In *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants,* Robin Wall Kimmerer, describes the indigenous tradition of the Honorable Harvest. We invite all of us to consider this tradition as we celebrate days of Thanksgiving to come.

The guidelines for the Honorable Harvest are not written down, or even consistently spoken of as a whole - they are reinforced in small acts of daily life. But if you were to list them, they might look something like this:

*Know the ways of the ones who take care of you, so that you may take care of them.*

*Introduce yourself. Be accountable as the one who comes asking for life.*

*Ask permission before taking. Abide by the answer.*

*Take only what you need.*

*Take only that which is given.*

*Never take more than half. Leave some for others.*

*Use all respectfully. Never waste what you have taken.*

*Share.*

*Give thanks for what you have been given.*

*Give a gift, in reciprocity for what you have taken.*

*Sustain the ones who sustain you and the earth will last forever.*

*Braiding Sweetgrass, Minneapolis, MN: Milkweed Editions, 2013: pp. 175 – 201*

As we celebrate our national day of Thanksgiving, may we consider how this native tradition of the Honorable Harvest, and the thanksgiving and reciprocity practices it holds, might contribute to our everyday living of profound love for God and neighbor… How does it mirror the receiving and giving which form the heart of our Eucharistic living? How might our thanksgiving hold even fuller life for us and for the life of the world?

*Honorable Thanksgiving Blessings, Susan, Suzanne and Cathy*
The rules of the Honorable Harvest are based on accountability to both the physical and the metaphysical (spiritual) worlds. The taking of another life to support your own is far more significant when you recognize the beings who are harvested as persons, nonhuman persons vested with awareness, intelligence, spirit - and who have families waiting for them at home.

When you regard those nonhuman persons as kinfolk, another set of harvesting regulations extends beyond bag limits and legal seasons… Unlike our state laws, the Honorable Harvest is not an enforced legal policy, but it is an agreement nonetheless, among people and most especially between consumers and providers. The providers have the upper hand. The deer, the sturgeon, the berries and the leeks say, “If you follow these rules, we will continue to give our lives so that you may live.”

Imagination is one of our most powerful tools. What we imagine, we can become. Imagine what it would be like if the Honorable Harvest were the law of the land today, as it was in our past. Imagine if a developer, eyeing open land for a shopping mall, had to ask the goldenrod, the meadowlarks, and the monarch butterflies for permission to take their homeland. What if he had to abide by their answer? Why not?

The Honorable Harvest asks us to give back, in reciprocity, for what we have been given. Reciprocity helps resolve the moral tension of taking a life by giving in return something of value that sustains the ones who sustain us. One of our responsibilities as human people is to find ways to enter into reciprocity with the more-than-human world. We can do it through gratitude, through ceremony, through land stewardship, science, art, and in everyday acts of practical reverence.
Spanish Speakers Needed to Listen and Practice Love of Neighbor in Peru

By Sister Suzanne Herder, CSJ, St. Paul Province Leadership Team member

Milagros. I remember her! While in Albany in October at the Congregational Leadership Group meeting I was sitting with one of the Sisters from Peru, Gloria Zapata, CSJ. She mentioned the name Milagros. Through interpreter Sister Teresa Avalos she explained that Milagros Jimenez-Ruiz is a woman from Peru who had been at Learning In Style (LIS). She loved the Sisters and while here she became a Consociate. Eventually, Milagros went to Canada where she and her son lived for about 15 years. While in Canada, Milagros connected with Sisters of St. Joseph there. Recently she returned to her native country, searched for, and found the Sisters of St. Joseph in Peru, eventually meeting with Sister Gloria. Today, Milagros wants to volunteer to help the Sisters who are working with immigrants coming to Peru from Venezuela.

This is a story of the global and unending power of “love God and neighbor without distinction.” Milagros, an immigrant woman who came from Peru, connected with the Sisters of St. Joseph through LIS. Having experienced the Sisters’ support and love she chose to pursue our charism as a Consociate. Throughout her journey, she has remained connected to our CSJ community and even now she is seeking ways to return the love she felt when she was an immigrant at LIS in St. Paul.

“There are 800,000 immigrants in Peru from Venezuela and the Sisters need help serving them,” states Sister Gloria Zapata, CSJ. “CSJ Sisters in Peru are not a big group so we have a need for Spanish speaking people who can come for about a month to listen to the people and offer support and comfort.” Of course, monetary support is also beneficial. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sister Suzanne Herder, sherder@csjstpaul.org.
Federation Affirms New Executive Director

The Leadership Assembly of the U.S. Federation has affirmed Sister Maryellen Kane, CSJ as our new Executive Director. Maryellen, from the Brentwood congregation, has had many experiences with the Federation that she believes have enriched her religious life. In the years 1994 to 2000, while serving on the Brentwood Leadership Team, she was a member of the Governing Board for the Federation.

