Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and CSJ Associates
July/August 2019

Carondelet East

Summer set lip to earth’s bosom bare;
And left the flushed print in a poppy there:
Like a yawn of fire from the grass it came,
And the fanning wind puffed it to flapping flame.

—Francis Thompson, The Poppy
Happy summer, everyone! When I left St. Michael’s Parish on February 1, 2018 to become the “Clerk of the Works” for PACE, I was hoping for an office at the PH that was out of the way and somewhat hidden. That didn’t happen! Eileen assigned me to a vacant office on the main corridor. Over time, I have come to like this office. Here are some of the reasons why: many people pass by and stop in to ask questions about PACE and I am happy to answer them; I have a great view of the courtyard which is absolutely beautiful right now; being across from Libby and Ranah is a laugh a minute; and every time I leave the office, I am confronted by a print outside Libby’s office that says “To the ends of the earth.” Seeing this message often stops me in my tracks.

When I first noticed it, I thought “What’s this about? Who’s going to the ends of the earth?” The text on the print begins, “With the same zeal which moved the Sisters who came to the United States in 1836, we have answered calls from various parts of the world.” The message focuses on our Sisters’ going to Peru, Hawaii, Chile and Japan. When it comes right down to it, however, haven’t we all gone to what we might have thought were “the ends of the earth” (Troy, Oswego, Glens Falls, Binghamton, etc.) They were “foreign countries” to some of us. We didn’t know what we would find there, but we learned to adapt to our assignment and came to love the people and our work in these “ends of the earth.” I am a perfect example of this. Never in a million years did I expect to be a “Clerk of the Works” for a multi-million dollar reconstruction project! When I agreed to take this on, I had no idea what I would spend my time doing, but little by little, the ministry responsibilities rose to the surface and I tried to “take care of business.”

How about you? Periodically, do you take the time to sit back and think about where you have been and what you have done over these many years? It’s a good exercise to develop genuine gratitude. We French people have a great proverb that speaks to this reality: “la reconnaissance est la memoire du coeur.” Gratitude is the memory of the heart. When we review our memories, no doubt there are some “not so happy” ones, but overall, I hope the good memories outweigh the “not so good” for most of us. After all, these assignments were all about the mission, not whether or not we were going to like them.

We have talked a lot about “mission” these past several years as we have planned for the extraordinary chapter, the 2019 chapter and the many other projects we have been about. Here’s how our “mission” is defined on our Albany Province website:

Called by God and passionate for the mission of Jesus, the Sisters of St. Joseph come together to serve all persons. With a distinctive spirit of hospitality and a particular concern for the poor, we witness to the Gospel message

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

by being a unifying and reconciling presence to a world in need.

Talk about being “stopped in your tracks!” THIS is what we are called to—every-day—and it is quite a challenge. How can we ever hope to live this? I think we “live into it” with God’s help. I just came from the chapel after the prayer to send our dear Iffat on her journey back to Pakistan (this “ends of the earth” thing just keeps on happening). Part of the prayer was Kathy Sherman’s song “I am with you on the journey.” This song always makes me cry, but it speaks of the key to our being able to live this mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph. God will be with us on the journey to the ends of the earth!

Summary of Minutes Province Leadership Team June 20-21, 2019

Opening Prayer
Kate Arseneau led us in prayer.

Selections Facilitator
We are in the process of finding a selections facilitator.

Tracy Watson – Financial Arrangements
We finalized the financial arrangements for Tracy Watson in preparation for her entering the novitiate. Tracy’s official reception to the novitiate will take place on June 30 at the Provincial House at 11:15 a.m. followed by dinner.

PACE Blessing
At Community Weekend in October, we will offer a blessing for the PACE program and a tour of the PACE rooms. The official public ribbon-cutting ceremony will probably be sometime in November.

Dates for PLT and BOT through July 2020
We set our PLT and BOT meeting dates for January through July 2020.

Sexual Abuse Policies
We reviewed the administrative policy on sexual abuse and decided how we would like to modify it. We will edit the document with our suggestions. After we have that next draft, we will ask those with particular expertise in this area to review it.

The PEC will update the lists of people who would have responsibility to carry out various aspects of the policy. The PEC will also consider what other documents may be needed to implement this policy.

Congregational Chapter
We shared information about our travel plans and our housing assignments for Congregational Chapter.

NRRO Update
We clarified who will participate in the NRRO workshop and who will serve on the committee.

CLG Meeting in October
We discussed initial plans for the CLG meeting which we will host in October. It is the custom of the group to give all the participants a gift. Eileen will follow up on that. For the prayer, Jeanne Marie and Kate will take the lead. We will add more detail to our plans for this meeting at the August PLT meeting.

Annual Meeting with Director of the Carondelet Hospitality Center
Danielle Futia, director of the Carondelet Hospitality Center (CHC) met with us for her annual report. Danielle indicated that a number of new things occurred in CHC this year. Because of the flood in January, a new floor has been installed in the main Hospitality area. The feedback from groups using the center is positive about the floor. In fact, some groups thought that CHC got all new furniture because the floor makes the rooms look so different. Danielle thought that the new hard floor might require sound absorbers, but that has not been the case. The same day that the flood in the main area happened, the heating system caused a flood in the women’s bathroom on C Wing. Since the heating system failed on one floor, facilities replaced the heating system on the both floors. The new heating systems provide more warmth in the bathroom areas.

Fontbonne Hall has a new flat-screen TV, and CHC updated the clocks in the bedrooms on Fontbonne and Medaille Halls. A new system provides travel-size shampoo and conditioner in each shower stall which is more convenient and cheaper than the previous system. Hospitality has requested new benches in the St. Ann’s Circle area.

Danielle reported that the Unidine staff does an exceptional job with catering. She finds the whole Unidine staff easy to work with. Ken, a CHC employee, is wonderful with the clients and good to work with.

The Hospitality sign at Delatour Road was damaged by the Shaker Pointe, Inc. bus. The Shaker Pointe insurance will cover replacement of the sign.

The team thanked Danielle for all her hard work and assured her that she is doing a great job. She supervises her staff with professionalism and works well with the rest of the house.

Annual Conversation with the Director of Mission Advancement
The team met with Lucille Theroux, director of Mission Advancement. Luce noted that the next STAR announcement will take place June 26.

Luce indicated the times for Mission and Mentoring this coming year. She is in the process of collecting names of employees who may participate in this process. As part of that effort, PLT members will send Luce ideas for invitations.

Luce had some questions related to the PACE program. Mary Anne will follow up with Sherri on these questions.

(PLT Minutes Summary, cont’d on the next page)
PLT Minutes Summary (cont’d)

At the recent PACE meeting, Sherri discussed PACE orientation. She wants to include information about what is important to us as sisters. Sherri will have to provide orientation for three categories of staff: those who have worked with our sisters at the PH and have the orientation to the sisters but need more information about PACE; those who have worked for PACE and know that part, but do not have knowledge of our sisters; and those who are new employees who have not worked for either the PH or PACE. We will also need an orientation for the sisters who are participating in PACE.

The team thanked Luce for all her work, especially for the added work necessary for the transition to PACE.

PACE Construction

Since we are no longer opening a doorway to the “courtyard” between B and C wings, we have an “extra” office available. We are in the process of determining a use for the room. We have experienced some difficulties with the installation of the HVAC systems in the PACE area. Those working on the construction are finishing all the offices where the music rooms used to be. The old library is all finished and some of the new furnishings are stored there. Kate anticipates that the construction will be largely completed by the end of June.

Province Boards/Committees

The Community Weekend Committee has almost completed its preparations for the events of the weekend. The Finance Board met and recommended the province budget. The Justice Committee continues to foster “Food as a Human Right.” The Selections Committee will meet in August to finalize the materials that will go to the fall Forums. Requests for Emergency Relief have been light. The HomeLand Committee has assigned its CE writers for the next several issues. The membership Subcommittee of the Long-Range Planning Board is planning a ritual related to PACE for the Friday of Community Weekend.

