Think Abundance

Shifting to Transformational Visioning Based on Abundance and a Bias Toward Action

By Marty Roers, Justice Co-Director

There is so much wonderful energy in the CSJ community right now. Visioning. Dreaming. Looking to a future steeped in our CSJ mission. I am energized by hope and the Spirit moving through the community. These are exciting yet challenging times.

How will we meet these challenges? A recent Racism Convocation sponsored by the Justice Conference for Women Religious (JCWR) accentuated the need for a profound shift to new and transformational values. Convocation presenters challenged communities of women religious to embolden their action(s) rooted in the following values:

- “Both/And Thinking” with a bias toward action that impacts people’s lives
- A shift from a scarcity worldview of diminishment to ABUNDANCE and shared power
- Right relationships rooted in transparent communication with consensus decision-making
- Cooperative and collaborative foci that are not about maintaining the status quo, but about acting to further the “mission,” impacting the lives of people suffering from injustice.

Decisions have to be about action, especially action that impacts people’s lives. What would our current community visioning processes look like IF we truly embrace and live into these transformational values?

For example, how might valuing abundance along with “both/and” thinking further embolden our province chapter directions to: honor and support our sacred Earth; support and empower women and girls in finding their voice; seek justice for the marginalized, especially with deep loving of our dear migrant neighbors; working to end racism and discrimination; promote peace and nonviolence; and more authentically explore theologies and spiritualities for a new church rooted in social justice and action in response to the concrete needs of the world today?

Similarly, in the context of this new framework of cooperation, how do we, together, further the CSJ mission to boldly focus on action? Instead of leaving the work of ending racism, stopping trafficking, doing advocacy being relegated to this or that working or task group, might transformational values inspire all of us, using consensus and collaborative processes, to concretely act in just ways to impact people’s lives? Together can we manifest ABUNDANCE opening the doors to new opportunities that will lead to new ways of thinking?

This new framework invites us to hope and envision what can be by engaging in ongoing conversations critical to our strategic planning and visioning. I am filled with hope by the possibilities before us and all that will arise!
Sisters of Peace is a hit!

Minnesota’s History Theatre has found a hit in their portrayal of CSJs Kate, Rita, Brigid and Jane McDonald in *Sisters of Peace*. The Theatre’s audience development director, Chari Hall, said, “the theatre added three performances to accommodate the crowds.” The play’s run ended April 14 but there are already rumors of a future run of the show.

Of the play, the Province Leadership wrote in a statement, “Our hope and prayer are that this play will be a catalyst for respectful discussion, yielding compassion and understanding for all regardless of race, gender, orientation or belief.”

“The many reviews and other articles also helped drive traffic to the Province webpage,” explains Communications Content Strategist for the St. Paul Province, Jenna Bendel. “For example, the first Star Tribune article about the play included a link to the Province homepage. When the article was released, the homepage’s traffic was three times higher than normal. At least 10-15% of that traffic was from the article’s link (and likely, it’s much higher). Between that article and all of the other coverage, we also definitely had new visitors!”

St. Joseph Worker returns to Kansas

Former St. Joseph Worker Lisse Regehr was recently named President and CEO of Thrive Allen County, the largest and most prominent rural health advocacy organization in Kansas. The organization works to create a healthy rural community that thrives both physically and fiscally. Regehr worked for nine years with the Sisters of St. Joseph Ministries Foundation in St. Paul where she was a Planned Giving Officer and Social Networker. “I want to see my home community of Allen County grow and prosper, to continue to be on the front lines of new and innovative ideas and projects,” said Regehr of her new position.

Global warming impact

MINNPOST writer, Ron Meador, in his article *Now we know how much global warming is reducing the world’s seafood harvest*, reports on a recent study that found “an overall decline in sustainable fish catch of 41.1 percent worldwide. It represents an annual loss in seafood production of about 1.4 million metric tons, or a bit over 3 billion pounds.”
Fairview CEO

This article is excerpted from a recent informal blog called “CEO Chalkboard,” written by Fairview president and CEO James Hereford. The full blog is included on www.csjstpaul.org.

“Every time I have an opportunity to be with the Sisters, I am struck by the impact their order has had on health care in our communities. They are always looking forward. They are deeply engaged in how we progress from where we are as individuals and a community to where our values dictate we should be. They truly understand and live the idea Marcus Aurelius writes about in Book Six of Meditations, “Meditate often on the interconnectedness and mutual interdependence of all things in the universe.”

We are all part of something much larger. We are united and made from the same stuff. We breathe the same air. We share the same hopes and dreams. We come from the same origins. This is true no matter our race, or where we came from, or what we believe…

According to Marcus, understanding how we are all connected and dependent on each other will prompt us to be good and do good for each other. This is exemplified for me by the work of the sisters who inspire me to be good and do good through our work together.

…James

In a separate interview posted on Twincities.com (Pioneer Press), Hereford addressed the 2017 integration of the Fairview and HealthEast systems:

Q. How has the integration been going between HealthEast and Fairview? You’ve said one of the first big hurdles was combining the technologies of the two.
A. The good news is the two cultures were so aligned. We both had a faith-based heritage, very committed to the community, very committed to our patients. The hard part is always the technology. That's going to take us through most of 2020 to complete that.

Q. M Health Fairview is the new name. How long before we start seeing that brand?
A. As you can imagine, we've got a lot of buildings, a lot of signs, a lot of badges, a lot of documents, web pages and what have you. So that process will take through the year and may spill into 2020 as well.

