d forgotten.*
*Not how hardy they are,*
*But how frail.*
The meek inherit the earth again.

What a delightful picture of this enlivening season when we look so eagerly for signs that new growth will come forth and develop into something so much more hardy than these first shoots! We worry a bit about whether they will make it in the face of all the challenges they must survive to become strong and vibrant.

Each tiny tendril taken alone appears quite insignificant. However, taken as a whole they form a magnificent sight. All through April we are treated to surprising vistas as color and new life emerge in our world. We know that by May the world will appear like a wholly different place from where we lived in March. And by August we begin to gather the bountiful harvest. All this takes place only because those first fragile shoots brave the early spring weather.

This little poem also speaks of us. We surely do great things, magnificent acts which should be lauded and celebrated, but so often not great things but small good deeds make up the substance of our days. Our one-on-one interactions with the dear neighbor, whether that neighbor is one of our sisters or someone in the wider world, these meek little actions seem so small and inconsequential. In fact, we sometimes apologize for not being able to do more.

But, in truth, these humble efforts fill our lives. We offer a smile here, a kind word there, a thoughtful gesture that lets another get ahead or we complete some wearisome paperwork or chop vegetables or dust the furniture. It can all seem so trivial. Yet, it turns out that when we take all these actions together, when we can imagine all of us out there engaging in these small endeavors and influencing those around us to do the same, we can quickly see that, like the humble shoots which swiftly take over our gardens, these seemingly insignificant actions change the world.

So let’s not think, “This is such a small thing that it won’t make any difference.” As we see these first tender shoots of spring, we can take

*(continued on the next page)*
PLT Perspectives (continued)

heart. Each tender green sprout’s contribution may seem negligible in the spring, but we must remember that before long they become an abundant crop. In the same way all our unassuming acts taken together make a wondrous picture indeed.

Isn’t the same thing true in our spiritual life? So often, we start, not with some great insight, some Paul-like sudden awakening to a whole new way of being, but with tiny moments of grace or baby steps of new habits. Oh sure, a special retreat or a wonderful presentation may move our relationship with our God to an enlivening new place, but ordinary insights that we glean from reading scripture, from something our sister says in sharing of the heart or the courage to take those first small steps to be kinder or more attentive to others cause the real progress on our path to God. Eventually these minute spiritual shoots grow into new ways to relate to our God and to one another. These tiny movements strengthen into a rich harvest of grace.

What a gentle way to rise to new life with our risen Savior! So let us pray for one another in this Easter Season, that our loving God who attends with care to even the smallest things in the world, will grant us joy in doing the little things of daily life, that God will help us to see the potential in each small action that will build up God’s kingdom. The meek will inherit the earth again.

Summary of Minutes
Province Leadership Team
April 29 and 30, 2019

C-Wing Proposal
One of the sisters brought a proposal related to C-Wing to the Team. We appreciated the proposal and will refer it to the Long-Range Planning Board for consideration when they discuss future uses of the Provincial House.

Formation
We discussed ongoing staffing in the formation area, particularly as we look at the possibility of one or two candidates joining us in the next year or so.

Visit from the Novices
The Novices from the Congregational Novitiate will be visiting the various units of the congregation this fall. They will visit in Albany from October 2-21. Jeanne Marie Gocha, Ranah Phelan and Kate Areseneau will be visiting some visits and activities for them while they are here.

Provincial House Staffing after PACE
The team met with Tracy Needham and Kathy Marciai concerning what the Provincial House staffing might look like for those sisters who will not be part of the PACE program. This is a continuing conversation.

Appointments to Province Boards
The Assembly completed elections to province boards at their recent meeting. Thus, the team completed the boards by filling the appointed seats. Both those elected and those appointed begin their terms in August 2019.

Associates
We reviewed and approved the candidates recommended by the Associate Team. They will profess their commitment at the June 2019 Commitment Weekend.

Communications Director
Mary Rose Noonan came for her annual conversation with the Province Leadership Team. Mary Rose shared that the Carondelet Magazine will come out this week. The theme of this issue will be solidarity, how it reflects our charism and how this concept appears in recent papal documents. Mary Rose is supporting the capital campaign through the use of social media. The meeting of the congregational communications directors, usually planned for April or May, will be in October this year in order to facilitate communication about the Congregational Chapter.

El Paso
We decided to send $10,000.00 from the province to the Congregational Center fund that will support those who are going to El Paso.

Report Review
The team reviewed monthly reports from: CLT, Facility Services, Mission Integration, the Network Administrator, Nursing, PH Administration, Risk Management, Unidine Lifestyles and Vocations.

Summary of Minutes
Province Board of Trustees
April 30, 2019

Opening Prayer
Sean led the group in prayer about the blessings of creation.

2020 Budget
In preparation for reviewing the total budget, we received information about potential changes in the payroll budget.

CFO Report
Linda Birochik presented her report. We reviewed the various funds, considered the services of our bank and decided what would be paid out of board designated funds.