Sponsored Ministries

Shaker Pointe at Carondelet, Inc. held its member meeting on June 21. Danielle Futia, director of the Hospitality Center, met with the PLT at the June 20 meeting.

PEC Updates

The PEC held a meeting with the sisters at the Provincial House to explain the decision to no longer provide meals for our employees. The employees received notice of this change in their recent paycheck. There have been more positive than negative responses. Some employees wrote thanking the sisters for providing meals for all of this time.

Fall Concert

A concert offered by the PH choir with some additional voices will take place on November 24. Ann Marie Krupski is leading rehearsals with the group at this time. This will be free event for all friends and supporters of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Celebration of Priest Jubilees

Fr. Burke will celebrate his 40th Jubilee this year, and Fr. Daly marks his 65th jubilee. The PLT asked Libby to invite both priests to a festive dinner at the PH.

Report Review

The team reviewed reports from the Community Life Team, Facility Services, Mission Integration, Network Administrator, Nursing, PH Administrator, Unidine Lifestyles and Vocations.

Process Out

We thought that the meeting went well and that we were efficient in our deliberations.

Summary of Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

June 21, 2019

Opening Prayer

Sister Kate Arseneau led us in prayer.

Operating Master Budget 2020

Linda Birochik reviewed the projected budget for FY 2020 for the board. It included adjustments from decisions made at May’s board meeting. We are projected to have a deficit which may be less than anticipated with the PACE program beginning mid-year. As usual any potential deficit will be covered by withdrawing funds from our investments. The board approved this budget.

Capital Budget 2020

There were no adjustments made to this budget since our discussion in May. Construction costs are projected to come in under budget, so there are some savings anticipated. The board approved this budget.

Investments at May 31, 2019

The board reviewed the province investments including patrimony and funds held.

IIIF Accounts

Linda Birochik brought to our attention that while the IIIF has served us well for several years, the nature of the IIIF has changed since its original inception. It no longer fits in with our strategic use of cash. So, our two IIIF accounts will be closed and the funds deposited into the new account that will ensure liquidity.

Patrimony at May 31, 2019

This account is down mostly due to the funds contributed to the Capital Campaign.

Whalen Gift from John Wassmuth Concert

The community received a gift of $10,000 from the Whalen Foundation related to the John Wassmuth concert. We deposited it into Board Designated Funds.

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STEP Board Report
The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation for distribution of funds from the STEP Board, including the following allocations: Growing Community Roots-$5,000; Hoa ‘Aina O Makaha-$4,716; Eyes Wide Open-$3,000; Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County-$5,000; Center for Victims of Torture-$5,000; Partners for the Common Good-$5,000.

Solar Proposal
We are considering proposals to obtain more of the electrical power for the Provincial House from solar energy.

Religious Retirement Fund
Katie shared that we will receive the final payment from the Syracuse Diocesan Religious Retirement Fund soon. A formula and method for distribution of any potential future bequests will be determined at a later date.

Process Out
It was a full meeting. We are grateful for all the work Linda Birochik put into her reports and all the work of the Finance Office to prepare the 2020 budget.

Abbreviations
BOT = Board of Trustees
CHC = Carondelet Hospitality Center
CLG = Congregational Leadership Group
CSJA = Sisters of St. Joseph Associates
EM = Eileen McCann
JMG = Jeanne Marie Gocha
KA = Kate Arseneau
KE = Katie Eiffe
LRP = Long-Range Planning Board
MAH = Mary Anne Heenan
PACE = Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly
PEC = Mary Anne Heenan, Eileen McCann, and Katie Eiffe
PLT = Province Leadership Team
SP = Sean Peters
The weather was just perfect throughout the CSJ Albany Associate Commitment Weekend, held this year from Friday, June 7 through Sunday, June 9. However, the actual weather took a back seat to the warmth and radiance that spread throughout the Provincial House as associates from all six areas rejoiced in spending time with old friends and embracing new ones.

Spirits were dampened, however, by the news that two of our long-time associates suffered the loss of their husbands within the week. Many Albany-area associates missed all or part of Saturday’s presentations because they were attending the wake and funeral of Michael Mangione, husband of CSJ Associate Marie Mangione. We soon learned of the very recent passing of William J. (Bill) Evans, Jr., husband of Binghamton CSJ Associate Marie Evans. Bill’s services were held on the Monday following our weekend. Both Maries and their families were held in our hearts and prayers throughout the weekend.

Our weekend theme was Pentecost: Empowering for Mission. It began officially with a wonderful Friday-evening prayer service, presented by Albany CSJ Associate Dan Persico. Dan’s musical acumen led us in song and piano accompaniment, while his obviously deep spirituality provided us with rich fodder pertaining to Romans 8:9-11, that the Spirit is alive inside of each of us.

The following morning, Sister Chris Pologa, our Saturday-morning presenter and guide for reflection and sharing, certainly made sure that we understood how each of us is called and empowered to share the Good News with the Dear Neighbor whoever and wherever we find him or her. Sister Chris walked us through the history of the Catholic Church and urged us to read the Church documents to see for ourselves exactly what they say and not to rely on the natural fallback: “Well, this is the way it has always been done.” She urged us to read the encyclicals and even Canon Law, citing certain ones pertaining to the Christian Faithful, directing our efforts to lead a holy life. We have a right and duty to express to our needs to those in leadership positions from our own pastors and politicians and “above” them for the good of the whole community. Laity are not second-class citizens!

After a delicious lunch, associates gathered once more in the Hospitality Center for the Assembly part of our weekend. Amsterdam Associate MaryAnn Dignazio-Louison presented an opening prayer centered on the kitchen in Le Puy.

The afternoon was meant as a chance to hear and respond as a group to certain issues/reports. Discussion on the current status and proposed implementation of the Associate Countess Fund elicited strong opinions from some members about its use and the need for clarification on its original intent from others. The Assembly voted to postpone further discussion and voting on the Countess Fund at this time.

Pat Hunt asked the associates to help spread the word and photos of associates across the province with one another and with the sisters by contributing to various CSJ/A publications, both print and online. Volunteers in each region have signed up to write and to encourage others to write and to take and send pictures of associate-related events or experiences. Each and every associate is encouraged to write or to take a photo or pass one on, or to inform their area’s representative of such an opportunity.

Pat then had sisters and associates join in a mini-writing exercise using their monograms. Hopefully, you will see the fruits of this session in future issues of the Carondelet East.

(continued on the next page)
Commitment Weekend (cont’d)

The formal part of Saturday’s agenda ended with a newly reimagined and executed Associate Candle Ceremony in the chapel. The names of deceased members are now proclaimed by each associate area, and by that area’s coordinator or area designate. A bell was rung in reverence as each name was proclaimed.

Following the memorial, those making their First Commitment as CSJ Associates were called forth to receive a special candle, to receive their Associate Pin, and to attest to their desire to join our Associate Community by adding their official signatures to the list of Albany CSJ Associates.

The beautiful colors of the flower gardens and green lawns were no match for the bright Pentecostal shades of those who gathered for our Associate Commitment Liturgy Sunday morning. The Binghamton Associates prepared a wonderful Eucharistic Celebration. Sister Chris Pologa’s dynamic and passionate homily (included in this issue) continued the theme of our weekend’s Pentecost message, “Empowering for Mission.” Spiked with responses required from those present in varying forms — Sisters, Associates and all in attendance — and a catch-phrase scattered throughout, she certainly kept everybody’s attention!

We all beamed as we heard the names of our newest CSJ Associates called forth to profess their first commitment: Brenda Artman (Binghamton), Julie Carrigan (Albany), Frances Rose and Patricia DeMatteo (Rome) and Sharon Miller (Syracuse). Current associates renewed their annual commitment, followed by the official signatures to the list of Albany CSJ Associates.