MINNESOTA MDNEWS REPORTS:

Driven by the shared vision of two new leaders with ambitious goals, longtime partners Fairview Health Services, the University of Minnesota and University of Minnesota Physicians have created M Health Fairview, a united care delivery system that combines the best of academic and community medicine throughout the state and supports the work of researchers aiming to shape the future.

Global Sisters Report

An article by Joachim Pham titled, Farmers benefit from organic farming initiated by sisters explains that Sisters in Vietnam counteract the country's massive use of pesticides and herbicides by educating farmers about health risks. Sisters from different congregations teach farmer groups and parishes how to grow organic food such as vegetables, fruits and beans. The tactics keep local farmers running a sustainable livelihood, while providing more organic crops for communities, and decreasing the amount of pesticides used in the region.


Sonia Nazario in her April 5, 2019 New York Times opinion piece “Someone Is Always Trying to Kill You” writes, “Nearly one in three women murdered in Honduras in 2017 were killed here. And this city, Choloma, is probably the deadliest...Last year, 23 women were murdered in Choloma; some say the toll is a third more. But it's the growing cruelty with which women are killed that has most frightened women here...It's about machismo — the culture of which goes back to colonial times, when conquering Spaniards came without wives and treated the indigenous like slaves. Today, in a world ruled by gangs and narco groups, it’s about engendering maximum terror in your enemies, and you do that by showing how macabre you can be in the way you torture or kill. Honduras is locked in a war of grisly one-upmanship, and women’s bodies are the battlefield.”
Federation Committees: The Leadership Council (LC), after discussing needed expertise, selected three persons to represent all Federation Committees and Groups. Beginning their three-year term in November 2019 are:
1. Sister Kari Pohl, Baden
2. Sister Mary McFadden, Philadelphia
3. Mrs. Barbara Roberts, Carondelet- St Louis

TIM Talks: For National Catholic Sisters Week (in March) the Federation launched its first Together in Mission (TIM) Talks. The talks are offered as a way for members to share relevant issues of charism and spirituality for these times. Sister Annelle Fitzpatrick used her lifelong experience in interreligious studies to discuss "Reconciling Neighbor with Neighbor and Neighbor with God." Using her experience in diverse communities, Sister Maryellen Kane talks about "Dangerous Memories and Unioning Love." The Federation invites all to consider watching and discussing these videos with a group, at a community evening, or an associate gathering and welcomes interest from others who would consider being featured in upcoming TIM Talks.

Congregations of St. Joseph NGO Update: In February, the Congregations of St. Joseph NGO at the United Nations hosted four Sisters of St. Joseph from Latin America for the Commission for Social Development (CSocD). Also during CSocD, Sister Sue Wilson had the opportunity to present an intervention and question during an interactive dialogue with senior officials of the UN system on the priority theme. A link to her addressing the trend of countries utilizing fewer funds to address inequality is on the Federation website, CSSJFed.Org.

LCWR announced that a delegation of nearly 75 faith leaders and immigrant justice advocates, mostly from the United States, and several joining from South America, traveled in March on a "Reverse Caravan" to Honduras 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 March trip coincided with the 39th anniversary of the martyrdom of Saint Oscar Romero. "The migrant caravan from Central America is a modern-day Exodus," 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, nor 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 US foreign policy in Honduras, combined with environmental devastation by national and multinational corporations."
We Hold in Prayer

We welcome and hold in prayer all those around the Congregation who are entering into a deeper commitment to move “always toward the profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction.” All those

• Sisters professing vows
• Novices and Candidates for Sister membership
• Making public commitments as ACOF
• Candidates for ACOF
• Discerning the St. Joseph Worker Program
• Discerning deeper commitments with the CSJ mission/community

• Agrégées gathering for June 21–23 retreat in St. Paul

May we be inclusive in our welcome—supporting each of them on their journey.

May our support of one another strengthen the life of our community and impact of our mission.

May our commitments to our mission contribute to the healing of the world.

We place this prayer in the Spirit of St. Joseph, model of faithfulness, protection and dreams.

Amen.

—By Jill Underdahl, CSJ (Saint Paul)

New Sister Members throughout the Congregation

Sister Clare Bass of the St. Louis province professed final vows on March 30. “I am humbled by the great love and support of God, my family, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and friends along the way who have all helped me reach this momentous life occasion of professing final vows,” Clare said. “My heart is filled with gratitude for all of life as I take this next step.”

*An interview with Kristina, the newest CSJ candidate, is available on the Congregational website, https://csjcarondelet.org.

Clare Bass

Mary Alice Collar (Saint Louis), Novice will make first profession of vows on May 11, 2019

Sally Koch (Los Angeles), Novice

Kristina DeNeve (Saint Louis), Candidate

Chizuru Yamada (Japan), Novice

Tracy Watson (Albany), Candidate

Together for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet & Consociates May 2019
Welcoming our new 2019 Consociate Candidates
in the St. Paul Province

*Introductory notes have been excerpted. For the full introductions visit www.csjstpaul.org.

We are pleased to welcome our new Consociate candidates.

Liz Anderson: I was raised and educated in the Catholic Church. After our children were baptized, I drifted away. Married fifty-two years, Richard and I have a daughter, a son and daughter-in-law and one amazing granddaughter. Retirement gave me an opportunity to slow down and learn. I was attracted to a Hedgerow class at Wisdom Ways on the origins of the universe. Little did I know that I was fulfilling a deep need in my life and starting on a spiritual journey. The Sisters and the women I met in that first Hedgerow class had a much deeper and richer understanding of God and her plan for us than the traditional Catholic way I grew up with. I wanted to be a part of that. I am inspired by the Sisters’ passionate commitment to social justice and the welcoming, loving and supportive nature of this community. It is a community I want to learn, pray, and serve with.

