The chapter recommendations fit on a single page, summarize our common hearts, and point the way into the future. Ansgar’s pen sees a multitude of hands going to work. The chapter culminated in eucharist at Carondelet, a holy communion.

Prophetic Boldness
by Ansgar Holmberg, CSJ
“... to live authentically our identity as the Congregation of the Great Love of God... loving God and neighbor without distinction...

Our 2019 Chapter Future Direction invites us to probe more deeply and honestly about how we are a community of great Love. How do we live in love day by day?

In From the Inside Out: Reimagining Mission, Recreating the World, (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2018), Ryan Kuja examines intercultural Christian mission by reflecting on his lifelong experience of living as a missioner in South Africa, Sudan and cities across Asia, Africa and Latin America. As he does, he confronts uncomfortable and agonizing truths: how Christian theology has supported colonizing, enslaving, and genocide at the same time bringing the gospel of Jesus to many peoples. He says, “To examine something deeply is to risk disturbing the status quo, to put aside our comfortable ideas and familiar ideals and trade them for a risky yes to the uncertainty of the God who forever is inviting us into the new. To both question and love what we find is to move toward greater truthfulness and integrity and come to embody the love we profess across differences, beliefs, and cultures in more beautiful ways than we ever imagined before.”

For the sake of the world, we question. For the sake of the gospel, we examine. For the sake of the dignity of the neighbors we love—as well as ourselves—we inquire.

“Authentic curiosity and questioning stem not from a desire to critique, but from a deep love and commitment to community, the church, the poor, the world. Love involves curiosity, a desire to encounter the depths, a longing to know completely, in a way where nothing remains hidden. The act of love shines light on what is secret, what has remained concealed. Love unearths what is hidden and caresses it, accepts it, allows it space to breathe…”

How does being a dominantly Catholic, white, educated, resourceful community both privilege and limit us as a community of love for the life of the world? How do we continue to work to change systemic oppressions while learning, more clearly and effectively, how we participate in them? How might we ourselves need to change to become more welcoming, to value differences more truly?

Go Deeper.... Journey Farther.... Respond Boldly...
DARE TO BE PROPHETIC

Susan, Suzanne, and Cathy
 Zendoodles

During the 2019 Chapter, St. Paul Province artist Ansgar Holmberg, CSJ, created a series of Zendoodles, including our cover. Sister Joan Mitchell added brief summaries. Small versions are included throughout this issue of Together. Full-size images can be downloaded from the Congregational website, csjcarondelet.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Chapter-Coloring-Book.pdf. They are perfect for coloring. Coloring? Sure. In the article “Why Adult Coloring Books Are All The Rage,” Aimee Hirsch of Westchester Magazine, says, “To the young at heart, coloring books were once considered “guilty pleasures.” Now, anyone can be free to engage in the art of staying inside the lines.” Some might think staying in the lines a bit of an oxymoron for the CSJs, yet…

PROPHETIC BOLDNESS

The chapter recommendations fit on a single page, summarize our common hearts, and point the way into the future. Ansgar’s pen sees a multitude of hands going to work. The chapter culminated in eucharist at Carondelet, a holy communion.

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This August, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet held its 34th Congregational Chapter in St. Louis, Missouri. The first Chapter, in 1866 included 16 delegates (none from St. Paul) though the earliest gatherings didn’t include elections (separate Chapter election meetings took place in 1866, 1911, 1917 and 1923). This 2019 Chapter included 100 delegates, 12 Chapter Companions, five women in formation observing, and two of the seven nominees who were not delegates. The following article was prepared by Jenney Beatrice, Communications Director, St. Louis Province. (Thanks to Congregational Archivist Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND for Chapter history.)

Deep sharing. Profound listening. Mutual respect.
These were the foundations of the 2019 Congregational Chapter, held from July 14-27 at Mercy Center in St. Louis. Through communal discernment and contemplative dialogue, chapter delegates and companions experienced unity amid a collaboration of diverse ideas, emerging with common threads that strengthen the congregation in fulfilling its mission of loving God and neighbor without distinction.

“One of the things that stood out for me in this chapter experience is the spirit in which we’ve come together,” says Sister Jean Wincek (SP). “It feels very respectful … differences are put on the table, acknowledged and honored. It’s clear that we are a unified congregation. The experience is showing me there are many ways we contain diversity.”

The chapter theme, “Called Together for the Life of the World,” reflects the urgency of this moment in time both in our world and our congregation. This urgency to respond to those needs was evident throughout the four movements of chapter, and it was through that lens in which processes, directions and leaders were affirmed.