After a wonderful dinner, the CSJ Associates headed for home, filled with the Holy Spirit and ready to go out to the world with Sister Chris’s passionate catch phrase stuck in our heads: Stand up! Speak out! Tell the good news of Inclusive Love!

Sister Chris Pologa presents Commitment Liturgy Homily

Stand up! Speak out! Tell the Good News of Inclusive Love!

Sister Chris Pologa, the presenter for this year’s CSJ Associate Commitment Weekend, delivered the following homily during the Eucharistic Liturgy on Sunday, June 9, 2019.

On the feast of Pentecost, the People of God are zapped with the Spirit and are transformed! Courageously, they stand up, speak out, tell the Good News of inclusive love!

To celebrate the Church as the People of God, today we will have an interactive homily. So please open your program and find the phrase under which the homily is listed! Let’s say it together: Stand up! Speak out! Tell the Good News of inclusive love!

The story from the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of John both describe a faith community in flux — similar to our Church today.

The early disciples lock themselves in the upper room out of fear. We can hear the bolts and double locks sliding into place. We imagine peering out of the peep hole to see who is knocking, or we ask for a secret password.

What are we afraid of? What keeps us locked in the upper room unwilling to change? What keeps us stuck in the ways of the past, fearful of the new?

All of us have experienced what the early Christian community was going through: shock, denial, disorientation and what do I do now.

Maybe a lifelong spouse, partner or friend died and the loneliness is overwhelming. Perhaps its time to move, down size the house and the purging and packing seem endless. The HR person at work says the company is going in a new direction and you’re invited to take early retirement; what will you do now? You’re an excellent, loyal Church employee with stellar reviews but your contract will not be renewed because you married your partner. You are rejected by your Church, really? Your doctor gives you serious medical diagnosis and you feel the rug being pulled out from under you.

We’ve been in the upper room, behind locked doors, trying to protect our hearts from any more disappointment, pain or brokenness. Our bewilderment and confusion is overwhelming. We try to process what is happening in our life. We want to be left alone to regain a sense of balance and control.

Then into this mess comes Jesus, the risen one, saying “Peace be with you; peace be with you!” Yes, you’re unemployed but I am here with you! Yes, you’re lonely but you are not alone! Yes, you have malignant breast cancer but I will walk with you each step along the journey! Yes, you are moving but trust in me! I am Emmanuel, God with you! I am for you! I am for you! You are my chosen one!

Easter is about picking up those broken shards of life, holding them up to the light of the risen Christ in order to see how we might become a new creation.

The Risen One breathes the Spirit of new life upon the community. The Spirit guides us to gain a new perspective. Yes, we miss the deceased loved one but now (continued on the next page)
Commitment Weekend Homily (continued)

we remember the good times as well. Retirement which was dreaded has allowed you to savor the morning cup of coffee, explore your hobbies, volunteer and enjoy the grandchildren. The job loss has opened up possibilities and forced you out of your comfort zone. The serious medical issue has reminded you how precious life and relationships are. Moving beckons you to explore new horizons

Empowered by the Spirit will we: Stand up! Speak out! Tell the Good News of inclusive love?

Our second reading today reminds us that there are different kinds of gifts but the same spirit. There are different types of service but the same God. The spirit is given to each for the common good.

Some will confront, protest, march. Others will tweet or blog. Our elders will pray and write letters, but each must do something! Empowered by the Spirit, will we Stand up! Speak out! Tell the Good News of inclusive love?

When refugees and immigrants seek a safe harbor and are turned away, when the income gap between rich and poor widens, when the dear neighbor in Flint Michigan is drinking dirty water, when children are deciding how to defend themselves from school shooters:

Empowered by the Spirit, will we Stand up! Speak out! Tell the Good News of inclusive love?

When mosques, synagogues and churches are destroyed, when the vulnerable are abuse by the powerful in Church and society, when the ecological crisis threatens life on earth, when the seamless garment of life is ignored: Empowered by the Spirit, will we Stand up! Speak out! Tell the Good News of inclusive love?

When gender discrimination is rampant in Church and society, when our GLBTQ friends are bullied, when people are dying due to a lack of medical care, when our politicians fight among themselves rather than serve we the people: Empowered by the Spirit, will we Stand up! Speak out! Tell the Good News of inclusive love?

I will ask you questions; please respond YES if you will!

As sisters and associates, will we practice contemplative dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution? YES!

Witness authentic community while celebrating unity within our diversity? YES!

Courageously live our convictions while holding lightly to our comforts? YES!

Engage in the public square for sake of the dear neighbor and for the life of the world? YES!

As the People of God, will we allow the Spirit to transform us from complacent, fearful Christians into courageous disciples? YES!

Will we embrace our baptismal call to full, active participation in all aspects of our Church? YES!

Will we, empowered by the Spirit and missioned by the risen Christ be the NEW PENTECOST in the Church? YES!

Empowered by the Spirit, will we: Stand up! Speak out! Tell the Good News of inclusive love? YES!

AMEN!

At the recessional, the chapel was a sea of waving Pentecost flames, celebrating the Holy Spirit! CSJ Associates Marge Mangan, Annmarie Yellico and Suzanne Warner and Sister Marilyn Vassallo lead the CSJ Associates!
The Albany CSJ Associates: (front row, l. to r.) Patricia Forbes, Nancy Koltko, Mary Craven, Marie Eckler, Lauretta McGuirk; (second row, l. to r.) Patricia Covey, Irene Harrison, Sharon Kirby, Kathleen Girzone, Jule Carrigan, Annmarie Yellico, Mickey Kelley; (third row, l. to r.) John Egan, Frank LaGatta, Eileen Davenport, Ann McGuire; (top row, l to r) Rebecca Nelson, Sister Marilyn Vassallo, Janet Derby, Joan Porco.

The Binghamton CSJ Associates: (first row, l. to r.) Kathy Tait, Brenda Artman, Marie Jobst, Gloria Novobilski, Marge Mangan, Sister Julie Eigo, Mary Guditis; (back row, l. to r.) Carol Hall, Sister Alma Jones, Mary Jane Astur, Debbie Davis, Annie Clough, Dot Hathway, Shirley McCray, Sister Karen Gaube.

The Rome CSJ Associates: (back, l. to r.) Joan Gorman, Mary Ellen Flanigan, Kathy Miller, Mary Wahl, Barbara Brady, Kathy Young; (front, l. to r.) Judy Panara, Carol Furgol, Pat DeMatteo, Sister Rosaire Anne DeMare, Fran Rose, Marion Waite, Barbara Dibble.
CSJ Associates and Sisters Celebrate Commitment Weekend 2019

The Amsterdam CSJ Associates: (back row, l. to r.) Kathleen Spano, Patti Muselbeck, Dee Muselbeck, Mary Jane Smith; (middle row) Faith Stark; (front row, l. to r.) Rachelle Cotugno (with guide dog, Puma); MaryAnn Dignazio Louison, Helen Nagle-Bruns, Chuck Bruns

The Utica CSJ Associates: (l. to r.) Marty Doyle, Vicki Therriault, Jane Domingue, Sister Mary Ellen Schopfer, Sandra Wright, Kathleen McGivern and Sister Martha Larkin

The Syracuse CSJ Associates: (front row, l. to r.) LuAnn Sims, Pat John, Pat Hunt, Martha “Mardee” Schaefer, Suzanne Warner; (middle row, l to r) Linda Olson, Jo-Ann Ferris, Sister Joan Killoran, Sharon Miller, Pat Pilon, Monica James; (back row, l. to r.) Sister Chris Pologa, Martha Murphy
From the Province Justice Committee

Book Review

White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism

by Sister Joanne St. Hilaire

In response to the call from Leadership to focus on the issue of racism, one PH book discussion group decided to read "White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" by Robin DiAngelo. The author is a professor of multicultural education at Westfield State University and a consultant on racial and social justice issues. The title of this book refers to the inability of white people to see themselves in racial terms. When white people talk about race, they usually mean people of color.