Car for the Federation Novitiate
Each year different congregations agree to supply cars for the Federation Novitiate. We agreed to supply a car for the novitiate this year.
# Calendar: Province Leadership Team

**May**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>Federation Lakes Region Meeting, Rochester</td>
<td>EM, KE</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Finance Board Meeting</td>
<td>EM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>PACE Meeting</td>
<td>KA</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Shaker Pointe Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>EM</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>Federation Formation/Vocation Gathering, Canandaigua</td>
<td>JMG</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>College of Saint Rose Board Meeting</td>
<td>MAH</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>College of Saint Rose Commencement</td>
<td>MAH, SP</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-27</td>
<td>Mission Trip to Guatemala</td>
<td>SP</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>CSJ Golf Tournament</td>
<td>EM, KA, MAH</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>HomeLand Committee Meeting</td>
<td>KA</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Capital Campaign Meeting</td>
<td>EM</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Spring Enrichment</td>
<td>KE</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>PACE Meetings</td>
<td>KA</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>LRP Subgroup Structures Meeting</td>
<td>EM, KE</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Bishop’s Task Force Meeting</td>
<td>EM</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-25</td>
<td>Vacation</td>
<td>KA</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Gurry Board Meeting</td>
<td>EM, MAH</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>PACE Meeting</td>
<td>KE, MAH</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Capital Campaign Meeting</td>
<td>EM</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Board Meeting</td>
<td>MAH</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Bishop Cunningham’s 50th Anniversary Celebration</td>
<td>KE, MAH</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>BOT Meeting</td>
<td>BOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>PACE Meetings</td>
<td>KA, KE, MAH</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Capital Campaign Meeting</td>
<td>EM</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>STEP Board Meeting</td>
<td>SP</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Joseph House Meeting</td>
<td>KA</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-31</td>
<td>Federation Novitiate, Rochester</td>
<td>JMG</td>
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**June**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Justice Committee Meeting</td>
<td>EM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Religious Retirement Committee Meeting (Syracuse)</td>
<td>KE</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Joseph House Meeting</td>
<td>KA</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Community of Excellence Luncheon at The College of Saint Rose</td>
<td>KE</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Capital Campaign Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>PEC</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Shaker Pointe Board Meeting</td>
<td>EM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Mission Appeal, San Bernadino, CA</td>
<td>JMG</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Associate Commitment Weekend</td>
<td>MAH</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Associate Commitment Weekend</td>
<td>EM</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Communion Breakfast, St. Augustine’s, Troy</td>
<td>KA</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Joseph House Fund-Raiser</td>
<td>KA</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Association of Colleges of Sisters of St. Joseph</td>
<td>SP</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>PACE Meetings</td>
<td>KA</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Joseph House Meeting</td>
<td>KA</td>
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</tbody>
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**Abbreviations**

BOT: Province Board of Trustees; CLG: Congregational Leadership Group; EM: Eileen McCann; JMG: Jeanne Marie Gocha; KA: Kate Arseneau; KE: Katie Eiffe; LRP: Long-Range Planning Committee; MAH: Mary Anne Heenan; PACE: Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly; PEC: Province Executive Committee (Katie Eiffe, Mary Anne Heenan, Eileen McCann); SP: Sean Peters
Sister Diane Zigo Receives Prestigious Le Moyne Service Award

by Sister Mary Rose Noonan

On April 10 at Le Moyne College’s Spring Convocation, Sister Diane Zigo received the Robert E. O’Brien, SJ, Service Award.

The Service Award is named in honor of Robert Emmet O’Brien, SJ, a longtime Le Moyne College faculty member who “demonstrated a unique gift for engaging each faculty person in service to the common community goals of education at Le Moyne College.”

The award is given annually to a faculty member who has demonstrated a mature habit of exemplary service over at least a ten-year period.

The citation, accompanying the presentation of the award, reads: “Service is not a distinct category for Diane Zigo, but rather an enduring disposition that guides her commitments and accomplishments in teaching, scholarship and living within academic, religious and civic community spheres.

“The titles of Diane’s prodigious scholarly accomplishments resonate with the enduring themes of her service-orientated core: community-based, collaboration, partnerships, community engagement, locally and globally expanding circles, field-based, and university and school clinical partnerships.

“Diane continually integrates service-learning and community engagement into nearly every education course she teaches. Former students acclaim the shaping impact of these experiences as they grow to embrace her belief that everyone can learn, and deserves to do so.

“Diane promotes a culture of service in the department and for the College. Beyond the usual committee services, she has been a driving faculty force on the service learning advisory board, an invaluable member of the Carnegie Classification Committee and, most recently, faculty liaison for service-learning.

“A trustee at The College of Saint Rose, Diane chairs the Pathways to Success Retention Scholarship Committee. She was also deeply involved in fund-raising and awareness-raising efforts on the board of directors of Hope for Ariang, a nonprofit organization that provides educational opportunities for children in South Sudan.

“Diane’s service is rooted in her deep faith and tenets of her vocation. As a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, she gladly assumes many responsibilities in her community, living her passion for social justice and care for others.”

Congratulations, Diane!

The photo, taken after the presentation of the award, include: (left to right) Le Moyne President Linda Le Mura; Education Department Chair Dr. Stephen Fleury; Sister Diane Zigo, and Father Joseph Marina, SJ, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
Meet Kristina DeNeve, Newest CSJ Candidate

The following is an interview of Kristina DeNeve, our newest candidate, and was prepared by Jenny Beatrice, communications director of the St. Louis Province and Kim Westerman, congregational communications coordinator.

Name
Kristina DeNeve

Entered
I began candidacy January 4, 2019.

Hometown
Moline, Illinois (part of the Quad Cities)

Current home
The Motherhouse at Carondelet – lucky me!!

Education
B.A. in Psychology and Theology from St. Ambrose University, Davenport, IA; M.A. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology from University of Missouri-Columbia; Certificate in Retreat and Spiritual Direction and M.A. in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University

Occupation
I’ve been a university professor and administrator and then worked in adult faith formation and evangelization for two different dioceses. As a candidate, I am responsible for my own finances/job, so I am continuing to teach online with the College of Doctoral Studies at Grand Canyon University. In addition, I am volunteering three days a week at Fontbonne University in campus ministry.

Favorite place you’ve lived
I’ve lived in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Waco, Omaha, Green Bay, and Oahu. There has been something to love that is my “favorite” in each place I’ve lived.