Order of the House
This first movement offered information and perspectives about the state of the congregation that helped to inform the latter conversations about future. Reports included an accountability on living out the 2013 Acts of Chapter, financial and demographic viability data, and the Congregational Leadership Team’s overview on their term in office.
Big-Picture Conversations

For the second movement, the chapter body engaged in Big-Picture Conversations to determine how the congregation will respond to critical concerns. The conversation topics were generated from the 2018 Called Together gatherings that were held across the congregation. Topics on the table were “Church: Our Role as Women Religious in the Church Today,” “Contemporary Religious Life: Living Our Vowed Life in the Context of Today’s World,” and “Congregation: Who Do We Want to Become for the Life of the World?”

Feedback was synthesized by the writers who crafted a Statement of Future Direction that, after several rounds of input, was affirmed. The statement calls the CSJ community and partners to “go deeper, journey farther and respond boldly” in being prophetic witnesses around issues such as responding to the crisis of Earth, dismantling systems of oppression, and claiming our voice as women for an inclusive church.

Sister Chris Pologa (A) says, “I am excited that we are discussing and doing the bold prophetic action for justice … The urgency of contemporary issues calls us to respond with the boldness of the gospel and with the unifying love of our charism.”

Recommendation for Governance

The Innovation Committee’s proposed process for communal discernment regarding governance was overwhelmingly affirmed. It states:

After a formal communal discernment process, each province/vice province will choose either: to remain as a province/vice province, relating to current province/vice province governance OR to relate directly to congregational leadership for governance and no longer operate as a province/vice province. Whichever governance structure is chosen by a given province/vice province, the call to simplification is the same.

The discussion and decision making process on the recommendation were characterized by the same subsidiarity, mutuality and collaboration that is core to the recommendation itself.

“I felt that we came to this meeting with a real spirit of humility and a willingness to be vulnerable to each other in such a way that it brought us to listen, to receive one another and to be open to be influenced,” says Sister Lynn Levo (A). “I think that’s what brought us to our ability to come to a decision about a very important aspect of our life.”

Election of Leaders

A five-member Congregational Leadership Team was elected whose six-year term begins in January 2020. Team members are Sisters Sally Harper (first councilor), Patty Johnson, Mary McGlone, Sean Peters (director) and Therese Sherlock. The nominees were especially committed to contemplation and collaboration, a glimpse of their style of leadership in the future.

Sister Patty (SL) says, “The values of how we might work together have already been very evident. We’re anticipating that the easy give and take and openness that we have experienced so far will be a hallmark of how we will work together.”
With special thanks to St. Paul’s 2019 Congregational Chapter Delegates/Companions

**EX OFFICIO DELEGATES**
- Susan Hames (SP)
- Suzanne Herder (SP)
- Cathy Steffens (SP)

**ELECTED DELEGATES**
- Ruth Brooker (SP)
- Agnes Foley (SP)
- Meg Gillespie (SP)
- Sharon Howell (SP)
- Mary Lamski (SP)
- Joan Mitchell (SP)
- Bernadette Newton (SP)
- Irene O’Neill (SP)
- Carolyn Puccio (SP)
- Catherine Mary Rosengren (SP)
- Katherine Rossini (SP)
- Kathy Ryan (SP)
- Angela Schreiber (SP)
- Therese Sherlock (SP)
- Jill Underdahl (SP)
- Mary Ellen Ward (SP)
- Jean Wincek (SP)

**CHAPTER COMPANIONS**
- Sister Companions available as alternates
  - Joanne Wieland (SP)
- Associate/Consociate Companions
  - Anita Duckor (SP)
  - Barbara McIlquham (SP)

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**Congregational Chapter statement: A Call for Civil and respectful discourse**

During the 2019 Congregational Chapter in St. Louis the Sisters released a statement challenging our national leaders to use civil and respectful discourse to address differences among us and reach just solutions. The statement is as follows:

*We, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and our partners assembled for our Congregational Chapter, make public our concern about the disturbing state of politics in the United States. We are appalled and saddened at the growing polarization, which is intensified by incivility, bigotry, racism, intolerance, and deception. Our Catholic faith calls us to live in right relationship with all peoples and with creation. We join our voices with all others who desire a world where every person is treated with respect and dignity. This is a responsibility from which no one is exempt. We intend to use our resources and energy to work toward a society built on unity and reconciliation. Words matter. We challenge President Trump, members of Congress, all elected officials, and all persons to cease using rhetoric and language that belittles and disrespects the sacredness of any person and group. We call for civil and respectful discourse to address the differences among us and reach just solutions.*
In the News

The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Calls for End to Gun Violence

August 2019 Corporate Voice Statement

As Sisters of St. Joseph, we share in the communal heartbreak of our nation in the face of unthinkable violence. The recent mass shootings in our country impel us to once again demand that all citizens and elected leaders end the rage and division that all too often results in mass, indiscriminate violence. We seem unable to stop the epidemic of hate that has overwhelmed us.