Because most of us take for granted our whiteness, we are not aware of how we say or do things that are offensive to people of color. Possibly, we are even unaware that we are reluctant to speak of racism or are uncomfortable with conversations on the topic; therefore, we think we are not racist.

In conducting workshops on racism, the author finds that white people often become defensive, even angry at any suggestion that they are racist. Yet, without knowing it, there are things that white people do or say that are really offensive to people of color. The author discusses several reasons why whites are so defensive about the suggestion that we benefit from, and are complicit in, a racist system. Some reasons are unconscious fear and resentment toward people of color; internalized superiority and sense of a right to rule; and a deep cultural legacy of anti-black sentiment.

In understanding whiteness, Dr. DiAngelo writes, “Most white people have limited information about what racism is and how it works. White people can take for granted a sense of belonging in most social groups and, for the most part, have the freedom to move around on the streets, public buildings, etc. without being questioned. White people need to become more aware of the fact that not everyone can assume such freedom. With this lack of awareness, white fragility obstructs efforts to overcome racism. We assume everyone is having or can have our experience, and we have a need to maintain white solidarity, to save face, to look good.

Overall, those of us discussing the book found the insights about white fragility enlightening and helpful. We candidly admitted some of our own fallacies and felt more committed to becoming more aware of our own need to change. We agreed with the writer who says, “Stopping our racist patterns must be more important than working to convince others that we don’t have them.” People of color know that we have them.

In conclusion, Dr. DiAngelo advises us not to be discouraged by the impossibility of eradicating the entire racist system, but continue to educate ourselves and try to be aware of our own ignorance or unexamined assumptions; to be open to challenges; and to remember that we can never be finished with learning.
Tracy Watson Is Received into the Novitiate at PH Ceremony

by Sister Mary Rose Noonan

On Sunday, June 30, 2019, Sister Tracy Watson was received into the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet during a ceremony in the PH chapel.

The cover image on Tracy’s program was “The Flight into Egypt” by Br. Mickey McGrath, OSFS. According to Tracy, “Joseph and the Holy Family being on journey resonates with me. I am filled with joy and encouragement when I see all of those people following behind the Holy Family in solidarity because it calls to my heart just how delicately and purposefully God has woven together all the pieces of my life and brings me to this moment as I enter into the Congregational Novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.”

During the Reception Ceremony, Sister Mary Anne Heenan welcomed the sisters and guests on behalf of the province. Sister Miriam Ukeritis listened to Tracy’s request to enter the novitiate and then accepted on behalf of the congregation. Following the acceptance of the request, Sister Mary Anne Heenan presented Tracy with a copy of the Constitution, and Sister Ann Christi Brink, a member of the province’s Initial Group, presented Tracy with a St. Joseph medal. Members of Tracy’s local community, Sisters Doreen Glynn, Kitty Hanley, Clementine Lynch and Lucille Theroux read selected pieces, and Sister Rose Casaleno gave reflections on the meaning of this next step for Tracy. The Reception Ceremony concluded with a blessing by Sister Chris Partisano, Tracy’s daughter, Jenna, and all who were in attendance.

Tracy is now at the Congregational Novitiate House: Caritas Community, 18401 San José Street, Porter Ranch, CA 91326-3419.

Sister Mary Lois Goldner congratulates Tracy at the Novitiate Reception.

Sister Mary Anne Heenan Extends Welcome to All

The following words of welcome were given by Sister Mary Anne Heenan during Tracy’s Reception Ceremony.

It is a joy to welcome you all today to this Reception Ceremony and prayer service for Tracy. A very special welcome to Sister Carol Brong, codirector of the Congregational Novitiate, Sister Miriam Ukeritis from our Congregational Leadership Team, and Jenna, Tracy’s daughter. All of us are grateful to you, Jenna, and to your siblings for your support of your Mom as she embarks on a new path.

Tracy has shared community life with us as she has been discerning whether God is calling her to consecrated religious life. Today, we are pleased to welcome Tracy into a more formal relationship with us as she enters the novitiate of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. We thank God for her presence among us these past three years and her desire to join us as a vowed member of the community.

For all of us, life is a journey, a pilgrimage of loving transformation in response to God’s call and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Through her life journey thus far, Tracy has responded generously to God’s invitation to be a mother, a teacher, a woman of prayer and a witness to the Gospel. Her email tag says it well.

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“Weave in faith and God will find the thread.” Now she begins weaving a new pattern as she enters the novitiate to continue her discernment and her formation as a Sister of St. Joseph.

We know well, as our Congregational formation plan states, that religious formation is a lifelong developmental process of ongoing spiritual and personal growth. The novitiate is a gift of time set aside to concentrate on deepening one’s relationship with Christ and growing in understanding of the spirit and traditions of the Congregation.

Tracy, I know that I speak for all of us when I assure you of our ongoing prayers as you continue your journey with us. May your novitiate be a time of great grace and spiritual growth for you, so that as you yourself have stated, “with much grace from God, you can respond to this continued call to serve the dear neighbor as a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet.” Welcome to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet!

**Sister Rose Casaleno Reflects on Novitiate Reception Journey**

_The following reflection was given by Sister Rose Casaleno during Tracy’s Reception Ceremony._

_It is with great joy that we all gather together today to celebrate Tracy and her willingness to continue on her journey to becoming a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet. It is with this great joy that we as a community commit to supporting her on this journey._

Tracy’s journey begins with her travel to Rochester for her canonical novitiate year. There, as a first-year novice, she will take time to internalize Gospel values, to take extended time for prayer and spiritual direction, to give service and to receive instruction in the religious life, Scripture, theology and the history and traditions of our Congregation.

In some way, Tracy’s entrance into the novitiate is similar to the journey our six sisters who traveled from Le Puy France so many years ago. Just like these sisters, Tracy’s has said yes to the unknown by trusting in the love and guidance of Jesus that this is the correct path for her to follow.

As I prepared for this reflection, I thought how appropriate that Tracy picked the Parable of the Good Samaritan. In the parable we learn about a man from Samaria who stopped to help a person in need. He reached out to the “dear neighbor” not because he expected a reward, but because it was the right thing to do. It has been my experience, having interacted with Tracy for the last four years, that she is predisposed to reaching out to the “dear neighbor” without distinction. This was evident through her work in the school and community and at the jail. During Tracy’s 50th birthday party, although I was unable to attend, I was told that her friends and work companions could not say enough about Tracy’s outreach to others and her kind and generous being.

As we heard today in Ephesians, we as a community also pray that out of God’s glorious riches, and power through the Holy Spirit, Tracy’s inner being may be strengthened, so that Jesus always dwells in Tracy’s heart. As in Paul’s prayer, we also ask for Tracy to find inner spiritual strength, Christ in her heart, and an ability to comprehend all the dimensions of spiritual realities and knowledge of the love of Christ. This knowledge and ability will serve Tracy well as she continues her mission as a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

As a Sister of St. Joseph, Tracy is called to assist the “dear neighbor” in all aspects of her life. As the Gospel tells us, it is an important part of our call that we help our neighbors without distinction as we see in the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Tracy, I believe that you have a true love of God and are predisposed to serve all “without distinction.” I pray that this year of prayer and reflection will serve you well as you continue to grow in the love of God as a Sister of St. Joseph.

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Sisters Mary Anne Heenan, Tracy Watson, Carol Brong and Miriam Ukeritis listen to Sister Rose Casaleno’s reflections.
Sister Chris Partisano and Jenna Lead Blessing of Tracy

The following blessing for Tracy was led during the ceremony by Sister Chris Partisano and Tracy’s daughter, Jenna.