Melissa Andrie: When I became a Saint Joseph Worker in 2008-2009, my placement site was Cornerstone, supporting women, men, and children surviving domestic violence and sexual assault. Through the SJW program I also spent three months at Annunciation House in El Paso, TX living in community with migrants, many of whom were undocumented. Afterward, I worked as an advocate and supervisor at Cornerstone for eight years. I am now a full-time mom to three incredible young children. I have continued to be inspired by the bold activism, quiet striving for better, and accompaniment of the marginalized that I witness in the CSJ community. I am excited to build deeper connections to this community as we work for justice and support each other along the way.

Marcia Bailey: I was born in 1946 after my father returned from WWII and I was raised in South St. Paul. I attended Providence School in St. John Vianney parish, Our Lady of Peace High School, and St. Catherine’s College. I graduated from the University of MN with a BA in Social Work. I worked as a Child Protection Worker for Dakota County Social Services for 12 years. I married, moved to Connecticut, and had two children, now adults. I divorced and remarried, and we adopted two special needs children from the Middle East. I moved back to Minnesota to be with my mother, who is currently 101 years old and very active. Over the years I have worked at several spiritual institutes. I am a parishioner at St. Joan of Arc parish in south Minneapolis. I have always been drawn to help people without distinction and feel that if I am really following Jesus, I will work for peace and justice.

Lisa Fink: My large, Irish Catholic family roots are in rural Minnesota. I moved to the Southwest after college, living there for many years before returning to the Twin Cities. Catholic teachings around community and faith and social justice have always made sense to me. They still do, but my sense of what makes a spiritual life has changed and become more expansive—more catholic than Catholic. I’ve been welcomed at many wonderful Wisdom Ways offerings that support spiritual growth within the context of social justice ministries, the arts and inclusivity. I am grateful for the bold message the Sisters of St. Joseph and Consociates voice through their lived mission of “profound love of God and neighbor without distinction.” I seek a deeper connection with your spirited and spiritual community.

Lisa Fobbe: I love my local Catholic community in the rural Zimmerman/Princeton area and know that I can continue to be a force of change from within the church. I have had a wonderful career serving people and communities in various capacities including social work, ministry, and holding elected office. Currently, I am a Sherburne County Commissioner and delight in the challenges and opportunities of making this region and people’s lives just a bit better each day. I am most proud of my three young adult sons Angelo, Domenic and Gino. They continue to inspire me and influence my life…daily! It is with gratitude and joy that I enter this new chapter exploring life with the CSJ Sisters and Consociates. I do so with an open heart to see where the Spirit will take me next!

Maurilaurice Hemlock: I am happy to sink my roots more deeply into CSJ history, mission, and wisdom as a Consociate, building on my seven years as part of the St. Joseph Worker program team. I bring experience in ritual, music, and serving as a member of a pastoral team, and connections with Sisters, Consociates, and Partners in Mission. I desire to live and spread love of God and neighbor without distinction and have deep admiration...
for the CSJ community. I am grateful to enjoy good health, a love of beauty, and photography, the wonder of books and reading, a brain inclined toward books and reading, the ability to make music, and the blessing of true and long-time friends.

**Nancy Higgins:** I am originally from De Pere, Wisconsin. Yes, I am a Packer fan. I have two grown and married sons. I’m semi-retired and work for Right at Home, helping people to stay in their homes. I’ve been attending church at Our Lady of Victory for about four years now. First, I met Sister Jan (Dalsin) who introduced me to Sister Kathy (Ryan). Things snowballed from there. I’m seeking a spiritual community with like-minded values. The CSJ’s fit my description; strong women involved in social justice issues.

**Bridgette Kelly:** Hello! Many of you may know me as I’ve worked with the St. Joseph Worker Program since 2006. I was a St. Joseph Worker myself in 2004-2005 where I came to know the CSJ community through my placement at Learning in Style. I am a transplant to St. Paul from Iowa and love the whole of the Twin Cities. I look forward to exploring Consociate Candidacy and learning in a new way about the Community. I love singing, family times, the outdoors, and museums and I dream of more time by the ocean and in the woods.

**Kathy Klietz:** Over 25 years ago I was introduced to the CSJs by Sister Roseann Giguere and I participated in the Spiritual Direction training program, which she facilitated in 2000. I’ve completed a two-year apprenticeship training program with a shamanic practitioner, She Walks with Bear. Both programs deepened my connection to Spirit and the natural world. Most recently I have been exploring my relationship with the ancestors. I speak to them in the mornings and have a dream to have a cabin at the lake where I can bring in my earthly family and connect them to our ancestors. Last fall I participated in training on becoming a Death Doula and I continue to explore this interest. I live with my husband, Brian, two dogs and a cat in the Merriam Park neighborhood of St. Paul.

**Michelle LeBlanc:** I was raised by loving, Catholic parents and had the privilege of attending Catholic schools for grades 1-8, and as a college student at St. Thomas. For as long as I can remember I have wanted to keep God and God’s people as the focus in my life. As a child, I looked for opportunities to learn about God and explore faith. At St. Thomas, I took a deep dive into all that the college offered in terms of living out faith: prayer groups, theology classes, local volunteer opportunities, justice and peace studies, a social justice student group, mass, retreats, international volunteer programs and even activities at the minor seminary (at times requiring special permission). Becoming a theology teacher has been my dream job, second only to my high school job at Dairy Queen in Robbinsdale. Handing out ice cream treats is met with a smile and joy, not always the case in theology class, but certainly my goal! I have four children and have been married to John for 27 years. The CSJs and their charm have inspired me and keep me nurtured, especially in my work at a school they founded. I am drawn to sharing faith, fun, and community with the CSJs and Consociates.