What we are witnessing today is a terrorism that uses mass public communication against a particular individual or group. This incites acts of terrorism that happen seemingly at random. We are called to confront rhetoric that stokes racism and hatred of anyone perceived to be “different.” We are all responsible. Let us monitor our own language and actions and call attention when the language and actions of others cross the line.

While mass shootings capture our attention, we cannot forget that they are only part of the violence perpetrated by use of firearms. Homicides, suicides, domestic violence, and accidents caused by guns are pervasive in all parts of the country, traumatizing families and communities every day.

In the short term, we implore all legislative bodies to pass legislation that ban assault weapons, require universal background checks for all gun sales, provide funding for gun violence prevention research, and make the trafficking in weapons a federal crime. At the same time, we must continue examining the root causes of violence and working to change our culture.

The Sisters of St. Joseph pledge our support to end the scourge of rage and hatred, and we will consistently call for legislation to end gun violence.

Church Goers & Mental Health

The Knowridge Science Report, August 5, 2019: In a new study, researchers found that older people who go to church have better mental health. The research was reported by the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) at Trinity. In the study, the team examined over 6,000 adults aged 50 and over. Both men and women who regularly attended religious services had larger social networks than those who were less frequent attenders. In addition, regular religious attendance was linked to lower depressive symptoms in both men and women.
CSJ Community Picnic

On Saturday, August 3, just after the Chapter presentation in the Dining Room of Carondelet Center, about 100 people gathered on the lawn of the Administration Center for a CSJ Community Picnic. Although the day was muggy, the shade of the trees created a beautiful setting for a shared meal and conversation. Thanks to those who donated door prizes and to the many people who spent time helping with set up and clean up afterward. A BIG thank you to Carmen Shaughnessy Johnson and the Consociate Events and Ritual Committee for planning this event and bringing all the food!

“Religious Life in the 21st Century.”

By Mary Lanski, CSJ

In response to several requests, Together offers excerpts from the July 23, 2019 Chapter Morning Prayer. Excerpted from the longer article “Religious Life in the 21st Century” by Ilia Delio, OSF, it was originally printed in the September 2018 Global Sisters Report.

“Religious life with its daily routines and structured spiritual life is giving way to something new. Up ahead there is a new horizon of religious consciousness awakening, a new type of religious person is forming, and thus a new type of church will eventually appear with a new zest for life. Today personhood is defined in and through relationships. The search for God is oriented in the other, in being drawn out of oneself and into the other. The search is deeply incarnational, reflecting the hidden presence of God in our world. What marks the new religious person is being locally communal, globally aware, scientifically open, earth-centered, planetary-minded.

.” Bound by laws and dogmas but attracted to authenticity and meaningful rituals. As a new religion of the earth emerges (and given our present collapse of systems, it will emerge). . . Anticipate that religious life in the 21st century will be more provisional and local rather than institutional and permanent. Religious life with its daily routines and structured spiritual life is giving way to something new. And thus a new type of church will eventually appear with a new zest for life. “Right now, the issue that we are working on is cybertrafficking. The police came to talk with me about this, and I shared the information with the teachers. We learned how combating cybertrafficking is hard because at first, all communication is online. Then, perpetrators lure the girls to meet them in person, and once they do, they are trapped. The girls feel ashamed and worried that their parents and teachers will find out what is happening to them.”

Digital Together! Did you know you can receive Together electronically?

If you would like to receive this publication by email, please send a note with your name and contact information to Natalie Fyksen, nfyksen@csjstpaul.org.
Purpose Helps Your Health

Minnesota Center for Health Care Ethics’ Karen Gervais, PhD, shares this “of ethics interest…”

Have you ever thought about whether having a sense of life purpose relates to how long a person lives?

A growing body of research “suggests that having a strong sense of purpose in life leads to improvements in both physical and mental health and enhances overall quality of life.”¹ A recent article (in JAMA Open Network) reported on a national Health and Retirement Study of 6,985 participants over 50 years old, 57% of which were women.

Researchers found that “Life purpose was significantly associated with all-cause mortality…, comparing those in the lowest life purpose category with those in the highest life purpose category.”¹ Also, some heart, circulatory, and blood conditions had significant cause-specific mortality associations with life purpose.

These findings indicate that stronger purpose in life is associated with decreased mortality (i.e., longer life). Given this growing evidence that a sense of purpose enhances and extends life, the next steps for research will be to evaluate interventions intended to improve life purpose, as to their health and longevity impacts.