We have in our hands two art pieces that are wonderful reminders of God’s presence among us. Let us pray blessings on Tracy and all of us, knowing that the God of the universe and of the Holy Family accompanies us.

May our Creator God, who gifts us with stars in the night, and sunrises and sunsets that illumine our days, continue to refresh and bring re-birth to all of us each day. (Amen.)

May Tracy’s star watching, awareness and delight in the wonders of creation inspire and instill great energy for life in her. (Amen.)

May Jesus, Mary and Joseph, whom we know as models and companions in the journey of God-centered human life, continue to inspire in each of us the desire to walk fully with and among all who are our dear neighbor. (Amen.)

May walking and being with the dear neighbor in new places and spaces this coming year bring challenge and richness to Tracy. (Amen.)

May the ever-present, unpredictable Holy Spirit continue to find commitment in each of us as we live out our particular life vocations, and as through us the Spirit breathes unifying love into the broken places of our world. (Amen.)

May Tracy’s immersion into the CSJ charism and life as Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet novice and member of the Federation Novitiate affirm and strengthen her Spirit-filled living as a Christian woman, caring mother, devoted educator and pastoral presence. May she daily flourish as she embraces each moment and brings God’s presence to others. (Amen.)

And may faith that we are accompanied by our ever-present God sustain us as we sing: "I am with you on the journey...”
Shaker Pointe’s Resident Engagement Survey Indicates High Level of Satisfaction and Ideas for Future Planning

by Sisters Kay Ryan and Lauren Van Dermark

Shaker Pointe residents participated in a recent survey to assess their engagement and satisfaction living at Shaker Pointe. The Board and Executive Team engaged Holleran Consulting Services to implement the survey. Holleran has over 25 years of experience and works with over 350 senior living communities throughout the United States. The survey was sent to the 202 Shaker Pointe residents in April and 179 residents completed the survey resulting in an amazing 88.6% response rate.

The Holleran study assess the residents’ engagement in four areas:

- **Voice** measures the degree to which resident are able to live independently and have input regarding their community. A successful community creates an environment of respect by being transparent in decision making and offering a multitude of ways for residents to provide feedback.

- **Connection** represents the degree to which the community makes it easy for resident to create and maintain strong social connections – with residents, family and friends.

- **Fulfillment** represent the degree to which the community fosters an environment in which residents can manage a sense of purpose in life and pursue goals.

- **Well-Being** represents the degree to which a community provides for the health and wellness of its residents by providing programs, services and other means for resident to achieve well-being.

There were 16 questions directly related to the engagement and an additional 21 satisfaction factors that are key drivers to resident engagement. There were two additional questions that required the residents to write their responses to what they like best about Shaker Pointe and what they would recommend to improve living at Shaker Pointe. These responses indicated a very high level of satisfaction among the residents as well as eliciting some excellent ideas for future planning.

Shaker Pointe scored in the top 5% in the area of **Connection** and the top 15% in the other three areas. The areas of strength were **Administration Accessibility, Opportunities for Resident Input and the offering of Suitable Activities**. The residents also strongly identified the best features of living at Shaker Pointe as a sense of hospitality and welcome, staff helpfulness and an atmosphere of compassion and caring among residents.

Shaker Pointe received the 2019 Choice Community Award for Resident Engagement as a result of the very high response rate and excellent results. We are honored to receive this recognition and are very grateful to our residents for their participation in the survey. We celebrated by sponsoring a Make Your Own Sundae Party with delicious ice cream choices and a bounty of toppings! Everyone agreed a Sundae Party is a great way to improve participation in any survey!
Do you know what you were doing 50 years ago? (That’s only if you are over fifty!) I do. I was at Albany School of Practical Nursing and doing my clinical hours at Albany Medical Center. I completed my studies and graduated in July 1969.

While I was at Albany Medical Center, I cared for newborns, pediatric patients, medical-surgical patients related to recovery room, ICU patients and patients in the burn unit. After graduating and becoming an Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), I cared for our infirm sisters at St. Joseph’s Provincial House until I applied for and accepted a nursing position at St. Mary’s Hospital, Amsterdam, in 1975 on Maria Hall. I felt I needed to get back into a hospital setting to use many of the skills I had learned at AMC. So I describe myself as an LPN—a Licensed Practical Nurse and one who practices Loving Patient Nursing!

After five years on Maria Hall and with the closing of the former St. Mary’s Hospital, a new position as Central Station Nurse opened in the new St. Mary’s Hospital operating room. I applied and was accepted for this position to monitor and care for surgical patients before they go into surgery. I have been in this position for 39 years!

Nursing has changed over the years, and technology and robotic surgery have helped our patients with shorter stays in the hospital and have even enabled some to go home on the same day as the surgery. Nursing may have changed but caring for patients, their families, loved ones and friends has not changed. We are still called to care not only for the patient but also to remember to care for everyone, including one another and ourselves.

I am happy and proud to have been an LPN for 50 years and am forever grateful that I was given the chance to study at the Albany School of Practical Nursing and Albany Medical Center. I love being an LPN who gives Loving Patient Nursing!

I hope when all nurses retire after 50 years or more in their profession that they still give loving care and love being a nurse like I do!

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The staff of New Ministries visits many seniors in the Cincinnatus area, and have become aware of their often debilitating stress and discouragement. Many are not able to keep up with household repairs, heavy cleaning or even the care of the flower gardens that they formerly enjoyed.

We would like to share our experiences with you. We recently received a grant from the Central New York Community Foundation that allows us to offer a stipend to casual workers who can assist people with these needed tasks. And this also offers some support to people who need work opportunities.

The following are some examples.

While visiting a farm wife whose husband was recovering from major surgery, we learned that he had been working on a painting job but was unable to finish it. Through our grant, we paid a young man to finish the job. His response after completing the job was, “This is awesome.”

We met with a neighbor who is now using a walker and is able to attend only a few social activities. She told us she had planned to work on items in her garage and do some spring cleaning. Realizing she could not move furniture or wash windows, she welcomed our assistance. The woman who helped her was also grateful because now she could afford a prescription. Neighbors refer neighbors. Due to information posted about us in the local school newspaper, we have been able to help one woman who is 101 years old and another who was celebrating 90 years after both requested “extra help with drapes and windows.”

(continued on the next page)
**New Ministries (continued)**

A worker was sent to evaluate the requests of a husband and wife who were found to have multiple needs. While we were able to assist them with lawn care, we had to refer them to New York Connects for their unmet needs.

We have always been aware of elderly people minding the oppressive summer heat inside their single-wide trailers, but until now we had not been able to help them. Through the grant, we acquired three mobile air-conditioning units. We delivered one to a woman aged 65 who has her mother living with her. During our conversation, the mother asked if she could see someone from St. Mary’s Church in Cortland. Because of our work with St. Mary’s pastoral associate, Sister Harriet Hamilton, OSF, we were able to help her. Another family who are caring for their mother (who is suffering from advanced Alzheimer’s), was most grateful that we could provide them with a mobile air conditioner.

We also connected with a man who receives Meals on Wheels, but he lives in a “camper” and the unit would not fit his windows. Perhaps we will be able to help him in other ways. So many are challenged by their isolation and not being able to drive, the limitations of inadequate housing, caring for other family members, and their own financial resources which are often stretched to the breaking point.

It is a blessing that we are able to serve this rural area. It’s because of the commitment of the Sisters and Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany. We work together to bring Christ’s love to our elderly neighbors, our Dear Neighbors.

**Sisters and All Saints Parishioners Extend CSJ Hospitality and Gospel Welcome to Young Congolese Family Seeking Asylum in the U.S.**

*by Sisters Ann Marie Ball and Maura Rhode*

Father Fred Daley, pastor of All Saints Parish, Syracuse, asked us, Sister Ann Marie Ball and Sister Maura Rhode, if we would consider using part of our living quarters for someone who might need sanctuary. All Saints Parish, in conjunction with several other groups in the area (after several months of study and discussion) had previously declared themselves a sanctuary area.