**Anne Marie Melendez:** As an artist and art lover I am dedicated to beauty, compassion, and spirituality. For me creativity is the highest form of spirituality; it is how I express myself and understand the world around me. I have been involved with the CSJ community for over 15 years and have a great love for the Sisters of St. Joseph. I am passionate about mental health issues, elder care advocacy, and issues affecting Hispanic communities. My father, Manuel, recent passed away and I would like to carry on his legacy of helping others through acts of kindness, charity, and advocacy.

**Lil Morff:** I was a Saint Joseph Worker in 2016-17 and afterwards began my journey as a massage therapist and bodyworker. I was born in International Falls, MN on the border of Canada. I was raised Catholic and believe in service as a form of spirituality. Much of my current work is focused on dual modality massage therapy and helping people have a better understanding of their bodies.

**Lindsay ‘Zay’ Coleman Schaeffer:** I am currently a case manager, birth doula, and training as an herbalist in Minneapolis. I was a St. Joseph Worker in 2016-2017 and had such a beautiful experience with the CSJ community that I wanted to take a next step and immerse myself further into the community by becoming a Consociate. I am incredibly passionate about healing and empowerment for others, and plan to do more work within the healing arts community through my doula work, tarot, and herbalism. In my spare time I read tarot, spend time outdoors, visit family, write poetry, and cook!

**Monica Shaffer:** Monica Shaffer is a native of the Twin Cities and attended Loras College in Dubuque, IA for her B.A. She is dedicated to empowering women (and all people) and currently works at the Jeremiah Program in Minneapolis. In 2014-2015 she participated in the St. Joseph Worker Program and has admired the CSJs ever since she set foot in Joseph House.

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Sacred Call to Agrégée

Megan Bender
(Saint Paul): Being in community with bold, brilliant, and spirited women responding to the call of agrégée in St. Paul solidified my commitment to belong in this form of identity. About a year ago one of these women planted the seed of the identity in me and it grew quietly without much illumination until other discерners shed light through time together in retreat. As I learned, the agrégées in 17th-century France belonged to one another and networked with the Sisters of St. Joseph. It was a call to be together in community, to be “attached to.” I am so grateful to have been called to explore this call with guidance of language, creative exploration, storytelling, and prayerful discernment. As a young 20-something, a “none” (spiritual but not religious), a CSJ staff member, and busy millennial, agrégée names my attachment to the community I love. My intention is to live the movement more fully and to support the CSJ community with this call to agrégée.

Gayle Bushle
(Albany): This was an amazing meeting. To me, one thing stood out from the very beginning and that was that everyone agreed with each other as each step developed in spite of not knowing each other. There was discussion on wording and fine points, but the general development of the first draft was unanimous. Above all, and I believe the very most important point, was that everyone felt called. In general, we all wanted a deeper spiritual life and a life of community. This involves more than a yearly commitment of the Associate. For myself at eighty-six, I will not be able to actually live this life, but I feel that it is a great privilege to be called to help to develop a lifestyle as a way to live the charism of the community of the Sisters of St. Joseph and to keep this commitment ongoing for future generations. God Bless!

Mary Cay Cooney
(Albany): I first experienced the “call” when we had a presentation from communities who had agrégée programs. Since I left the CSJ community, I had been seeking a way to live a religious life. Sister Mary Anne Brawley, DC was my spiritual director and she suggested I look into taking private vows, which I did. In the meantime, I joined the associates and that has been a coming home experience. The agrégées seem to be a continuation and deepening of that experience. Having people who are living out a religious calling is an encouraging and hopeful sign for people of faith. It is also a joy to my spirit.
Province Council Highlights

March 6 Council highlights:

- Started discussions around what simplification might look like for the St. Paul Province including adjusting board configurations, committees and commissions; shared administrative leadership responsibilities; expanded leadership; and encouraging Sister membership. Council encouraged the Team to begin conversations with the larger community.

- Continued review of employee meetings that began last year as CSJ 101 focusing on CSJ mission and charism, and this year’s CSJ 201 that provided an opportunity for employees to better understand each other’s ministries.

- Received Sister Jill Underdahl’s “Kakehashi Gathering” experience. “Kakehashi” (bridge) points to how the group “bridges” generations and cultures in the congregation. The meeting focused on younger Sisters building relationships and an openness and desire for moving together into the future.

- We also heard personal experiences from Sisters Irene O’Neill and Teresa Kim.

April 3, 2019 Council highlights:

- Continuing Province simplification discussions that included a process for sharing ideas; inviting Sisters and then a broader group of participants into the conversation; and recognition of what has already happened in terms of simplification.

- Discussion, including Jill’s reflections about women who may be interested in living in community during their discernment, focused on what women are seeking; how we and they define community; clarity around the changing nature of religious life; and how to let inquirers know we are open to possibilities. Jill will engage interested groups in conversations on intentionality, connections, living in an intentional way and/or living in community. Others in the group offered to help.

Community Assembly Update

Finding Our Place and Taking Action at Community Assembly, April 13

by Maren Bjork and Peg Schwendeman

The Community Assembly opened with a prayer that highlighted our Chapter commitments to Earth Community, 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg of Sweden’s challenge to world economic leaders, and our interconnection with all life with Sara Thomsen’s song “By Breath.”