So, dear ethics followers, be thinking about your sense of purpose in life. What experiences, activities, relationships, surroundings, etc., support and grow that sense within you? Those interventions – whatever they may be – need to be evaluated for this impact and made more accessible and available. That is the next step in this important research. Let’s talk about it at our next meeting at Carondelet Village (TBA)!


About our lovely yard…

By Jennifer Tacheny, John Viktora-Croke, and Cathy Steffens, CSJ

When it comes to the CSJ campus, the CSJ community is committed to an environmentally sensible approach of care. Due to a recent number of inquiries, we’d like to remind everyone that for the past two seasons, the CSJ St. Paul Province has partnered with St. Catherine University and SavATree to use a hybrid, organic fertilizer and weed control program. St. Catherine University’s biology department facilitated the development of a program that is organic, effective, and safe for pollinators, pets, and humans. This program uses ingredients reviewed by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) under the same standards as the production of organic foods. When asked about the sign’s posted after an application saying “keep pets and children off until dry,” SaveATree’s, District Manager, Chris Muehleck informed us that, “the signs are mandated by State and City of St. Paul Ordinance whenever technical material is applied on a property by a licensed commercial applicator.” He stresses that “the materials used are environmentally friendly and ecologically sound.” We are pleased to invest in this earth-friendly company. For more information, please visit www.savatree.com/organic-lawn-care.
Questions for Consociate Chris

Excerpted from an interview by Consociate Candidate Mary Wotzka Lagaard, RN, CNP, DNP. The full interview is available on Forum.

Chris Furlong is celebrating her tenth anniversary as a Consociate of the Sisters of Saint Joseph (CSJ).

What led you to join the CSJ consociates? My first contact with the Sisters of Saint Joseph was in high school at Saint Joseph’s Academy High School. I had completed a pastoral ministry certificate program in the 1980s at St. Kate’s and then, after 39 years as a flight attendant, at age 60, I completed a Bachelor’s Degree there in Theology. The ink was barely dry on my diploma when I started an internship with the Department of Corrections eventually focusing on restorative justice. As a Consociate, I connected with the Justice Commission and the Criminal Justice Working Group. I am grateful to do daily justice work. The CSJ Consociate group continues to be a marvelous gift; it is a good fit and the Sisters’ influence has only grown.

How did you get your start in restorative justice work? In the criminal justice system the issue is a law that was broken. Restorative justice is repairing harm and restoring relationships. I believe that it is the heart of the gospel. The restoration is such an honor to bear witness to. Transformational dialogue can change each person.

The work started with the hospitality skills that I learned as a stewardess. My employer provided opportunities to learn critical stress management, trauma training, and crisis de-escalation. On a flight I met Dr. Mark Umbreit, Founder and Director of the Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking from the University of Minnesota, who invited me to take classes on restorative justice. This led to a class in Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) where I met the woman whose story changed my life, Mary Johnson-Roy. Twelve years after the murder of her only child, Mary decided she wanted to meet with the man, then 16 year-old boy, who took her son’s life. After the dialogue with him she knew she had truly forgiven him. She reached out to other mothers, founding a healing group called From Death to Life, serving mothers of both assailants and victims of homicide. I have served on the board of the group since 2007, often driving or traveling with Mary when she speaks or is honored. She is my “soul sister.”

What is your favorite book? Walking the Paths of the Warrior, Teacher, Healer, and Visionary by Angeles Arrien.

If you could pick any living or dead person to have dinner with, besides Jesus or Mary, who would it be? Dorothy Day because she was a free spirit and did not play by the rules.
At the annual Ritual of Consociate Commitment and Welcome on May 1st, 2019, 10 new Consociates made their commitment. Each new Consociate made a short statement at this ritual. This statement by Cindy Herbst is the last in that series.

Last fall, I was driving to my mom’s, and a couple blocks away, I approached the dreaded traffic light. This light is the longest traffic light on our planet. And of course, it turns red just as I get there. But while coming to the stop, this beautiful Native American flute music comes on the radio, and there was a pace to it, with a drum beat in the background.

Sitting there at the light, I was compelled to look up at the sky and I noticed that the clouds were moving along at the pace of the song. Then the trees started to sway and rustle to the music. I even noticed the cars going by were in sync. As the song progressed and at the precise moment of the drumming, a huge flock of birds flew over. I was hoping the light wouldn’t change until the end of the song.

As serendipitous experiences go, the light changed at the end of the song. The person on the radio said it was called The Wind. All I could think of was, of course it is.

This experience, orchestrated by nature, was a collective energy – each component being an integral part of it. It was the most I had ever truly felt the intention of an artist.