The only possibility for shelter would be upstairs in the All Saints Parish Annex (former rectory) where we live. Fr. Fred was amazed at the quick affirmation he received from us! He commented on the fact that the Sisters of St. Joseph were known for their hospitality! Sister Frances Theresa Mirabito’s bedroom, along with what was once our all-purpose office, was soon transformed.

Two months ago we were asked about accepting a family who had escaped from the Congo and sought asylum in the U.S. Another quick “Yes”! A mom, dad and their two daughters, ages 3 years and 6 months arrived at 2:00 a.m. Friday morning, April 12 after a 56-hour bus trip from Texas. The father immediately recognized the statue of St. Joseph on the landing and had a huge smile on his face—Catholic! How unique is that?

Their trip, which started four years ago in 2015, was filled with tremendous difficulties: fleeing from execution, hiding, being separated in Columbia as they sought boat passage to Panama. The father had the 3-year-old girl in one boat. His wife was in another boat with the baby. There were 46 people on board; 38 died when the boat capsized. The mother held the baby while hanging on to a rope for several hours until they were rescued. This ordeal was followed by traveling another seven days in a forest with no food. Unbelievable story of trials and survival!

Sisters Ann and Maura are now Godparents to the two little girls. On a Sunday in June, Mom and Dad, who had lost all official papers, were married in All Saints Church at the Mass attended by a very large number of Congolese families who have migrated to the United States. There are now over approximately 200 members at All Saints.

Miracles happen, and All Saints Parish is one such miracle—a wonderful and successful consolidation of Our Lady of Solace and St. Therese’s Parishes where Father Fred Daley has led the way. The parishioners are generous and giving, loving, open and welcoming, diverse but unified. For years the banner on the outside of the church has read “All Are Welcome.” Inside there is now a larger banner “Refugees and Immigrants Welcome.”

Yes. “Come to me all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest.”

Sister Maura Rhode (left) and Sister Ann Marie Ball with their goddaughters in the All Saints Parish Annex where the sisters share home with the family
A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words

During the first week of June, we were pleased to host Catherine Lucy (right), the archivist of our “new” Carondelet Consolidated Archives, headquartered in St. Louis. Catherine was here on her first “official” visit to the Albany Province. On June 6, Catherine and our Province Archivist, Sister Mary Salvaterra, visited St. Mary’s Healthcare in Amsterdam. St. Mary’s was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1903. In the photo, Sister Joan Mary Hartigan, vice president, Mission Integration at St. Mary’s, poses with Mary and Catherine!

Sister Joan Mary Hartigan (bottom, rt.) poses with the recipients of the Carondelet Grants, given by St. Mary’s Healthcare to area organizations for projects that serve the most poor and vulnerable in Fulton-Montgomery Counties. The people represent Catholic Charities, Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless, New Dimensions, Office of the Aging, the Noah Program, Habitat for Humanity, Haven of Hope, and the HFM Prevention Council. Congratulations to all!
St. Mary’s Healthcare, Amsterdam, hosted a Rural Roundtable for NETWORK in May and Sister Simone Campbell came to listen to the needs and concerns of our rural neighbors. In the photo are Sisters Simone, Betsy Van Deusen and Joan Mary Hartigan.
Muna Hassan, member of the Community Life Team at the Provincial House and a native of Sudan, Muna’s children, and Sister Doreen Glynn participated in the Capital Region Rally for Sudan on June 28 in Townsend Park, Albany. The peaceful rally called for freedom, justice and peace and the end of violence in Sudan. It was a call for support for the peaceful protests of the Sudanese people.
Those who renewed their commitment as CSJ Associates in Rome on June 19 include: (front row) Diane Saladino, Pat Hagerty; (back row) Carol Riolo, Rose Mattia and Joan Bellinger.

At the Rome CSJ Associate summer picnic on June 19 are: (back row) Joan Pinti, Judy Panara, Ginny Graiglow, Fran Rose, Mary Wahl, Mary Ellen Flanigan, Carol Riolo, Pat Pilon, Marion Waite, Marty Doyle (front row) Pat Haggerty, Diane Saladino, Joan Gorman, Ginny Graiglow, Rose Mattia, Kathy Miller, Deborah Dibble, Sister Rosaire Anne DeMare.
St. Mary’s Healthcare Foundation Honors Sister Rita Jean DuBrey

from a St. Mary’s press release

Longtime St. Mary’s Healthcare associate and community friend, Sister Rita Jean DuBrey, was honored by the Foundation of St. Mary’s Healthcare at its 23rd annual Celebration of Healthcare Excellence.

Sister Rita Jean was presented with the prestigious Carondelet Medal, in recognition of her “unselfish work to further the mission of St. Mary’s Healthcare and Foundation through personal example, inspirational leadership and commitment to Christian ideals.” She was the foundress and director of the Center for Complementary Therapies for the past 18 years. A graduate of St. Peter’s Hospital School of Nursing, she received a degree in psychology from the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN. She holds a master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania as a clinical nursing specialist, cardiovascular nursing. In 1974, Sister was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Society of Nursing. She enjoyed eight years as an instructor at St. Mary’s Hospital School of Nursing. She is an accredited Tai Chi teacher and is a certified Healing Touch practitioner, instructor and mentor. Hundreds of students have attended the Healing Touch workshops which she has taught for over 20 years.

Sister was credentialed as an alcoholism and substance abuse counselor in the 1990s, ministering to adults affected by alcoholism, by family connection or origins. In addition to numerous published articles relating to Healing Touch, she co-authored “Healing Touch as a Spiritual Practice” with Dorothea Hover-Kramer, published in Healing Touch Guidebook: Practicing the Art and Science of Human Caring. She has authored other publications including “The Loneliness of the Dying Person: An Exploratory Study,” published in Omega and Promoting Wellness in Nursing Practice: A Step-by-Step Approach in Patient Education, C.V. Mosby, 1982.

While she lived in Rome, Betty was a member of St. Peter’s Church where she served on the Altar and Rosary Society and the Bereavement Community and was a religious-education instructor.

Betty loved to dance whenever she got the chance!

Surviving are Betty’s daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Richard Carpenter, of Cicero, and several beloved cousins.

Betty’s Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, with Fr. Philip A. Hearn presiding.

According to Sister Rosaire Anne DeMare, “Betty was a wonderful woman of the Church. Whenever there was an event, she was there to help in whatever way she could. Betty loved the people of St. Peter’s Parish, and she kept in frequent touch with those who were unable to attend events. Betty was also present for the parish bereavement sessions and generously and graciously volunteered to help serve the light luncheon.”

“When Betty’s failing health necessitated a move to Cicero to be near her daughter, she dearly missed all her friends in Rome but faithfully kept in touch as long as she was able.”

“Betty was a one-in-a-million person, friend, parishioner and volunteer. May she rest in eternal peace.”

Betty M. Lauri, CSJA
1930 ~ 2019

CSJ Associate Betty M. Lauri, 89, of Cicero, formerly of Rome, died on Thursday, June 13, 2019, at University Hospital in Syracuse.

Betty was born on June 12, 1930, in Rome, the daughter of Thomas and Helena Heaney McCall. She was a graduate of St. Aloysius Academy. Betty was married to Robert J. Lauri who passed away in 1984.

Betty was employed by the Rome City Hall in the Treasurer’s Office for over 30 years, retiring in 1991.

While she lived in Rome, Betty was a member of St. Peter’s Church where she served on the Altar and Rosary Society and the Bereavement Community and was a religious-education instructor.