Maryellen is excited about how the power of relationships brings about real change in the public arena. With extensive training and experience in community organizing, Maryellen will bring her skill of building public relationships. This, coupled with her energy, enthusiasm, and outside-the-box-thinking make her the right choice for this time in our history.

Maryellen’s tenure as executive director will begin on January 1, 2020. Sr. Patty Johnson, our current Executive Director, will work with Maryellen Kane to assure a smooth transition of leadership in our Federation. *Excerpted from the full release which is available at cssjfed.org.

Congregation

In October the Congregational Leadership Group (CLG) met in Albany. "It was a graced opportunity to share ideas, hopes and visions about our CSJ future," said Sister Barbara Dreher. The group photo includes current and future CLT members, the meeting's facilitator, and translator, and the CLG's secretary.
News of Interest

- **The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)** and America Media has released a five-part YouTube series entitled “Beyond the Habit,” which takes a look into the 300-year history of Catholic sisters in the United States. The videos showcase how the sisters shaped our nation’s health care and educational systems—all while spreading the Catholic faith throughout our country. It then goes on to tell the story of six sisters living out their vocations today.

Underwritten by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, these powerful videos are available on the CARA website and on America Media’s YouTube page for download and to share, [https://www.americamagazine.org/section/video](https://www.americamagazine.org/section/video).

- **Joan Chittister, OSB**, was presented with the **inaugural AIM (Advancing Image and Mission)** Award by Communicators for Women Religious (CWR) at the organization’s annual conference in Mesa, Arizona. The award recognizes Sister Joan’s significant contributions to advancing the image and mission of Catholic sisters through her extensive work as an international lecturer, author, and courageous advocate of justice, especially, for women, in both church and society for more than 40 years.

Sister Joan also delivered the conference keynote address, *The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage*, during which she defined what it means to be a prophet in today’s world and issued a challenge to combat complacency and apathy in our own lives. Rather than wait for others to solve the problems of inequality, injustice, and poverty, Sister Joan explained why it is our moral and spiritual responsibility to take action and make the world a better place for all.

Sister Joan, a Benedictine Sister of Erie, Pennsylvania, is a regular columnist for the National Catholic Reporter who has written about and spoken about both Christianity and interfaith topics, especially in the areas of peacebuilding, equality, and justice for all people. Her latest book, *The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage* is available now. Learn more at [joanchittister.org](http://joanchittister.org).

- **Global Sisters Report is introducing a new education initiative, “GSR in the Classroom.”** (“We've adapted many of our articles for use in Catholic high school and middle school classes and faith formation programs," explains Gail DeGeorge, Global Sisters Report editor. “With lessons for students and corresponding teacher guides, each resource contains a reflection, discussion questions, Scripture references, insights from Catholic social teaching, action ideas and a prayer.” Resources will be added in the coming months on the GSR in the Classroom webpage, [https://www.globalsistersreport.org/classroom/topics](https://www.globalsistersreport.org/classroom/topics).

**CSJ PARTICIPATION IN WISDOM WAYS EVENTS**

Submitted by Mary Lang, Board of Lifelong Development

The Board of Lifelong Development is making it easier for Sisters to participate in Wisdom Ways offerings. Sisters no longer need to submit request sheets to the Board of Lifelong Development. Sisters can now register for courses by contacting Wisdom Ways directly at 651-696-2788 or [www.wisdomwayscenter.org](http://www.wisdomwayscenter.org). The board will pay monthly for classes Sisters have enrolled in. This change only applies to Wisdom Ways offerings.
Council Highlights
Submitted by Sister Suzanne Herder

August 7, 2019
The Council suggested names of people to invite to be part of a space planning committee. It was recommended that we consider along with the Sisters involved in previous space planning committees, St. Catherine University staff, Province staff and those who have an interest or expertise in this area. The committee will be part of the discernment work this year.

Additional observations were shared from the Congregational Chapter and it was suggested that an agenda topic for the Council be a discussion on the phrase in the direction statements, “Congregation of the Great Love of God.”

St. Mary’s Health Clinics have been working with Fox Advancement. Now the focus for the clinics is sustainability and fund-raising. Fox Advancement is also working with other Province ministries to get a sense of each ministry’s vision, direction and sustainability. Fox will work on crafting vision-impact goals to use in conversation with potential donors to determine the feasibility of a possible capital campaign for the ministries. A survey of Consociate participation in CSJ ministries is being completed. It will be helpful to share the information collected with Fox Advancement. The Council expressed a desire to keep all the processes connected. With so many processes happening at the same time, e.g. space planning, governance, Fox Advancement (ministry vision alignment, chapter direction statements, Province and Congregational) etc., the Council expressed the desire to keep all the processes connected.