My experience this last two years also felt like a collective energy. Every person in the group was an integral part of the experience. I now understand the intention of it and, like that traffic light moment, you know it’s going to change, but the spirit of our shared experience will stay with us.

“I, Cindy Herbst, commit myself to be a Consociate of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, moving always towards profound love of God and neighbor without distinction. I pledge myself to live the vision and values of the community within the context of my life and responsibilities.”
Participants’ Stories of their Sacred Call to Agrégée

This month continues the series of reflections by participants in the June 2018, Sacred Is the Call retreat held in St. Paul and facilitated by Jean Wincek, CSJ. The participants from the four provinces included five from Albany, one from Los Angeles (Rita Scherrei, who later discerned a call to vowed membership as a Sister), one from St. Louis, and eight from St. Paul.

Mary Louise Menikheim (St. Paul): In my room at the Pro House, I hear voices down the hall. Voices working to synthesize the work of the day ... to present in the morning. It is a voice of a Sister working while the rest of us, Agrégée aspirants, go to comfortable sleep. I reflect on the Spirit, the essence, the generations of Sisters who have worked, laughed, and lived within these walls. And here today are Sisters who invite and welcome us to community. The courage, humility, and generous spirit of the Sisters is not only remarkable, but holy/sacred. Can we be as generous, as courageous, as welcoming as the CSJs are? Are we open and inclusive and do we see God in the eyes of each neighbor? How do we honor the Sisters’ invitation? Do we have the courage to risk, to step into the unknown?

Lois Mineau (St. Paul): I went to the Agrégée weekend retreat in June. I had been following all the emails over time and this was the first opportunity that I could attend and meet others who experienced a call to the Agrégée way. I felt the spiritual engagement of “more” when actually I was desiring “less” business. I have been very active as a Consociate in the new Community Assembly and I am on the Ministry Commission for the St. Paul Province. I have started a Consociate Ministry and I am on a board of another Consociate Ministry. I am active in the St. Paul Province. When I was with others who longed for the spiritual engagement in the way I did I got energized for the more.

I was surprised and yet delighted that the Agrégée call evoked me, nudged me and brought me to a deep sense of belonging with others. The connection to others, the spiritual engagement, the energizing of my desire to serve and be with the Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet and our larger community grew. Sister Tobias from the St. Louis province always said I had the CSJ stripe. At the retreat I met my pack - all our stripes matched.
Kileen Stone (Albany): An article in the newspaper about the SSJs in Springfield, Massachusetts gave me my first experience with the concept of Agrégée. Janet Derby and I (Jan was one of the Associate Directors at that time) drove to Springfield to meet with Natalie Caine SSJ and one of their new Agrégées. What energy these two brought about this new relationship. We asked them to speak at our Commitment Weekend and all six Agrégées and Sister Natalie came; each told her story … each read her personal statement of “commitment with God within the Community of St. Joseph.” Over one hundred Associates and Sisters were literally stunned to silence when they were through. Over the past eight years interest in the possibility of Agrégées in the Albany Province has bubbled up with small meetings, many discussions, and a tangible fervency. My own call to this possibility lies in a desire to actually serve the community… to have made a clear covenant that I can be called on to do whatever must be done. It is my hope that by my actions and attempt to live the charism, these dear women whom I love and respect will know that I shall share their work and celebrate their lives.

Jennifer Tacheny (St. Paul): Fifteen years ago, I was drawn to work with the CSJ community because of a common commitment to social justice action as a constitutive aspect of faith. Over these years, I’ve realized that my life is grounded in the charism and it is alive in me, my work is meaningful and authentic, and I am at home here with the CSJ community. The commitment to action on the behalf of justice continues to draw me and my family into the heart of the CSJ community. Identifying as an employee never adequately conveyed my resonance with and commitment to CSJ charism and mission. Claiming partner in mission is an authentic way for me to convey that my work here in young adult spirituality, mission engagement and membership is more than a job. Yet, there is a greater draw for me and my family. My children and husband are also held in and compelled by the charism. How do we move deeper in our connection and commitment to the community and charism together as a family? How does the charism living in us find a home here? What form does our commitment take? How does a formal commitment help me and my family offer more to the world? The June 2018 congregational Agrégée gathering and other conversations and relationship building around the Agrégée model help me navigate these questions with generous spaciousness. It seems that this congregational group is wondering together about what it means to be grasped by the charism and why it matters to the world. We care deeply about a CSJ future and we see ourselves in it.

Missives

Dear Sisters of St. Joseph, On behalf of my family, I want to thank all of you for the love and care you gave my dear Aunt, Sister Helen Janssen. You all were her family for so many years and she loves each and every one of you! She loved Bethany but she loved Carondelet Village even more.