Community Assembly Planning Committee (CAPC) Invitation: On behalf of CAPC, Jill Underdahl invited the assembly participants to consider becoming one of four at-large members of the planning committee. Those who express interest will attend CAPC April 22 to learn more about the work of this committee.

The afternoon panel discussion “Finding our Place in “Gender” and “Sexuality” to embrace our Dear Neighbors” featured, from left, Linda Taylor, CSJ; Janet Bystrom, founder of Reclaim Counseling Service for LGBTQ youth; Ilana Sperling; Micah Louwagie; Felicia Washington Sy, Executive Director of Reclaim, and Kit Breshears, Consociate.
Community Assembly Update Cont.

Finding our Place in Addressing Issues of Racial Justice, Climate Change, and Spirituality: Chris McNellis Tanita, St. Joseph Worker 2002-2003 and Chief Advancement Officer for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA), described for us the work and impact of MCEA. She also shared personal stories and facts to show us the connections between racial justice and environmental degradation and how she is personally committed to these concerns. She invited the Assembly to fill out postcards asking Governor Walz to support “MN Can’t Wait,” a movement to promote action on climate change organized by Minnesota youth. Chris explained that when we fail to act because we don’t think we know enough or because we don’t trust our values, we relinquish our power. She asked us who loses and who wins when we don’t take action? She reminded us to see budgets as moral documents. Following her presentation the Assembly reflected on what we personally and communally were already doing to advance environmental and racial justice, and what more we could do.

Finding our Place in ‘Gender’ and ‘Sexuality’ to embrace our Dear Neighbors: The Afternoon Keynote: Janet Bystrom, founder of Reclaim, facilitated a three-person panel. Each person on the panel shared her/their unique experiences to help us understand how to grow in support of our Queer/Trans neighbors. Each described their religious upbringing and how their spirituality had been informed by their gender identity and sexual orientation. We learned about the changing aspects of language related to gender identity and sexual orientation (i.e. personal pronouns and current terminology) as they reflect individual’s experience of themselves. The panel explained that the formerly pejorative term “Queer” is now the preferred term for some LGBTQ persons because it is an umbrella term encompassing the variety of gender and sexual identities. The word frees them from having to define their sexuality in binary terms. We learned the best way to know how to address the pronouns of an LGBTQ person is to simply ask them. Panelists also shared what they loved most about being Queer. Being accepted for whoever they are is a great support for our Queer/Trans neighbors. At table discussion, participants were asked to reflect on what they had heard and to share their individual experience and understanding regarding gender identity and sexual orientation. The panel then answered questions from the gathered Assembly.

The Assembly Adjourned singing “All You Works of God” which expressed our unity with all our neighbors, both human and those in the natural world.

Consociate Assembly,
March 26, 2019

Consociates recently met for “Spring Unfolding.” The Assembly included a Sharing of the Heart style conversation about Consociate identity. Who do we say that we are? Sharing included a discussion of commitments and areas of gratitude. Work committees, including Events and Ritual, Pastoral Care, Governance, Policy and Procedure, Education and Spiritual Development, and Finance and Fund Development, shared their efforts and desires. Based on group input, future events will focus on community activities that bring people together for the sake of relationship building. Consociate Services staff announced that Barbara McIquham and Anita Duckor will attend the Congregational Chapter gathering in St Louis this summer as Chapter Companions. Collections totaled $600 for assembly costs including room rental and food and $370 for the Ministries Foundation. Check Forum for more details.
Birthdays & Missives

Happy May Birthdays

1. Mary Vincent, CSJ
   Marilyn Woolley, Consociate
2. Monica Lubitz, Consociate
   Karen Woehler, CSJ
3. Linda Napier, CSJ
4. Ann Michele Jadlowski, CSJ
   Carmen Shaughnessy Johnson, Consociate
5. Mary Lang, CSJ
6. Rosemary Curran, Candidate
7. Ann Meissner, Consociate
   Colleen O’Malley, CSJ
8. Andrea Pearson Tande, Consociate
9. Cathy Kobberman, Consociate
   Mary Lou Murray, CSJ
10. George Ann Bohl, CSJ
11. Timothy Sheehan, Consociate
12. Betty Adams, CSJ
13. Mary Oyiera Lieta, Consociate
14. Mary Schabert, CSJ
15. Patricia Owen, Consociate
16. Mary Burns, Consociate
17. Florine Provencher, CSJ
18. Mary Louise Matt CSJ
19. Agnes Foley, CSJ
20. Dolore Rochon, CSJ
21. Maria June Wilson, CSJ
22. Andrea Pearson Tande, Consociate
23. Brigida Cassady, CSJ
25. Joan Groschen, CSJ
26. Mary Harroun, CSJ
27. Mary Lou Murray, CSJ
28. Patricia Beck, Consociate

Those of us celebrating our 70th anniversary in the community wish to thank all of you for the beautiful greetings offering prayers, touching messages, and pleasant memories of the past, present and into the future. Gratefully,

Brigida Cassady, CSJ
St. Luke Copeland, CSJ
Joan Groschen, CSJ
Mary Harroun, CSJ
Mary Lou Murray, CSJ

From the 60th Jubilarians: Thank you, everyone, for all the cards, prayers, gifts, liturgies, meals and receptions for our CSJ 60th Jubilee. We are all very grateful!

Mary Lamski, CSJ
Colleen O’Malley, CSJ
Angela Schreiber, CSJ
Joanne Wieland, CSJ

My heart is filled with gratitude for all who have supported and comforted me during this time that I mourn the deaths of my sister, Genevieve, which was expected, and my brother, Michael, which was quite a shock. They died five days apart.