August 21, 2019
The Council heard a report about the Federation “Into the Future” (under 65) gathering in Kansas City. The group gathered to reflect, share and listen to one another to imagine a common future as Sisters of St. Joseph.

Information from the LCWR Leadership Assembly was shared and the meaning of the theme “Imagine Leadership in a Global Community” was discussed. The women religious attending LCWR were inspired by the desire of the body to think of themselves serving together globally.

The Council members suggested ideas for planning the discernment on governance. Cathy Bertrand, SSND, will be facilitating the discernment process for St. Paul and Los Angeles.

September 18, 2019
Governance next steps: The Leadership Team consulted with previous Leadership Team members to share ideas about the governance process. The group suggested forming a committee as a first step. A list of names was suggested and prioritized and a mix of Sisters and Consociates have been invited to join the committee.

There was a discussion on Sister membership. There are women who have met with Sisters and have indicated an interest in getting to know the CSJs. Sisters have invited them to events and there has been a Sharing of the Heart group with young women. Ideas were brought forward about Sister membership and the Council would like to continue the conversation begun earlier with Sister Jill Underdahl.
Catherine McNamee, CSJ, named St. Catherine University Trustee Emerita.

St. Catherine University’s Board of Trustees recently honored Catherine McNamee, CSJ, as a trustee emerita “in recognition of all she has done for the St. Catherine community.” The award was accepted on her behalf at a board meeting by Sisters Susan Hames and Jean Wincek. The following week, St. Catherine University President, Becky Roloff and Sister Susan Hames visited Sister Catherine to present the award in person. In part, the award acknowledged:

Whereas, Sister Catherine McNamee has dedicated her life to the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet through the ministry of higher Catholic education, serving the College of St. Catherine as president from 1979-1984, as well as holding leadership roles and board positions for national and international institutions, including the National Catholic Education Association, the International Federation of Catholic Universities, the International Organization of Catholic Education, the Inter-American Confederation of Catholic Education, the U.S. Catholic China Bureau, and several other academic institutions, and;

Whereas, through personal example, Sister Catherine has embodied the University values of social justice, inclusion, and diversity, with her dedication to international service and profound connection to Chile – where she served in education and extended the CSJ mission through La Familia de San Jose – as well as her fervent conviction to broaden and deepen diverse experiences and multicultural connections for others,

Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of St. Catherine University, its president, faculty, administrators, staff and students, express our deepest gratitude to Sister Catherine T. McNamee for her leadership and significant role in the advancement of the University, and proudly recommend that she be named Trustee Emerita.

Sister Catherine McNamee savors her award from St. Catherine University and sends thanks to all in the CSJ, St. Catherine and Carondelet Village communities!
2019 Hawkinson Honorary Peace & Justice Award Recipient

On October 6, 2019, the Hawkinson Fund for Peace and Justice at Grace Lutheran Church presented Char Madigan with the following award:

In honor of your contributions to peace and justice in our community and throughout the world The Hawkinson Fund especially recognizes Sister Char’s lifetime commitment to peace and justice, inspired by Jesus’ example, to show God’s love to all. By founding St. Joseph House (Hope Community), opposing war production with the Honeywell Project and two other locations, using experiential teaching to guide students and others in seeing and responding to our neighbors’ needs, Sister Char’s persistent efforts have made significant and sustained contributions to our society.

In her inimitable poetic way, Char responded speaking of the ghosts of those who have shaped us and continue to impact our lives:

...This place surely is haunted by the ghost of Vince Hawkinson.
And other Ghosts from your pasts and from your ancestors dna.
Ghosts attracting us all to places like this, instead of wall street,
Luring us to build welcome mats not walls at our boundaries.
But a mixed bag, these ghosts fighting in our attics:
Some prefer dominate, some intimate.

One last ghost appearance I laugh to remember;
In the early days of our St. Joseph’s house story,
as I typed out a begging letter,
a ghost misspelled the kingdom of God
we wanted to shape on our block.
Instead I typed kindom. Perfect ghostly advice,
as we were trying to replace kings,
lording it over the women whose task was to submit.
Replace with kin and community.

More, that ghost misspelled about “pray the scriptures.”
Instead my fingers wrote “prEy” them.
Which us Catholics needed to do to discern who God is:

1. A hierarchical, rulemaking and punishing lord God,
Who set up hell for rule breakers,

2. Or like Jesus who got hanged on a cross
For crossing rule makers,
who told stories not dogmas,
who healed not punished,
who stuck with the poor. Like Vince did.