She passed away on June 13, the next step in her journey, and one that she was embracing with great enthusiasm. Thank you to all who cared for her in the closing weeks of her life. We are forever grateful.

Love, Don Janssen, Sister Helen’s nephew
Sister Elizabeth Marie Martens (1896 - 1969)

Sister Elizabeth Marie was born Marie on June 25, 1896 in St. Paul, MN. She entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Paul Province on November 27, 1914, and professed her final vows on March 19, 1920. She earned a BA in English and German from the College of St. Catherine and an MA in Literature and Composition from the University of Minnesota.

Sister Elizabeth Marie taught at St. Margaret’s Academy (Minneapolis) and St. Joseph’s Academy (St. Paul). She was principal at Academy of Holy Angels (Richfield, MN), St. James Academy (Grand Forks, ND), St. Joseph Academy, and St. Margaret Academy (it was during her tenure that ground was broken for a new school, which opened in 1960). From 1939 – 1945 she served at Assistant Provincial for the St. Paul Province.

Among Sister Elizabeth Marie’s talents she counted writing. She co-wrote the book “Academy for a Century” celebrating the history of St. Joseph Academy. She also wrote the words to the St. Joseph Academy School song. In 1944, she had a study guide published under the title “The Song of Bernadette – A Study Guide for the Appreciation of a Novel.”


CELESTE’S DREAM

My position as a Community Leader Intern and working for the Sisters of St. Joseph to fight food injustice and insecurity on campus has opened up a wide range of new learning opportunities and experiences for me. Food insecurity among college students, especially those from low-income families, is an on-going public health concern as well as a social injustice issue. Lack of access to healthy and nutritional foods among college students directly impacts their cognitive abilities as well as their psychology and physical development. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and my work with the St. Kate's Food Shelf has allowed me the opportunity to get involved in our community: In the community garden growing fresh produce for the food shelf and attending highly-valuable workshops and conferences across the Twin Cities area to reduce the burden of food insecurity among my peers. I would like to thank the Sisters of St. Joseph for giving me this wonderful opportunity to engage in this work.

St. Kate’s History Professor, Louise Edwards-Simpson, St. Kate’s Community Leader Intern, Natalie Nation and Jennifer Tacheny, Celeste’s Dream, presented at the Campus Compact Midwest Conference at the University of Minnesota May, 2019. Photo taken by Dolma Tsering. St. Kate’s Community Leader Intern, Dolma Tsering, Reflects on Work with Celeste’s Dream and the Justice Office.

More Zendoodles!

HEARING OUR LEADERS
New voices speak in solo and in communion with us all.
Who will lead us? What is the call?

CHAPTER 2019
Sister Ansgar watched our live-streamed CSJ chapter with pen in hand. Her art invites readers to remember the three with color pencils or markers in hand.

WORSHIP SATURDAY, JULY 21
Mary and Martha visited from the gospel pages. A bobolink and palms lit on Ansgar’s page of praise and thanks with the help of Emily Dickenson. We sang Michael Joncas’s “Winter Name of God” Eucharistic prayer and shared bread at each table.

Together for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet & Consociates  ▪ September 2019 ▪ 15
Ministry Updates

JUSTICE

Planting Peace and a Japanese Cherry Blossom Tree

Many in the CSJ community gathered with St. Paul - Nagasaki Sister City Committee members to plant a Japanese Cherry Blossom Tree on the Sisters of St. Joseph grounds in St. Paul, MN this summer. This special tree planting included blessings and prayers for peace in conjunction with the July 11 Prayers for Peace. We celebrated and remembered 60-plus years of Sister City relationships with Saint Paul – Nagasaki Sister City Committee. We gathered to pray for our friends and community members in Nagasaki including our own CSJ Sisters in Japan and the newest community member joining the novitiate, Chizuru Yamada. The Sisters of St. Joseph have deep connections to the St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Relationship along with active involvement on the committee over the years, long-standing community connections with our CSJ community in Japan, and the collaborative hosting of July Peace Prayers for the past few years. We pray and hope that this tree will grow to share the beauty of its blossoms as a reminder of our commitment to peace, relationship building, and our renewal each year.

In addition, the tree was also planted at this time as a desire by the CSJ community to offset our carbon footprint caused by traveling to the Congregational Chapter. Additional trees will be planted in the future.

JOIN A WORKING OR TASK GROUP THIS YEAR!

We always welcome Sisters, Consociates, SJWs, Friends, Agrégées, and Partners In Mission to bring your passion for justice to one of the working or task groups. Contact the Justice Office if you are interested in sharing your gifts with one of the Justice Commission groups. WE NEED YOU.
Justice Commission members continue to refine the commission’s strategic purpose and vision statements as we prepare for our opening year retreat on the evening of Sept. 12.