Favorite movie or book
The Holy Longing by Fr. Ronald Rolheiser

Favorite quote
Currently, one of my favorite things to say is “I love growth; it’s just change that I hate!”

What brings you to religious life right now
I really want to grow in holiness, grow to become more the person God created me to be. And, at this age and stage of life, I believe that living as part of a religious community might help me to do that more “effectively” than if I continued living as a single lay woman.

What attracted you to our congregation?
First and foremost, because the CSJs were founded by a Jesuit, and Ignatian spirituality undergirds this congregation. Beyond that, the way that CSJs live out the Gospel regarding justice and loving God and neighbor without distinction matches my own desires about how I might live as a follower of Jesus.

In your time with us, what has been your greatest delight?
The Sisters! I love living in the Motherhouse and getting to know all of the Sisters better.

What do you think will be your greatest challenge?
I kind of doubt that my biggest challenge will be something I foresee, but it is likely to be something that I thought I had “all figured out” or that otherwise would not be an issue. If I had to guess now, I would guess my biggest challenge might be to accept a decision made by others that directly impacts me if I don’t feel like I understand and/or agree with the decision. Also, in the short term, I can say that giving up my kitty and especially my dog to begin candidacy has been tough.

What do you hope for? I hope to continue to grow closer to God, self, and others while I am a candidate and beyond!

Thanks to Sisters Karen Gaube and Marianne Kennah who helped at the Women Against War’s Annual Gathering. The presenter was Pat Hynes whose topic was “War and Warming: Can We Save the Planet without Taking on the Pentagon?” Pat is the director of the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice in Western Massachusetts. She writes and speaks widely on the relationship of militarism to climate change, as well as on the health effects of war and militarism on society and on women.
**Provincial House News**

*by Sister Fran Gilchrist*

We have the very best local indicator that Spring has arrived: the chairs are out in the courtyard! So, no more snow!

It was a treat to see so many of us here for Chapter and to hear such good news about our preparations for PACE. Once more our CSJ Guardian Angels in Heaven have led our families and friends to great generosity. I bet Mother St. John Fontbonne is cheering us on and, of course, Mother Athanasia is smiling a “I knew you could do it” kind of smile.

We were glad that our two novices from the Los Angeles Province were here with Sister Jeanne Marie Gocha. Sister Chizuru Yamada, a native of Japan, and Sister Sally Koch. Both women are participating this year in the Federation Novitiate in Rochester.

On May 5, we will have the opportunity to view the film of the first pictures of Earth taken from space, inspired by a live broadcast of the astronauts from Christmas Eve in 1968. A bit later in the same afternoon, we will enjoy a piano concert in chapel. John Wassmuth always warms our hearts and brings happiness to the entire house. John is a relative of our former and now deceased Sister Bridget (Marie) Whalen.

As a result of generous donors from the All Souls’ Day Appeal, several sisters on 1A received new comfortable chairs for their bedrooms. Mine is a much more comfortable and a little smaller chair than the one I had, so I have a treasured two inches more in my bedroom! I realized how we are moving along in modernization when I went to test the lift feature. Next to those buttons for raising and lowering is a port to energize a phone or whatever is in need of a boost of electrical energy. Does my surprise indicate that I’m not keeping up with technology?

Like so many adult individuals and groups, we have been downsizing. We have sold some items from the PH and have given away others. A number of pieces of dinnerware were sent to Unity House in Troy which was founded, you recall, by Mary Jane Smith. The staff members were delighted to receive the items and, in a letter of thanks, mentioned that they are aware of the fact that Mary Jane may have used the donated goods in the past, and now they are being used by the people she served!

Tomorrow we will be entertained by The Silver Tops, a senior group from Watervliet who have worked hard to maintain the quality of their voices. Many of them were taught by our sisters and now they so enjoy giving something back!

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**PH Staff and Sisters Donate to Annunciation House**

*On the Way to El Paso: Sister Lucille Theroux, Tanya Semczuk and Brittany Flannery look at some of the donations for the “Socks and Undies Drive” to be sent to Annunciation House in El Paso. The response to the request from our sisters traveling to El Paso has been very generous. The Activities staff and many sisters from the Provincial House have sorted and packed the material over the last weeks.*
What Does It Mean To Be the Light of the World?

by Jan Phillips

The ultimate and highest leave taking is leaving God for GOD, leaving your notion of God for an experience of that which transcends all notions.
—Meister Eckhart

This happened at the Provincial House several years ago. It was an event. Now it is a poem. It is in a book that thousands of people have purchased, read and shared. This sister is still alive. She is in your midst. She is a light in the world, radiating love and wisdom in all directions because she shared this story in a circle of women.

Leaving God for GOD

A nun of eighty-four years sits in the circle, her shawl draped over the back of her chair, her cane resting near her on the floor. Among the group, she is the smallest, the quietest. When she speaks to us, she says:

It was hard, as a child, to give up Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny, hard to let go of the Tooth Fairy, but the hardest thing I’ve ever done was to give up God.

I had to give up what I learned about God in order to feel the Divine inside me.

I no longer believe in a Heavenly Father who sits on a throne and judges our lives. I no longer seek a faraway God but feel one with what is: when I sit in prayer, walk in the garden, share with my sisters.

I am in love now. It took me eighty-four years, but I am more alive than I’ve ever been.

I have entered the Fire. I am one with the Flame.

When we speak from our soul like that, we melt the frozen seas in others’ hearts. We open doors to communion. We break through walls that keep us apart. Our own truth-telling is a pathway to peace.

Meister Eckhart wrote that the process of enlightenment is “a process of subtraction, not addition.” We do not have to learn anything more to be vessels of the Sacred, carriers of Holy Wisdom. We have to let go of any ideas that we are not already that. We are enlightened beings until we allow the thought that we are not. Whatever we think, we become.