Rose Mary Rooney, CSJ

Thank you all for the celebration of my 65 years as a Sister of St. Joseph. It was a surprise, a gift, and great fun and enjoyment. Peace, joy and happiness to all of us.

Gina Webb, CSJ

Catherine Jenkins, CSJ has made an offering to Heifer International in honor of all of our Sister and Consociate Jubilarians.

Directory Updates: Please update your CSJ St. Paul directory with these changes at Carondelet Village:

- Pat & Terry Casey have moved to #381. Their new phone number is 651-695-4959.
- Joyce Peck has moved to #112. Her phone number is 651-695-5197.
- Annabelle Raiche has moved to #174. Her phone number is 651-695-4775.

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St. Paul Archives
Sister Martha Muhs (1883 – 1974)

Sister Martha Muhs was born Anna, in Manitoba, Canada. Growing up she lived in Langdon, North Dakota. She entered the Sisters of St Joseph at 19 years old on May 17, 1902. Several of her missions involved traveling back and forth between Minnesota and North Dakota. For a brief time she worked as an assistant at the Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield, MN.

Sister Martha, like most Sisters, felt a calling to a life of caretaking. She worked at St. Joseph’s Provincial House in St. Paul, MN and St. John’s Hospital in Fargo, ND. On February 10, 1954, she was appointed the first superior at Bethany Convent in St. Paul, MN. The main goals she believed Bethany should have were to “cultivate attitudes of acceptance, a deeper prayer life and a life of discipline.”

Sister Martha was one of the first of the 10 Sisters to be living on the grounds of Bethany. She assisted in the set-up of rooms and acted as community superior while Bethany was still under construction. When Bethany officially opened and Sisters began moving in, Sister Martha was at the doors to welcome the incoming Sisters and to direct them to their assigned room.

To learn more about S. Martha Muhs, and other early Sisters, check out the Archives web page: www.csjstpaul.org/csj-st-paul-archives/. Be sure to also check out our online collection at csjstpaul.pastperfectonline.com/.

The April Together posted the wrong photo of St. Louis School. The now demolished St. Louis School in St. Paul, MN was staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph from 1884 to 1961.
CELESTE’S DREAM

Retreats & Gardens

Christen Pentak, Becca Krasky, and Jill Underdahl, CSJ, co-facilitated a retreat for St. Francis Cabrini confirmation candidates at Carondelet Center. This collaboration emerged from years of Jill’s relationship-building and connections through Celeste’s Dream: Young Adult Spirituality. Jill met Christen in Spring 2013 during a Busy Person’s Retreat at St. Lawrence-Newman Center at the University of Minnesota. Christen has since been part of the Celeste’s Dream Community Garden. Jill met Becca at Macalester College. Christen is currently the Confirmation Coordinator at Cabrini and Becca is a life-long member of Cabrini. All three enjoyed sharing their faith journeys and knowledge of different prayer forms with the confirmation candidates.

LEARNING IN STYLE

Volunteer Week at Learning in Style School

Learning in Style School honored our wonderful volunteers this past week with a bulletin board posting, delicious treats and the coolest socks ever! We have 48 volunteers who will have contributed over 6000 hours of volunteer time during this school year. Our volunteers make a huge difference in the lives of our students. They register and tutor students, donate books, keep our library organized, are members of our advisory council, work on special projects, update our website, donate clothes and household items to “The Clothes Closet,” maintain our gardens and sponsor our families. They make our school a richer, more vibrant place. A special thanks goes to Judy Bakula, SSND, Manager of LIS Volunteer Services, for organizing such a special week and for finding the socks. Everyone loved them!
JUSTICE

Thanks to the many Justice Commission Working & Task Group members who organized, hosted, and participated in the St. Joseph’s Feast Day volunteer activities at St. Kate’s and partnered with Sisters Helping Sisters staff to assemble welcome home bags for women nearing release from the Shakopee Prison.

May is Speak up for Justice Month, a particularly unique time of year in Minnesota with many opportunities to raise our voices, speak for justice, and influence systemic change. With the legislative session officially ending on Monday, May 20, our state legislature is considering a $50 billion two-year budget that has direct impact on the “least,” forgotten, and marginalized in our society.

Bishop Frank J. Dewane, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development clearly states, "A budget is a moral document… There's a human dimension to the budget and sometimes we forget that." Pope Francis reminds us in the encyclical Laudato Si’ that all of humanity has a “claim on all the resources of this amazing world,” including how we spend our government budgets. Please take a moment to speak up for justice by contacting your Minnesota Representatives to ensure Minnesota’s State budget addresses systemic injustices and supports the common good. Contact CSJ Legislative Advocacy Partners (LAP) Working Group members to learn how you can make a difference.

Working Group Updates

Anti-Human Trafficking Working Group is continuing to discuss ways to implement education around the “Safe Harbor For All” report.

Criminal Justice Working Group members are cohosting a screening of the film “The Penalty” with local attorney Steve Kaplan in Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium on Thursday, May 2nd at 6:30 pm. This is free and open to the public.

Dismantling Racism Working Group is becoming an increasingly common touch point for various CSJ Community members from the Relationship & Association Commission, the Consociate Collaborative, the CSJ Mission Engagement Circle, the vocations team, and others to discuss racism and focus on collaborative concrete actions including a possible book club on “White Fragility” and a discussion group on the NETWORK Lenten reflection materials on Racism.

Earth Partners Working Group members Jennifer Tacheny and John Viktora-Croke are working with Eco-Consilium to build up our CSJ recycling compost bin program. The community celebrated CSJ Earth Day on Saturday, April 27, in the community garden.