Earth Partners Working Group members together with several CSJ community members and volunteers helped this summer with the cleaning and maintenance of the trails in the woodlands area behind Carondelet Village. Go for a stroll in the woods to check out the improvements and take in this hidden beauty on the edge of the CSJ property. Thank you to everyone that helped out with this project.

Health Care for All Task Group continues preparations for a November 1 program at Carondelet Center at 7:30 a.m. on homelessness: Health, Housing and unpacking the 2019 MN Wilder report on homelessness.

Immigration Working Group members hosted a community workshop/conversation on “Immigration 2019: Reality and Impacts on our dear Minnesota Immigrant Neighbors” with three top-notch immigration lawyers on August 13. You are also invited to attend the second Tuesday’s prayer vigil at the Whipple Federal Building on Sept. 10 at 7:30 a.m.

Native American Awareness Working Group has enjoyed volunteering and building our relationship this summer with the Dream of Wild Health along with attending the Garden Warrior’s Harvest Feast.

Ritual Task Group invites you to the September 11 peace prayer on “Transitions” in the Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel at 6:30 p.m.

Carondelet Village Justice Commission Liaison, Consociate Joan Wittman, coordinated a Minnesota Legislative Update presentation with Anne Krisnik, Executive Director of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) on August 14 at Carondelet Village. Join us for other great Carondelet Village and Justice Commission collaborative events including a forum with Candidates for the St. Paul School Board on September 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Carondelet Village Auditorium.

JUSTICE RESOURCE ROOM

Master organizer, Sister Jane Hurley, CSJ, in the Justice Resource Room in the Administration Center.

has a new master list cataloging ALL the books and videos. It’s a great way to check out what’s available in this impressive collection. THANK YOU to Jane Hurley, CSJ, for organizing this master list for our readers. A copy of the complete master list binder can be now found in the Justice Resource Room.
**Mantras have been developed and used around the world for thousands of years.** Sarah’s… an Oasis for Women has six mantras repeated often by residents and staff as an affirmation, motivation and inspiration to be our best selves. The purpose of our mantras is to provide encouragement when we need to focus our minds in order to achieve our goals.

**Sarah’s Mantras:**

- You are a good woman.
- You can do it!
- You come to Sarah’s in order to leave.
- Sarah’s will always be your home.
- One lesson at a time. One woman at a time.
  One day at a time.
- May peacemaking prevail on Earth today!

Thirteen women moved on from Sarah’s in the last year. They characterize Sarah’s mantra: “You come to Sarah’s in order to leave.” Below are reflections from some who accomplished their goal of finding more permanent housing:

Sarah’s was my peaceful place where I could sleep and pray. I was hopeless when I came to Sarah’s, but that has changed since I came home to Sarah’s. My life has changed in so many ways. My stress and trauma greatly improved. I was able to accomplish some goals like getting a job and my own place to live. ~ Angel, a former resident

I was provided a home and place of safety and community. I now have a positive attitude, networking skills and education. I was equipped with resources in order for me to be able to contribute positively to society. ~ LeeLee, a former resident

Sarah’s was my home when I had no place to live. Sarah’s showed me how to move forward in my life when I was hopeless. With their encouragement, I was determined to make the best of life’s opportunities and succeed. ~ Ida, a former resident

(names have been changed for privacy)
Save the date for Brewing Change! Mark your calendar for the third annual St. Joseph Worker Alum Community fundraiser, Brewing Change, October 28 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Bauhaus Brew Labs in Northeast Minneapolis. More details to come. Please join us for this great event!

To support CSJ Ministries visit the Ministries Foundation www.ministriesfoundation.org
New Hedgerow Course Begins

Hedgerow’s Inclusive Grace: The Life and Search of Two Pastors

When: Mondays, September 23 through December 9, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Wisdom Ways in Carondelet Center.

Cost: for CSJs and Consociates: $120.00 for the series or $12.50 per session.

Registration: Call Wisdom Ways at 651-696-2788 to register.

In the course texts, Emmy Kegler and Kelly Brown Douglas explore and live out their experiences as queer, one searching for her vocation, and one a Gen X prophet, critiquing white exceptionalism and calling for racial justice and equality.

The course involves presentations, conversations, and writing prompts to explore the mystery of God in one’s own search for personal purpose and justice in our world.

Sample sessions include:

- Gender 101: Learning from a new generation
- Tell a Story: Lost, Real, Good, Marked
- Black Bodies and the Justice of God
- Jesus and Trayvon

Instructors:

- Nancy Corcoran, CSJ, has been and still is being consciousnessed by the communities with whom she lives and works as a chaplain, presently in Ferguson, Missouri, and ministering with transgender, gender expansive, intersex folx and their families.