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According to Sister Rosaire Anne DeMare, “Betty was a wonderful woman...
PH News and Views
by Sister Francis Anne Gilchrist

If you took a survey of the sisters who live here at the PH, I am fairly sure that a notable majority are happy that it has rained as much as it has since that is one factor that has produced such a glorious courtyard! Color is everywhere! The perennials are bursting and the annuals are secure and seem very happy. There are abundant yellow prospects on the tomatoes plants and the zinnias are strong and stand straight ready to salute.

The Activity Department, as usual, has provided several opportunities for entertainment. A party for Flag Day, including red, white and blue parfaits, had to be moved from the courtyard to the Community Room because of the weather. We also have the opportunity to visit Cooperstown for lunch and a tour of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

One of our favorites groups, the Cannonaires from Watervliet, gave us a rousing concert during which some of the sisters participated in a little dancing along with the music. Yes, there were some aides dancing along just to be safe.

Last October, with the energy of Sister Maria Charles Norton, we created a Guild to pray for the canonization of Venerable Patrick Peyton and for the advancement of his ministry of the Family Rosary. Many of you may recall what generous hospitality the sisters at The College of Saint Rose offered Father in the 1940s. They arranged an office space for his ministry, and many of the sisters and students assisted with numerous mailings as did the students at Vincentian Institute.

Recently, several of us gathered at The Irish Heritage Center on Broadway in Albany to share about our personal experiences of having met or known Father Peyton. Some, like myself, had met Father just briefly but were deeply impressed at the time; others had worked with him for an extended time. His secretary at the time was present for this gathering and told a few moving and funny stories.

Sister Sean Peters verified the support given Father Peyton by the sisters at the College by adding this story which Sister Honora Kinney came upon in her research. As the story goes, at the time Father Peyton was living in Albany but beginning to work with Hollywood producers, he received a request to meet with the film producers in Los Angeles as soon as he could. This was to be his initial face-to-face meeting with them. It was near the end of World War II and as many contacts as he had, he could not get a plane ticket! At this same time, one of our superiors from Los Angeles was here and, although she had just been notified that her father had been brought to the hospital, she gave Father Peyton her ticket. We were certainly closely connected and supportive.

A project that many of us have been interested in is the gallant attempt which Sister Nancy Marie Schmidt and Sister Grace Bacon made to provide for bluebirds to be attracted to our property. Since the bluebird is the State Bird of New York, it is appropriate that we provide for and encourage them to come and stay!

Nancy and Grace met a man at a flower show one year who makes and gives away the particular kind of house the bluebirds need. He provided the sisters with the house and advice along with a lifetime subscription to the Bluebird Magazine. After an attempt in our cemetery, the sisters finally moved the house to the garden near the C-Wing’s north entrance.

Sister Kathryn Dolan entered the project by providing the means to purchase the meally worms which the birds find most appetizing. Bluebirds usually lay four eggs but their natural enemy is the sparrow. An aside note: the sisters learned that our ubiquitous sparrow is not native to us. It was brought here by an English gentleman who wanted to have, in this country, every kind of bird which Shakespeare wrote about.

Therein lay the challenge! Our sister bird keepers found that our sparrows ate the eggs or, another time, the babies themselves. They continue their efforts. Go, Bluebirds!

The photo, submitted by Linda Olson, CSJA, was taken during the June CSJ Associate Commitment Weekend. Says Linda: “During a card game, I was a beginner player, coached by Suzanne Warner, CSJA; also playing was Jo-Ann Ferris, CSJA, and 101-year-old Sister Mary Ethna Kapfer. Mary Ethna (in the photo with Annie Clough, CSJA) won two out of three games--a master strategist with a poker face! Jo-Ann won one. It was so much fun! If only I lived closer and could challenge Sister Mary Ethna to a rematch!” Linda, chances are Sister Mary Ethna would win again!
Sisters Join with Local Agencies to Respond to Province Goal of Recognizing Food as a Human Right

by Sister Betsy Van Deusen

We CSJs, have been notorious for “stirring the pot” and recently, Joan Mary Hartigan and I have had the privilege of doing just that on our province goal of Food as a Human Right. Joan Mary serves at St. Mary’s Healthcare in Amsterdam, and I serve at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany. Some months ago, Joan Mary gathered a group of people to talk about food deserts in Fulton and Montgomery counties. I was invited as well as several local service providers and Sue Lintner from the Regional Food Bank. Some members of this initial group felt that there was not an issue with food access in the region. This sentiment was not born out in Joan Mary’s experience through St. Mary’s Healthcare, the Food Banks or ours through Catholic Charities so we continued talking. We felt something needed to be done. As part of Catholic Charities Centennial Campaign in 2017, we are establishing a program called No Wrong Door to have a mobile unit for access to food; electronic records so that wherever you enter the Catholic Charities system, you are known and services can continue quickly; and access to case management services, so a person can recognize and utilize resources for their own success.

The team at St. Mary’s Healthcare and Catholic Charities, Centro Civico, Creative Connections Clubhouse established a committee to begin to move things forward. It was decided that in partnership with the Regional Food Bank we would do a mass distribution of food and welcome anyone in the community to come.

The first distribution of 12 tons of food happened on a balmy November morning with volunteers from St. Mary’s, Catholic Charities and the partner agencies assisting with the distribution.

We also accessed coats from a drive the Ladies of Charity did in Cohoes and had a health fair at St. Mary’s Parish with health screenings, information and hot soup, culminating in a “new-to-the-person” coat. We had 276 people take advantage of that first joint effort.

The distributions have continued again in Amsterdam, Fort Plain and Johnstown. Each time, there is a health fair and various give-aways along with 12 tons of food. In July the RV–CCMOVE will be on site at the food distribution to meet with people for case management and screenings.

Collaboration, cooperation and communication have enabled this partnership to come into being, and watching and assisting agencies work together for the greater good of the community is amazing. It is such fun to be able to partner with my sister and make a real difference in these communities!

At the meeting were (l. to r.) Congressman Paul Tonko; Sister Betsy Van Deusen; Mike McMahon, Montgomery County Commissioner of Social Services; Vince Colombo, CEO Catholic Charities; Wilhelmina Murray-Davis, Director of Disaster and Community Services, Catholic Charities; and Sister Joan Mary Hartigan.
COMMUNITY WEEKEND 2019
Friday, October 18 - Saturday, October 19

Theme
The Real Sister Act: Confronting the History of Racial Segregation and Exclusion in U.S. Female Religious Life

Presenter
Dr. Shannen Lee Williams

Dr. Shannon Dee Williams is the Albert LePage Assistant Professor of History at Villanova University where she teaches courses in African-American, women’s, religious, and civil rights history. She is at work on her first book, Subversive Habits: the Untold Story of Black Catholic Nuns in the United States, which is under contract with Duke University Press. Her research has been supported by a host of awards, grants and fellowships, including a 2016-17 Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York City, a 2011-2012 Charlotte W. Newcomb Doctoral Fellowship in Religion and Ethics from the Woodrow Wilson National Foundation, a 2011 Albert J. Beveridge Grant from the American Historical Association, the 2011 Huggins-Quarles Award from the organization of American Historians, and the 2010 John Tracy Ellis Dissertation Award from the American Catholic Historical Association. In September 2018, Williams received the inaugural Sister Christine Schenk Award for Young Catholic Leadership from Future Church for using history to foster racial justice and reconciliation in religious congregations of women.

Dr. Williams is a cradle Catholic and native of Memphis, Tennessee, where she was the salutatorian of Craigmont High School in 2000. She earned a B.A. in history with magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa honors from Agnes Scott College in 2004. She also holds an M.A. in Afro-American studies from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a Ph.D. in history and a graduate certificate in women’s and gender studies from Rutgers University.