Gospel of Life Task Group is planning to visit Second Stork in May to help assemble diaper bags for families in need with newborns.

Health Care for All Task Group hosted 60 people in April for a conversation with Senator John Marty and Mary Manning from the MN Department of Health about Minnesota’s Emerging Health Needs and asking if we are prepared.

Immigration Task Group hosted more than 120 people in April to hear from three CSJ Consociates who shared their recent volunteer experiences at the border at Annunciation House. The group continues to support advocacy efforts for the MN Drivers Licenses for All bill moving through the Legislature this session.

Legislative Advocacy Partners Working Group continue to refine the LAP alert process including their last action alert in support of Federal action for DACA youth and Immigrants with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) especially our Liberian neighbors.

LGBTQ Connections Task Group submitted their application to participate in the Twin Cities PRIDE Parade on Sunday, June 23, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Native American Awareness Working Group continues its state-wide advocacy on the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW) Task Force including sharing articles, encouraging sending postcards to MN Senators, and attending a talk on MMIW by MN Supreme Court Justice Anne McKeig at the Indigenous-led “Protecting the Life-Givers” conference.

Ritual Task Group announced the May 11 Peace Prayer at 6:30 p.m. will be a rescheduled ritual of lament for the earth and a re-commitment to earth as inspired by Liz Kerwin with assistance by Lori True and CSJ Ritual Services.
SARAH’S... AN OASIS FOR WOMEN

Sarah’s continues to hold a unique place in Minnesota serving adult women who have survived war, torture, abuse and discrimination. At Sarah’s they are working to accomplish their goals and become established in our community. Housing women who face similar challenges allows Sarah’s to tailor its community-based service model toward the needs of residents. The women of Sarah’s gain strength and resilience living in a community of women who are going through comparable experiences.

During the last year, Sarah’s served 45 unique women. Of those, 14 moved on to permanent housing, 18 secured employment (full or part-time), and 20 furthered their education (high school, ELL, college). All 45 unique women experienced psychological, emotional and spiritual healing.

Since 1996, Sarah’s has served over 650 women from 70 nations. Sarah’s stands as a testament to the impact of the CSJ mission: always moving toward profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction.

WHO LIVES AT SARAH’S?

- Women age 20+ and not currently parenting
- Women of any ethnicity, creed or religious affiliation
- Women for whom no other resources are currently available
- Women who do not need licensed agencies
- Women who are medically independent and chemically (addiction) free
- Women with a willingness and ability to live in community in a group setting where space, food preparation, household and grounds work and living are shared.
- Women whose transition is ordinarily completed within 1.5 to 2 years.

Your support is needed now more than ever! Sarah’s invites you to attend our Welcome Home Breakfast Buffet and Benefit on Wednesday, June 12th from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. to learn about Sarah’s impact in our community and our world. The benefit will be at the beautiful Anderson Center on the campus of Hamline University. The benefit is free, and an RSVP is requested to Martha West at 651-696-8672.

DONATE
ST. JOSEPH WORKERS

St. Joseph Workers reflect on their UN experience

“In March, through the Federation UN NGO, St. Joseph Workers (SJWs) attended the first week of meetings with the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

What a unique opportunity and honor to be present at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on behalf the Sisters of St. Joseph. I never would’ve thought I’d experience the UN beyond learning about it in high school. I now know that United Nations is much more than an organization that came together to talk about peace after World War II. The UN is overwhelmingly complex and incredible. It gives me hope for the world, knowing that everyday there are people engaging in the dialogue that leads to individuals keeping their countries accountable for the policies they create, policies that ultimately affect the well-being of everyone and everything in our world. Because of what I learned and witnessed, I am now more acutely aware of the pieces in this puzzling network (from the policy makers to the grassroots activists) that together play a role in creating peace, justice, and common good in this world. And I will continually strive to be more mindful of the ways in which I can be a part of this dynamic change.

—Ceara Curry

One thing that I took away from the UN was the passion that drove everyone to do the work they are currently doing. While events/situations may look bleak, people are still working towards peace. Of particular note was a discussion about employment and poverty, particularly qualifying versus non-qualifying aid (people proving they need assistance). This really tied into my placement site as an Employment Navigator at Catholic Charities Opportunity Center. People from other countries discussed how some aid, like for childcare, is given automatically, regardless of whether people “qualify” for it. Since then I’ve pondered if the US could ever have a program like that. The UN has made me more interested in and aware of policy and how it affects people which will be useful as I pursue a career in social work.

—Hanna Potter

At the United Nations I was struck by the vast diversity of women speaking from all over the world. I heard from high school students and elders alike. It was incredible to get a glimpse of this tapestry, and even more incredible to realize the part I play in it. One moment that stands out to me was a conversation with another attendee at a panel on LGBT+ women accessing social services. This other woman was new to learning about LGBT+ issues and had questions for me whether because I happened to be the one sitting next to her or because I just look like an expert on being gay, I don’t know. But it was clear she was approaching the conversation with a real desire to learn and genuine compassion. What a better place to have that conversation than the United Nations?

—Dana Schiewe
Hedgerow

Last fall Wisdom Ways experimented with online sessions of the 2018 Fall Hedgerow Seminar, which studied Copeland’s text Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, Being. Denver CSJ Marion Weinzapfel was one of the 17 people who took the theology course online. Active in Cure d’Ars Church in Denver since her return from the mission she initiated in Gulu, Uganda, Sister Marion invited Joan Mitchell to bring a mini version of the course to Denver Sisters, associates, and friends at their April gathering. As a province, St. Louis is working on racism.