We were all born with Original Radiance, arriving like 100-watt bulbs into a world that needed our light. And as we made our way toward adulthood, our light dulled as it accumulated debris from the bad ideas of others. To be told that we were sinners, unworthy, in need of redemption—these ideas dimmed our light fiercely. Even our prayers diminished the brilliance we were born with. Recite the Memorare and you’ll find it there. Pray the Morning Offering, the Hail Mary and you’ll find it there—sinful and sorrowful, in reparation for our sins, pray for us sinners. Consider the Maxims we learned in Novitiate training, designed to keep us contrite and self-effacing.

To be a light in the world, we have to clean our bulbs constantly, dusting off ideas that come to us from everywhere suggesting God is more exterior than interior, God is like Gepetto making things happen, life is happening to me instead of through me and for me. There is a mass exodus from the churches because they are failing us now, failing to support what Jesus came to make clear:

We are the light of the world. We are one with the Source, one with Creation. And anything we have seen him do, we ourselves can do, and more.

It is up to us to create rituals and occasions for soul-sharing that help us disavow beliefs that keep us from shining. It is up to us as evolutionary women of faith to create new ways to pray together and to support each other in spiritual practices that lift us up and reveal the Holy Presence Within.

I am leading a retreat at the Provincial House June 21-23. If you join us, I promise you will return home with your Original Radiance. You’ll be shining again like a 100-watt bulb!

Jan Phillips is a former CSJ who works with religious communities throughout the US and Canada with a focus on evolutionary faith, practical mysticism, and spiritual intelligence. She is the author of ten award-winning books, a videographer with her own YouTube channel, and a musician with 3 CDs of original music. You can receive her monthly newsletter by subscribing at http://janphillips.com/

8 Carondelet East

May 2019
A delegation of 75 faith leaders and immigrant justice advocates, mostly from the United States, and several joining from South America, traveled to Honduras March 18-25 to meet with grassroots and religious partners in order to understand more deeply the root causes of migration that have spurred thousands to flee Honduras.

The international, interfaith delegation met with organizations working and advocating for the rights of migrants and explored factors that are forcing migrants to flee, including violence, environmental degradation, and the ongoing effects of the 2009 coup which opened the door for drug cartels, organized crime, corrupt security forces and near total impunity for human rights violations. The delegation met also with victims of the government-sponsored repression following the unconstitutional, fraudulent election of November 2017 (supported by the United States) and met with communities fighting against displacement caused by extractive industries and those impacted by human rights violations.

“The migrant caravan from Central America is a modern-day Exodus. As people of faith, we cannot close the borders of our hearts to God’s people; rather we must walk with them, learn from them and together address the root causes that force so many to take unimaginable risks for the sake of their families,” said Sister Ann Scholz, SSND, associate director for social mission of the Leadership Conference of Religious Women (LCWR).

“We envision a world where migration is not forced or criminalized but rather understood as a choice for self-determination and survival,” said Rev. Deborah Lee, executive director of Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, one of the national leaders in the Sanctuary Movement of over 1000 Sanctuary congregations. “It is for us to come face to face with our own country’s complicity in the root causes driving forced migration, such as our U.S. foreign policy in Honduras, combined with environmental devastation by national and multinational corporations.”

The date of the delegation visit coincided with the 39th anniversary of the martyrdom of Saint Oscar Romero who was assassinated for his defense of the poor and speaking out on the repression by government forces in El Salvador on March 24, 1980. The delegation commemorated the anniversary with a theological forum on how the teachings of the slain Archbishop of San Salvador are being applied in Honduras today.

“We go to Honduras carrying the spirit of St. Oscar Romero and Berta Cáceres on the anniversary of their martyrdom. They both called for an end to the repression,” said Jose Artiga, director of the SHARE Foundation which has a 40-year history of accompaniment and advocacy in El Salvador. “St. Romero is with the people of Honduras today who are struggling for a dignified life and an environmentally sustainable future for their country.”

“It is a privilege to participate in a delegation that observes, listens and comes to a deeper understanding of root causes of immigration,” said Sister Kathleen Erickson, RSM, a member of the Sisters of Mercy of the U.S., another co-sponsor of the delegation. “We go to gain more awareness of the connection between U.S. policies and their effects on the lives of people in impoverished countries.”

The interfaith delegation included Jewish, Buddhist and Christian leaders from the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, representatives of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and a number of other Catholic congregations of sisters, SHARE El Salvador, CARECEN and others.

Words to One Another

From Sister Katie Eiffe
I barely have the words adequate to thank you all for the promises of prayer, the expressions of sympathy, cards, notes and Mass cards at the time of my brother Dan’s death. You prayed for him as he made his long journey home to God, and you continue to pray for him and for all of the Eiffe family, and I am so deeply grateful.

From Sister Kate Arseneau
My family and I are so grateful for your words of comfort on countless cards and Mass intentions for our brother Larry who went home to God recently. Thank you so much. One of my grandnieces just before the funeral said to me, “Who are all those ladies out there in the church?” I explained to her that they were Sisters who were there to support me and the family. She said, “Wow, this is kind of like a ‘church sorority,’ right?” I think I have some education to do!
SJA’s Help Desk Donates Laptops to Lima School

by Mindy Brodhead Averitt and Sister Chris Pologa

Student technicians in the St. Joseph’s Academy Help Desk repaired 20 laptop computers which have been donated to Salón San José, an after-school program in Canto Chico near Lima, Peru. The program is run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. The Help Desk technicians are currently working on additional units for donation to the school, whose students come from impoverished backgrounds.

SJA Pastoral Care Minister Sister Chris Pologa is a friend of Sister Anne Davis, who is missioned at the Canto Chico school. Their friendship led to the donation, to the delight of Sister Anne.