Tentative Schedule

Friday, October 18
TBA

Saturday, October 19
9:00 a.m. Gathering: Coffee and Pastries
9:30 a.m. Prayer/Reflections/Welcome
10:00 a.m. Presentation: The Real Sister Act—Confronting the History of Racial Segregation and Exclusion in U.S. Female Religious Life
11:00 a.m. Break
11:15 a.m. Table Conversation
11:40 a.m. Large-Group Feedback
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Presentation: Reckoning with an Uneasy Past
2:15 p.m. Break
2:30 p.m. Large-Group Questions and Answers
3:30 p.m. Conclusion of Program and Expressions of Thanks
4:00 p.m. Eucharistic Liturgy with Fr. Dominic Ingemie

Take Note!
If anyone wishes to set up a table for the weekend, please contact Joan Mary Hartigan (jhartigan@csjalbany.org) by Monday, September 16.

There will be a collection of personal items for Tioga County Rural Ministry and for the Mission Cupboards at St. Mary’s Healthcare, Amsterdam.
Sister Frances Eustace, CSJ  
(Sister Frances Regis)  
1921 ~ 2019

Born in Paterson, NJ, October 30, 1921

Entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in Troy, NY, on September 15, 1944

Received into the Novitiate on March 19, 1945

Professed Final Vows on August 15, 1950

Died at St. Joseph’s Provincial House, Latham, NY, June 19, 2019

In Sister Fran’s own words:

There is a saying that “God writes straight with crooked lines.” I find this sentiment confirmed and validated by my own interesting, circuitous route to religious life and all that has happened in the intervening years!

During World War II, I was fired with zeal and patriotism as were so many young people in those days. I decided to leave Douglass College in New Brunswick, NJ, and my beloved English major and take advantage of a one-year accelerated engineering program at RPI, where I would be prepared to work as a desk engineer for Curtis-Wright, a corporation doing top-priority war work.

It turned out that the Provincial House of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet was located adjacent to the grounds of the university, and I was not long in Troy before I met some of the sisters who befriended a group of us newcomers and invited us to benediction one Sunday. The peace of the chapel and the music of the Sisters’ Choir transported us out of the horrors of the daily war news into another dimension. These visits continued!

I returned to work for Curtis-Wright at its New Jersey plant and airfield. However, I soon realized that I had left part of my heart in Troy and, at the end of my year with the bombers, I made a retreat and a decision to return and enter the community. Thus did my wartime journey to Troy determine the rest of my life! In a sense, “I jumped over the wall,” but in the opposite direction as did Monica Baldwin who wrote her autobiography under that title!

Of course, the major influence on my vocation really was the example of my beloved parents. My father had at one time entered St. Joseph’s Seminary in Callicoon, NY, but World War I intervened and he joined the army. Upon his return, he met my mother and realized his vocation was to marriage and possibly to raise children with vocations to religious life! Subsequently, my brother entered the same seminary and was a Franciscan priest, missioned in Brazil for nearly all of his priestly life. We were a close-knit family and were devastated when my brother, Bill, was killed in WWII when I was a novice. My only sister, Pat, married and was the mother of six and grandmother of twelve.

So I entered and actually had no idea at first whether I would stay or find the whole idea impossible. After minor struggles with the structure of religious life, I was accepted in the Sister of St. Joseph in March 1945. In March of 1995, I celebrated 50 blessed and happy years as a CSJ! I had been given the opportunity to continue studying and then to teach English, my first love, and after graduate study for a doctorate at Catholic University, I spent 20 years on the English faculty at The College of Saint Rose.

Meantime, Vatican II had occurred, and there was much discussion as to the direction religious life might take in these new times. During these years, I had the opportunity to spend a year working among the poor in the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House in New York. The goal was to discover if there would be a place for women religious working in these areas. There is, indeed, such a place! I, however, returned to my own place on the English faculty but not for long. After 20 years, I felt called to another ministry and, after much course work, spent the next 20 years in hospital, parish and pastoral ministry which I found as richly rewarding as teaching had been! At age 70, I retired to our Provincial House in Latham where I did community work in the archives and wrote for our community newspaper, Carondelet East.

There is another somewhat facetious comment one sometimes hears: “Join the convent and see the world!” That too has been validated in my life. With another faculty member from The College of Saint Rose, I planned a tour of major cities of Europe; during the January term another sister and I took students for three weeks to the British Isles. I have also been blessed to visit a friend in Puerto Rico. More recently, a much traveled relative cashed in his frequent-flyer miles to offer me a trip to Brazil where I spent three memorable weeks with my brother in his friary.

Right now it’s nice to be “retired,” with more time for reading, prayer and quiet reflection, and for enjoying the companionship of the sisters and the joys of our beloved Provincial House!

Sister Frances died peacefully at the Provincial House on June 19, 2019, in the 75th year of her life as a Sister of St. Joseph.
DANIEL by Luann Sims, CSJA

Daniel was a boy I never knew.
Gods’ love for him was true.
Daniel is my cousin who died at birth.
God freed him from the bonds of earth.
Following is an account of where he is today
As I write this I simply need to say:

I don’t understand why God took the boy
Whose heart was glad to receive his precious joy.
I think of him once in a while
And picture him with his little smile.
So child beautiful, innocent and fair,
Rest peacefully in your Fathers’ loving care

God spoke to his heart, “Come home, my son.
Fear not, the battle has been won.”
I believe he is living with God dwelt secure,
Wrapped in his arms humble and pure.
He had locks of hair golden brown
Where he would wear an everlasting crown

His eyes were brown, warm and true.
Gentle were his sights which were anew.
Daniel, pray for your family and friends,
For wisdom and courage to make amends.
I believe that he would be a person to give
All that he had and teach us how to live.

Even though he never saw the light of day,
He followed Christ who lit his way.
He never learned how to speak;
His heart spoke to God humble and meek.
He never made homemade bread.
He smelled the eternal blossoms to which he was led.

Daniel never fished or walked the land.
He ran to meet and grasp the Master’s hand.
I hope to meet him one day,
To laugh and sing, to run and play.
I believe he is happy and free
To jump so high or climb a tree.

God said, “Daniel come and see,
You will forever abide in me.
Your heart and soul, you freely bring,
You have tasted the waters of eternal spring.
You have seen the light, my little boy;
Your life with me brings me joy.”

My cousin, Daniel Satterlee, was born
and died on December 31, 1968. My
dad took Aunt Carol to the hospital
because my Uncle Chuck had muscu-
lar dystrophy. My dad was the only
family member to see the baby. He
wrote the poem because I wanted to ac-
knowledge Daniel. He will always be
a part of the family.

FROM THE PROVINCE HOME LAND COMMITTEE SUBMITTED BY SISTER MARY LOU DOLAN

“The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time.
They are kneeling with clasped hands that we might act with restraint, leaving room for the life that is
destined to come ... We have it within our power to create merciful acts.”

(Terry Tempest Williams, Wild Mercy, in Arctic Refuge)

Embrace by Marion C. Honors, CSJ
COMMUNITY WEEKEND 2019
Friday, October 18 - Saturday, October 19

Theme
The Real Sister Act: Confronting the History of Racial Segregation and Exclusion in U.S. Female Religious Life

Presenter
Dr. Shannen Lee Williams

Schedule
See page 25 for tentative schedule.

Display Table Needed?
If anyone wishes to set up a table for the weekend, please contact Joan Mary Hartigan (jhartigan@csjalbany.org) by Monday, September 16.

Collection of Personal Items
There will be a collection of personal items for Tioga County Rural Ministry and for the Mission Cupboards at St. Mary’s Healthcare, Amsterdam.

At the annual picnic of the Syracuse CSJ Associates, held June 15 at Pat John’s home, are: (front row, l. to r.) Sharon Miller, Mardee Schaefer and Pat Hunt; (back row, l. to r.) Pat John, LuAnn Sims, Sister Chris Pologa, Jo-Ann Ferris, Monica James, Cindy Hoosock and Suzanne Warner.