Seventy people packed the parish hall for the theological workshop. Joan introduced the concepts of horizon and bias Copeland uses to explore conscious social formation. Bias affects whom we see in our horizon. “A white, racially-biased horizon defines, censors, controls, and segregates different, other, non-white bodies.”

Video segments from Copeland’s presentation in St. Paul at the Wisdom Ways Soul Conference in October 2018 brought out her major points.

Racism is conscious. “The social body assigns meaning and significance to race, and/or gender, and/or sexuality of physical bodies and influences, even determines, the trajectories of concrete human lives” (Enfleshing Freedom, 8).

Human existence as relational and social. “In and through embodiment, we human persons grasp and realize our essential freedom through engagement and communion with other embodied selves.

Life is praxis. Being is not static but now we interact with one another and build communion/community. The CSJ charism of moving always toward the great love of God and neighbor without distinction expresses the challenge to love and respect all others, to consciously live the two great commandments in our families, neighborhoods, parishes, grocery stores, civic communities.

The group sang Lori True’s new setting for the charism, “Always, moving always….” “It was singing that statement several times in the morning that so clearly makes healing the violence of racism part of our call,” said Joan.

Marion, Mary Kay Kottenstette, and Mary Kay’s dog Ananda hosted Joan over the weekend. Mary Kay belongs to the Alley Cats Alliance, which spays feral cats and feeds them. She feeds eight each morning. One lives behind her garbage can.

If any groups are looking for a book to discuss, consider Shawn Copeland’s new book Knowing Christ Crucified: The Witness of African Religious Experience (Orbis 2018). It includes key concepts from Enfleshing Freedom and much more with seven readable chapters ready for discussion.

—Joan Mitchell, CSJ
Sister’s Perspectives

Questions for Mary Elizabeth…

Together recently spoke with 2019 70th Jubilarian, Sister Mary Elizabeth Harroun, who shared these thoughts:

What’s your favorite:

Song: “You Raise Me Up” by Josh Groban.

Book or author: I can’t think of a favorite.

Place: Our northern lakes.

Food: California Club Salad at the Bistro.

Memory: Timberlee and making music at home. Mother would start playing and I’d say she sounded like someone in a barroom! We had a baby grand; my bother Bernard had a beautiful voice.

Ministry: I loved music: my piano playing, singing and organ. In the summers when I wasn’t teaching music, I went to St. Mary’s as a nurse’s aide. Later, I was a Eucharistic minister at St. Joe’s Hospital until the walking became too hard. I enjoyed pastoral ministry because you were with people through their joys and sorrows.

If you could pick any living or dead person to have dinner with, besides Jesus or Mary, who would it be? Maybe Abraham Lincoln.

What’s your most important life lesson? Canoeing the proper way. I remember I was in the Boundary Waters paddling with (Sister) Susan Smith. I was in the back. She said, there’s a big rock coming! I said, “Oh ya, I see it!” Then I paddled right into it. The leader then split us up!

What is your biggest hope for the future? I’m a great believer in scripture. I’m doing a lot of thinking nowadays about “In Him we live, move and have our being.” What will it be like when we see God? He is the cosmos! Julian of Norwich also, “All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.” When I think of God’s involvement in this world, I know that there is hope. I remember (Sister) Florence Steichen talking about the power of thought and how the waves of your thoughts can help make things better. It’s the power of thought to affect good!

If you could do one thing over in this life, what would it be? I don’t know, it would have to do with the way I sometimes talk to people and maybe hurt them. I try to think of that. Last night I was walking down the hall and I saw a friend looking at the week’s menu. She said something I couldn’t make out, however when I asked her what she said she got miffed and went away. I was praying about that. That could be straightened out a bit.

What was your biggest challenge? I was a music teacher, another teacher thought we should do more than just music. I was then assigned to teach sophomore religion. I had no experience. Another Sister helped me make a lesson plan. I had never even seen one. I was in Marshall with a bunch of smart boys! It was really hard. It probably wasn’t fair to me, the parents, or the students.

What’s the best thing about yourself? I try to greet everyone I see, I try to smile. I try to be pleasant.

What’s your biggest life accomplishment? I’ve been gifted with music, interpreting and making the music speak. I played at the offertory of Sister Andre Nilles’ funeral at Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel. I had control of my fingers, so I could get soft, diminish and increase volume and make the music speak. I was able to do that with my music. I remember while in Amery, WI, a girl, not a student of mine, was playing in a state contest, and the mother asked if I would accompany her. I don’t recall what she won, but after the competition the judge spoke with her and then he spoke with me about my giftedness as an accompanist.

If there was one thing you’d like others to know about you, what would it be? My gifts of music and how I played piano and sang. In my earlier years I could hit a high Bb! I loved glee clubs in high schools. Cathy Steffens was one of my students at St. Margaret’s Academy. I had a special group that we would do things with for fun. I’d call them my Nasal Tones! Later at the Pro House, (Sister) Betty Gits had me come and play for choir practice.

If there is one thing you would like to share with others that I didn’t ask you, what would it be? I love being a Sister. I always thought I was going to be a Carmelite.
Q. Now that the play *Sisters of Peace* is over what are your thoughts about the play?

A. Jane McDonald: It was a profound and humbling experience for which I’m grateful. The impact went way beyond the theatre experience and speaks to the power of the pen, art, live theatre and music. After one performance, a Viet Nam veteran came up to me crying. It was a healing moment that spoke to the need for forgiveness of supporting war as a solution and gratitude for the sacrifice he and others have made.

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Together May 2019.indd   20 4/25/19   10:19 AM