“Thanks to the generosity of St. Joseph’s Academy, the children in Canto Chico are able to be more successful in school and feel better about themselves,” Sister Anne said. “We are so grateful to have these computers to use. Last year, we had one very old laptop, and the children used our cell phones to do the research for their homework.”

Sister Anne told the story of one former Salón San José student, Ricardo, who would go to the Sisters’ residence every day to do his homework. In return, he helped clean the tables and sweep the floor. His family lives in extreme poverty, with his mother selling fried chicken wings to support the family.

Ricardo was recently accepted into one of the most prestigious universities in Lima, where he is studying chemical engineering. He is now borrowing one of the donated computers to do his university homework. “We are grateful to have been given the means to help those in need,” Sister Anne said.

SJA senior Anne-Marie Dizor said it is gratifying to know that a computer she repaired is helping students in a far corner of the world. “It feels really good to know that something I put my time and effort into is being used for a good cause,” she said. “I really feel like we are doing our job as Redstickers in building relationships through sacred threads that connect us all over the world to places like Peru.”

Junior Madison Roy was equally enthusiastic. “I’m so excited to hear that the school in Peru is getting to enjoy the refurbished laptops,” she said. “It’s truly amazing to think that the same computers my friends and I repaired and learned on are now in the hands of another set of students who will use them the same way we did. Using a computer daily at SJA was certainly a key factor for me becoming interested in technology, and I am so glad that students in Peru will have the same opportunity to discover and develop their own interests. The service component of our technology program is one of the most gratifying experiences I have ever had, and I look forward to helping distribute computers elsewhere and continuing to see the results.”

Senior Eden Landry said that being part of the Help Desk and its commitment to “serving the dear neighbor” is a vital part of her SJA experience. “Through the Help Desk, I have been exposed to some of the greatest service anyone can receive,” she said. “Seeing and knowing these children will be able to grow and expand their knowledge and education with the computers is one of the most humbling things. These children will have greater opportunities than they probably ever thought possible, and I am grateful to know that I assisted in that process.”

The Sisters in Peru are also using the computers in their own academic studies, their ministry with children with learning disabilities, to format their newsletter and for Zoom conversations across the congregation.

(Enjoy the photos of the students in Peru using the computers from SJA!)
Spring Update from the CSSJ International Center

by Sister Patty Johnson

Representatives from the four international federations, and the Lyon, Annecy and Chambéry congregations, who make up the International Center board, gathered again to conduct business. Believing that the International Center is viable until at least 2025, if not beyond, the board engaged in creative visioning for the future.

The are very excited about the progress that has been made on preparing a program for those sisters who are approaching perpetual vows or who have professed vows within a year. This idea was first proposed by the U.S. Vocation/Formation Group. The Roots and Wings program, which will bring together sisters from all over the world, will be offered by Sisters Judy Donovan (Winslow, Maine-Lyon) and Gloria Philip (Argentina). The program will be offered twice and if successful, may become a yearly offering.

The success of our Cultural Diversity and Conflict Management Program, which trained formators and younger members in a process they could lead in their home country, has inspired the International Center Board to begin planning for the next step, programming or experiences for these two groups that will enable them to live more effectively interculturally.

One of the most successful strategies to increase the participation in programming for sisters and lay people from the Global South has been the awarding of scholarships. Through the generosity of the U.S. and Canadian Federations, the board awarded eight scholarships for three programs in 2020 that will bring sisters from Latin America, India, Pakistan, Egypt and countries in Africa to the International Center.

Acknowledging the oneness of all creation, the board hopes to offer a series of programs beginning in 2020 that focus on eco-spirituality.

Every board of a center such as our International Center, has to deal with fiscal realities. Based on the success of our strategic planning over the last six years, the board is preparing a professional document that touts our successes and learnings and engages the public in our plans for the future. This report will be used for fund-raising efforts. Fiscal Year 2018 was another year in which there was a small surplus after all the bills were paid.

Lastly, many people are aware that one of the staff members at the International Center is Congregation of St Joseph Associate Olga Bonfiglio. Olga is well into her second year. She now feels very comfortable with the routines at the International Center and her French is improving. Her co-worker, Sister Eluiza, shared that she values Olga’s presence and that she adds life to the International Center.

Congratulations, Tracy!

The IMCG (Initial Membership Coordinating Group) is very pleased to announce that the Province Leadership Team has approved Tracy Watson’s request to enter the Novitiate. A reception ceremony will be held on Sunday, June 30, at a time to be determined. Thank you for your continued prayer and support of Tracy and the IMCG! We will be back to all of you with more details!

Sister Marie Bowe
March 31, 2019

Marie E., Sweeney, CSJA
April 9, 2019

Sister Martha Keiffer (SP)
April 18, 2019

Sister Ruth Garbani (LA)
April 25, 2019

Sister Tomasa Marcos (LA/H)
April 29, 2019

Ruth Carey, sister of Sister Mary Ruth Beale, April 3, 2019

Ruby James, mother of CSJ Associate Monica James, April 4, 2019

Daniel Eiffe, brother of Sister Katie Eiffe, April 5, 2019

Margaret McCarthy, sister of CSJ Associate Pat O’Grady, April 7, 2019

Lawrence (Larry) Arseneau, brother of Sister Kate Arseneau, April 15, 2019

Fr. Thomas Vail, brother of Sister Kathleen Vail, April 22, 2019

Sister Mary Angela Morrow, CSM (PH resident), April 25, 2019

11 Carondelet East

May 2019
Our Congregational Chapter in St. Louis will necessitate a lot of travel for about 100 delegates, 22 from the Albany Province. CSJs will be gathering from across the country and from Peru, Japan and Hawaii. Travel, especially by plane, creates a great deal of carbon dioxide. At this time when global warming is reaching critical levels, we need to take action to mitigate our impact on our Earth.