- Judge Kathleen Gearin spent 25 years handling criminal, civil and juvenile cases as a trial court judge, including two terms as Chief Judge, in Minnesota’s Second Judicial District.
**Emmy Kegler** pastors Grace Lutheran Church in Northeast Minneapolis focusing on feeding the hungry and community outreach, and is co-leader of the Queer Grace Community, a group of LGBTQ+ Christians who meet for worship, Bible study, and fellowship.

**Angela T. Khabeb** is a pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran in Minneapolis and was an ELCA missionary in Namibia. Pastor Angela believes Jesus is intimately and infinitely concerned with each and every one of us.

**Tarshia L. Stanley** is Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences and Associate Professor of English at St. Catherine University. She has written articles on Black women’s iconography in African American and African Cinema and American popular culture. Founding president of the Octavia E. Butler Literary Society, she edited The Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Literature.

**Hedgerow planning instructors:** Barbara Lund, Joan Mitchell, CSJ, and Andrea Tande.

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**SEPTEMBERFEST**

**JOIN US!**

LIVE MUSIC | FOOD TRUCKS | RAFFLE PRIZES | CRAFT BEER

Thursday
September 5, 2019
5 – 8 pm

rain or shine

1890 Randolph Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105

Hosted by the CSJ Ministries Foundation
Heartbreaking. Devastating. Blessed. Words inadequately describe the feelings and thoughts experienced upon arriving to assess damage at the CSJ property on White Ash Lake, Wisconsin after severe weather and two confirmed tornadoes hit the area July 19th.

Silo tops blown off, buildings leveled, massive old-growth trees and electrical poles snapped like toothpicks. Pontoons and docks, including the CSJ’s, overturned in the middle of the lake. A small, lightweight, grill on the deck was untouched and unmoved. Electrical lines were draped across driveways and yards like string. The Blessed Virgin Mary statue remained standing between two sheared off pines. A township garbage truck, surreally making its weekly stop at each house to pick up trash bins that no longer exist. The hum of chainsaws and truck beeps filling the air from all directions. A neighbor’s shock and disbelief.
as they exit the car upon seeing their badly damaged cabin for the first time. It was hard to take all of it in.

Amongst this, it was the growing realization of how blessed we are to live in a country and community that comes together at a time like this that bubbled to the surface inside me. Seeing the first responders answering an emergency call across the lake. Electrical linemen and women who traveled from other states to help clear debris and restore power. Township personnel with front-end loaders, dump trucks, and skid steers clearing and hauling trees off the roadways. Neighbors helping collect and return each other’s scattered belongings, shoring up and covering damaged homes, and lending a hand where ever they could. The awaking awareness that as bad as things were, it could have been much worse.

Repairs will be made. Trees will be replanted. Pontoons, docks, and families enjoying the lake will return. Will things look drastically different, yes, at least for the foreseeable future. But more than that, there is a feeling of new relationships being formed in the community, a sense of togetherness that grows after an event such as this happens. And in all of this, Behold, I am making all things new, do you not see it? was what struck me the most and was visible everywhere.

John Viktora-Croke
Director of Facilities and Maintenance
PICNIC FOR NEW ST. KATE’S STUDENTS

The picnic for new St. Kate’s students is on Tuesday, September 3, 5:15-7:15 p.m. Students love to meet the sisters, tour our buildings, and learn about us. Dinner is served near the St. Joseph statue on the west lawn of the Administration Center, beginning at 5:15 p.m. Come early, stay late. The students think this is the best event of the whole orientation program! Thank you for welcoming them.

YOU ARE ALSO INVITED TO THESE EVENTS.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS
Sunday, September 1, 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Welcome incoming students as they move into the residence halls.

OPENING MASS
Sunday, September 1, 10:30 a.m., Our Lady of Victory Chapel

MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CONVOCATION
Wednesday, September 4, 10:15 a.m., Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel
Convocation following in O’Shaughnessy Auditorium. Picnic lunch for all!

MASS ON THE GRASS
Sunday, September 8, 7:00 p.m., followed by a bonfire and s’mores

SHAKE IT UP! WITH THE CSJs
Tuesday, September 17, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Coeur de Catherine Patio

POLLINATOR PARTY
Tuesday, September 17, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Pollinator Commons, the parking lot back of SCU library

TRW INTERVIEWS
Saturday, September 21, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Monday, September 23, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 24, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 25, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Coeur de Catherine, Rauenhorst Ballroom
Volunteer to be interviewed about your life journey by a St. Kate’s student as part of the The Reflective Woman, the core curriculum course taken by all first-year students. No appointment necessary. Just show up.