So what do you do when travel is imperative? Carbon offsets are part of the solution. According to Wikipedia, “Carbon offsets are measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent (CO2e). One tonne of carbon offset represents the reduction of one tonne of carbon dioxide or its equivalent in other greenhouse gases.

“There are two markets for carbon offsets. In the larger, compliance market, companies, governments, or other entities buy carbon offsets in order to comply with caps on the total amount of carbon dioxide they are allowed to emit. [These are caps agreed on in the Kyoto Protocol for example]

“In the much smaller, voluntary market, individuals, companies, or governments purchase carbon offsets to mitigate their own greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, electricity use, and other sources. For example, an individual might purchase carbon offsets to compensate for the greenhouse gas emissions caused by personal air travel. Carbon offset vendors offer direct purchase of carbon offsets, often also offering other services such as designating a carbon offset project to support or measuring a purchaser’s carbon footprint. In 2016, about $191.3 million of carbon offsets were purchased in the voluntary market, representing about 63.4 million metric tons of CO2e reductions.” (Wikipedia, “Carbon Offsets,” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_offset)

It is very exciting that voluntary carbon offsets are becoming so popular! After calculating our offsets, we learned that a round trip from Albany to St. Louis creates about 1,148 pounds of carbon dioxide and that our estimated offset cost for 22 delegates at $5.73 per trip would be about $127. (https://www.terrapass.com/calculate-carbon-offsets). This is an estimate, because not everyone is flying from Albany and some trips necessitate two stopovers which creates more carbon dioxide.

The really good news is that our Province Leadership Team has pledged $150, and the HomeLand Committee will give $200 toward offsets. This is more than double the actual cost of offsets!

It was decided that we would make this donation to Heifer International to plant trees in Heifer-sponsored projects. This action really fulfills two goals: first, our offsets to mitigate greenhouse gases and secondly, our food focus since the trees will aid farmers in developing countries. According to Heifer International:

“This tree gift includes seedlings and saplings of trees appropriate to the region. Recipients are educated on nurturing young trees and the importance of reforestation.

“A family with a small orchard is able to supplement their diet with delicious fruits and vegetables while becoming self-reliant at the same time. Passing on the seedlings enables communities to continue the cycle of sustainability. Your plant-a-tree gift ensures a healthy, productive future while fighting poverty and hunger.” (https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/sustainable-farming/gift-of-trees-donation.html)

We are working to fulfill our call to action of the 2013 Chapter which challenges us “to ask in every deliberation, “How does this decision/action impact the Earth community?”
From the Province Justice Committee

**PH FRIEND AND EMPLOYEE MUNA HASSAN SHARES HER EXPERIENCE OF PARTICIPATING IN HELPING HER BELOVED COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

_by Sister Doreen Glynn_

It is easy for us in the United States to become so engrossed in our national situation that we are unaware of the state of affairs of many of our brothers and sisters across the globe. Our concern for justice and peace must include our brothers and sisters around the world. Many members of our PH staff come from outside the U.S. One of them is Muna Hassan, a member of our Community Life Team at the Provincial House. Here is a conversation I had recently with Muna.

**Doreen:** Muna, in recent months I have been reading a lot about the turmoil in Sudan. This is your country of origin, isn’t it?

**Muna:** Yes, it is.

**Doreen:** How long have you been in the United States?

**Muna:** Nineteen years. I came when I was seventeen-years old. I came hoping for a better education and a better living situation.

**Doreen:** Do you still have family members in Sudan?

**Muna:** Yes, my eldest sister, Fara, and her four children.

**Doreen:** I have read about demonstrations and protests that have gone on for months and months. What are they about?

**Muna:** About President Omar al-Bashir’s 30-year cruel rule. He was finally ousted by the military after months of anti-government protests. While he was in power, he was responsible for murder, rape, torture and executions. Because of the discovery of oil, he was able to build new roads, dams and factories, but 40 percent of the people still lived in poverty. There were long lines at gas stations and grocery stores. The cost of bread soared and protests got bigger.

**Doreen:** You showed us some photos that were sent to you during some of the protests. Tell us about what you have learned from your family who are still there.

**Muna:** My uncle was killed during the turmoil. They sent pictures of the uprisings in the streets. It was just chaos everywhere.

**Doreen:** I understand a ten-member military council led by Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan is now in power and says it will oversee a transitional period that will last up to two years. Are the protesters satisfied with that plan?

**Muna:** Well, not really. They are glad that Bashir is gone, but what they really want is a civilian government. They said they will continue to stage sit-ins and won’t stop protesting until that happens. The country is exhausted; the economy is a mess; and the uprisings in various regions aren’t going to be solved quickly. People are living in fear. They want change. Even with Bashir gone, Sudan will not be healed overnight.

**Doreen:** You recently participated in a rally in New York City. Would you tell us something about that?

**Muna:** It was my first time in NYC. I joined hundreds of Sudanese Americans marching for freedom and peace in Sudan and for the end of Bashir. My prayer has been granted, but we are not settled and won’t be for a long time.

**Doreen:** Thank you, Muna, for giving us a glimpse into your country of Sudan. We join you in sending prayers and love to these people who have suffered so much. Please keep us posted as things develop.
Discernment Weekend for Young Women Held at the PH

by Sister Lin Neil

The Province Vocation Committee hosted a discernment weekend for women on March 30 and 31. Eight women attended the weekend. We had a very varied schedule that featured sisters offering prayer, workshops and opportunities for interaction.

Rose Caselino, director of vocations, welcomed everyone on Saturday. Pat Cairns started us off with ice breakers that got the group laughing and sharing. Robert Rita Graham and Lin Neil engaged the group in an opening prayer which featured visual reflections, scripture and sharing of the heart.

In the afternoon, Mary Ellen Schopfer offered a workshop in methods of discernment and different styles of prayer. After we took a break, Diane Zigo facilitated a discussion on the discernment video, “Three Key Questions,” by Michael Himes, SJ.

There were opportunities for free time and discussion before dinner. Then the group headed out to Mercy House for an ice cream social and card party with a few of the women who reside there.

Betsy Van Deusen arranged for the trip and we enjoyed the social with the women.

Sunday breakfast and Liturgy were followed by a “Vizio Divina” experience that focused on the mosaic of Jesus in our chapel. This was led by Carol Rohloff who also connected us with wonderful reflections on the chapel windows. Monica Murphy led us on a prayerful tour of the windows, pointing out the meanings that even the sisters were not aware of!

Rose ended the morning with prayer and we enjoyed lunch together. The women raved about having a terrific experience and entered into all of the prayer and activities with great enthusiasm. They are eager to come again!

Many thanks for all those who contributed to the weekend and to all who supported us with prayer! Having many sisters involved contributed to a rich diversity!
Albany-Area Associates Meet with Men and Women at Saint Rose

by Annmarie Yellico, CSJA

CSJ Associates are men and women who have heard and responded to a call to “the more,” a call to live Gospel-centered lives in the spirit and charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Through the Associate experience, we grow in our common desire to strengthen our relationship with God, one another and the dear neighbor. Guided by the history, spirituality and, most of all, examples of Sisters who have touched our lives, we develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of who God has called us to be in this world.

The Acts of Chapter have called us to “claim our oneness” by using current and evolving structures that will promote our mission and strengthen our collective identity. In response to this challenge, some members of the Albany-Area CSJ Associates met with men and women from The College of Saint Rose who have expressed a desire to join us on our journey as we “move towards a profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction.”

On March 27, Nancy Koltko, Mary Craven, Sister Marilyn Vassallo and I met with thirteen inquiring members of the faculty and staff at the invitation of Sister Sean Peters. We prayed together in the Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary which very naturally led to “Sharing of the Heart.” This was followed by each Associate telling her story of how she came to be called and how the response to that call has impacted her life. There was great enthusiasm and energy in the room which we carried with us as we broke bread and shared a very hearty and delicious vegetable soup, prepared by Sister Sean. Wonderful conversation and laughter were interrupted by most of us needing to return to work!

We are grateful to God for having gifted us with an opportunity to communicate our love for and knowledge of the CSJ mission and charism in a place that has been so richly cultivated by the many Sisters who have ministered and studied at Saint Rose. We are especially grateful to Sister Sean Peters for her tireless efforts to promote and witness to Unifying Love through her presence on the campus.

As our CSJ Associate community accepts the responsibility for mentoring these wonderful men and women, we ask your support and prayers. We are hopeful that as we celebrate Commitment Weekend 2020, our province will formally add one more unit, The College of Saint Rose, to our six existing Associate units (Albany, Amsterdam, Rome, Utica, Syracuse, Binghamton). St. Joseph and St. Rose of Lima, pray for us!
Sister Marie Bowe, CSJ
(Sister James Elizabeth)
1927 - 2019

Born in Fort Edward, NY, August 10, 1926

Entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in Troy, NY, on February 11, 1946

Received into the Novitiate on March 19, 1947

Professed Final Vows on August 15, 1952

Died at St. Joseph’s Provincial House, Latham, NY, March 31, 2019

by Sister Kitty Hanley

A lthough Sister Marie Bowe had requested that no stories be told at her wake, the pictures she had lovingly preserved told rich stories. Marie poses with her parents, Elizabeth and James, whose names she would take upon receiving the Habit. In another picture, baby Marie stands with her brother Ed, the two of them smiling at a huge dog, the sort you just have to pet. Her other brother, James, came along later.

Marie’s graduation from Fort Edward High School shows her in a long baby-blue ball gown, holding an armful of red roses. Marie the career girl appears in later pictures with her friends.

An understandable gap occurs in the photos as Marie entered the novitiate, professed vows, and studied at The College of Saint Rose. Then the wonderful photos begin: Marie with school faculties and in class pictures, Marie moving into contemporary dress, Marie with local communities and groups of friends, Marie on vacation.

The real prizes are Marie fishing, baiting her hook, holding up her catch, delighting in the sport. In between we see Marie at the Provincial House after 30 years of teaching and a long ministry of loving care for her mother. At the Provincial House, Marie took to the computer with the same enthusiasm and skill that she brought to fishing, offering all sorts of help as sisters learned to use this new means of communication. The little train appears, a cherished relic from Marie’s childhood.

Marie’s jubilee pictures show her in a lovely suit with her hair done, pretty jewelry, and a rose corsage. This is not Marie the fisherwoman but both images show us an authentic Marie.

The pictures show us the exterior and usher us into the interior: Marie’s deep faith, joyful confidence in God, and contemplative heart. Marie found God in nature, in daily living, and in each person she encountered. Like Peter the fisherman, Marie stayed close to Jesus, following Him everywhere and conversing daily with Him.

Typically low-key, Marie slipped into God’s heart with little notice. The Eucharistic minister who came to her room would discover that God had already visited.

The worship aid for Marie’s Mass of Christian Burial had this anonymous poem:

I pray that I may live to fish until my dying day
And when it comes to my last cast,
I then most humbly pray:
When in the Lord’s great landing net
and peacefully asleep,
That in God’s mercy I be judged big
enough to keep.

Dear Marie, you are surely a keeper. Rest in peace.
Marie E. Sweeney, CSJA
1923 - 2019

Marie E. Sweeney, 95, a CSJ Associate from Binghamton, died April 9, 2019 in Syracuse.

Marie was predeceased by her parents, Joseph and Lucy Sweeney; a brother, Rev. Robert Sweeney and a special cousin, Sister Charlene Sweeney, CSJ.

Surviving Marie are two brothers, Walter (Jane) Sweeney of Syracuse and Charles (Dorothy Sweeney) of Frederick, Maryland; several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; many friends; and the CSJ Associates.

Marie’s Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Binghamton, on Friday, April 12. Burial was in St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Johnson City.

Marie was introduced to our CSJ Associate program by her cousin, Sister Charlene Sweeney. Although Marie moved from Binghamton to Syracuse several years ago, she maintained her ties with the Binghamton Associates.

Marie had the distinction of being among the first groups of Albany Province Associates and would have marked her 30th Anniversary this year.

Although Marie died in the Syracuse area, she had spent most of her life in Binghamton. A long-time parishioner of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and its Altar Rosary Society, she also loved attending the weekly meetings of the St. John Vianney Group at St. Patrick Parish.

According to Sister Alma Jones, since Marie’s cousin, Sister Charlene, had first begun the group, Marie was like a charter member whom Char “wouldn’t let go.”

Marie truly lived the charm of the Sisters of St. Joseph. As Sister Alma and Sister Ellen Noonan said of her, “Marie was a gentle, gracious woman, always there for others.” In addition to her parish ministries, Marie lovingly reached out to the “dear neighbor” elsewhere too. She was a retiree of the Binghamton Psychiatric Center after 33 years of service, a member of the Ladies of Charity and a volunteer at Our Lady of Lourdes and Binghamton General Hospitals.

According to Sister Karen Gaube, “After Marie had moved to Syracuse, she kept in touch with Sister Alma, Sister Ellen and me by surprising us with a phone call at St. Patrick Convent now and then. She was always so interested in hearing about others.”

As Sister Ellen said of Marie, “She was a quiet person, never saying much about herself, perhaps so she could listen better to others.”

Dear Marie, you must have been welcomed home so joyfully by two Josephs, your father, Joseph and our patron, Saint Joseph!

Sister Marcia Captures Tracy’s Imagination and Heart

by Tracy Watson, CSJ candidate

Almost four summers ago, I served at the PH as a “wheelchair-transport” volunteer in which I escorted A-Wing Sisters to their physical therapy appointments. It was ministering in that capacity that I began to know personally more and more Sisters, many of whom have since gone to God. One Sister, in particular, captured my imagination and my heart!

I do need to clarify though that I did not transport her to PT; rather she zoomed there on her own using her red scooter. One day as I was heading towards the front door by way of a 1A, I spotted her scooter outside her door and poked my head in and, as the saying goes, “The rest is history.”

Sister Marcia Allen and I have become quite close over these past four years, and I count our friendship as a deep grace and blessing from our God. We connected quickly as we share a deep love for teaching and a love for family and friends in community, all of which are rooted and grounded in our faith.

As my Spring days this year are filled to the brim with a sometimes overwhelming amount of preparations to be ready for the Novitiate, sadly I have not been able to visit with my dear friend very much. So I was delighted to be able to bring Communion to 3A during Chapter this past weekend and to sneak away from a session to visit with Sister for a few minutes!

As time has its way with the both of us and with residence address moves on my horizon, I do hope and intend to visit Sister more often during these next two months. Please keep both of us in prayer as well as all who are in some stage of transition, that it may be gentle in us.

ALLELUIA

17 Carondelet East

May 2019
Associates (CSJA) and Sisters (CSJ)

welcome all to

COMMITMENT WEEKEND!

St. Joseph’s Provincial House
June 7, 8, 9, 2019

SHARING OF THE HEART

Friday Night
Opening Prayer
Social Gathering and Sharing
CSJs and CSJAs

Saturday Morning
Presentation: Chris Pologa, CSJ
Pentecost: Empowering for Mission
CSJs and CSJAs

Saturday Afternoon
Associates’ Assembly
CSJAs

Saturday Evening: Social

Liturgical Prayer (CSJs and CSJAs)
Compline: Friday, 7:00 p.m.
Candle Ceremony: Saturday, 4:00 p.m.
Eucharistic Liturgy: Sunday (Pentecost), 9:00 a.m.

The registration form is on the next page. Please register no later than May 20, 2019!
CSJ ASSOCIATE COMMITMENT WEEKEND  
Pentecost: Empowering for Mission  
June 7, 8, 9, 2019

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print and return no later than **May 20, 2019**!

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Overnight Accommodations

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Special Needs:  
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Meal Requests

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*Note: Please understand that, after you make these requests, should you not come for any part of the weekend, the meals and accommodations must still be paid for by the Associate budget. Please notify the team immediately if your plans change prior to the weekend.*
Join author, artist, activist

JAN PHILLIPS

in a weekend retreat at the Provincial House.
June 21-23, 2019

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
—Evolving Ourselves Forward
as a Faithful People—

A multi-sensory, multi-media experience
in conscious spirituality

• Let go of ideas that keep you from shining.
• Discover the formula for bliss.
• Become a finder instead of a seeker.

Join us for a free Friday evening open-to-the-public presentation of music, video and storytelling to launch the retreat, June 21, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

For more information or to register,
contact Jan Phillips:
jan@janphillips.com;
858-229-0452;

Visit www.janphillips.com for more information and to sign up for her newsletter to stay informed about upcoming workshops.

CSJ Associate Mardee Schaefer was the prayer leader for the April CSJA meeting in Syracuse. She decided to do a reflection on proverb sayings comparing the wise to the foolish, so she dressed up as a fool. Mardee has a great flair for creativity!