So dear ghost of Vince, I am proud to be in your church,
And to be companion with your Grace members
Along the path of peace and community. Amen.
SELAMAWIT UPDATE

By Ginger K. Hedstrom, Consociate ’00 and Sarah’s…an Oasis for Women Household Coordinator 1999 – 2004

The CSJ community welcomed Selamawit Kifleyesus as an immigrant from Eritrea to Sarah’s…an Oasis for Women in 2001. The United States of American granted her citizenship July 24, 2019!

Her journey was long, fraught with challenges and hurdles that taught us the importance of accompanying new immigrants on their journeys in new ways.

This summer she hosted a party at her home to celebrate with many who accompanied her all these years. She also presented a plaque honoring and thanking the Sisters of St. Joseph St. Paul to Cheryl Behrent, Director of Sarah’s. This plaque will be installed in the “Grandmother’s Room” at Sarah’s.

It is also in memory of the late Joan McGinty CSJ and Maggie Kvasnicka CSJ, “who were my mothers when I lived at Sarah’s and beyond.” It’s concluding paragraph reads: “It is in deep love and gratitude that I present this plaque to Sarah’s…an Oasis for Women, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, forever grateful for your mission and the countless ways you accompanied me to today. Signed: Selamawit Kifleyesus, BSN, ARPN, CNP; St. Catherine University ’11; former Sarah’s resident January 01 through May 02; citizen of the United States of America July 24, 2019.

Today, Selamawit is a homeowner in Highland Park, on staff of the University of Minnesota Family Medicine and Community Health Residency Program, and serves as a nurse practitioner in two facilities in the Western suburbs that provide assisted living, long-term and transitional care.

Voices on Microaggressions

At the Community Assembly on September 7, 2019 with the theme of *Weaving Direction and Action: Moving Forward Together*, participants shared personal statements and actions that animated the five Chapter Statements. Some examples include:

1) **Respond to the crisis of Earth and global warming:** Consociate Karen Olson Johnson described her work with a sanctuary orphanage for rhinos.

2) **Deepen awareness of our complicity and work toward dismantling interlocking systems of oppression:** Bridgette Kelly, co-director of the St. Joseph Worker Program, has participated in group discussions of the book “White Fragility” and she has been deepening her understanding of her complicity and her white fragility.

3) **Articulate and authentically live our vows in ways that witness and speak to today’s realities:** Sister Carolyn Puccio discussed the challenge to live our vows and to embrace an evolving role. She discussed the need to revise images and vow language to ensure their relevance for our lifestyle into the future.

4) **Walk with women as we claim our voice and work toward an inclusive church and society:** Sister Mary Lamski discussed many opportunities to educate for women’s leadership in the church and to educate women theologically (e.g. Hedgerow), also through training in meditation and spiritual direction. The Catholic Coalition for Church Reform will be training people to participate in listening sessions in the archdiocese.

5) **Use our collective voice to accompany others in speaking their truth:** Ed Fisher discussed the needs of persons with mental illness and those who are homeless. He stated that God hears the cry of the poor. He urged all to hear the cry of the poor and work to ensure elected leaders hear that call as well.

The September Community Assembly saw a proposal by the Relationship and Association Committee to consider the Community’s communal racism by having an assessment of our institutional practices. The assembly asked clarifying questions and will be able to accept or reject the proposal (available on Forum) at the November Assembly.

Also at the November Assembly the Ministry Commission will explain how present ministries function in the larger landscape. Their research (available on Forum) this past year includes a map of areas where we are active, citing our allies and gaps in meeting the needs of the times.
Community Assembly

Theme: Weaving the Wider We
Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2019
Time: 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Place: Carondelet Center Dining Room
Meal: 4:30 p.m.

This month:

- Join us for a special remembrance ritual for all those (Sisters and Consociates) who have died this past year
- Help us focus our energies for action around spirituality and social justice as we decide our response to the proposal for Intentional Action on Racial Justice
- Learn about the Ministry Commission landscape reports showing where we are engaged, whom we partner with and where there are gaps.

What action areas do I (we) have energy for now?
What are we as a community most equipped to offer?
How will we move forward in combating racism?

With every action area we include:
- Engaging youth and young adults
- Incorporating action against racism
- Expanding partners and alliances
- Influencing systemic change

DARE TO BE PROPHETIC.
Questions for Sister Lilly Long

By Mary Lagaard, Consociate

What is your favorite book or author?
At one time I told Mary Kessler that one thing I looked forward to in retirement was being able to read and read and read. She said, "If you don’t do it now you won’t when you retire either." Since then I began to consciously find time to read. Now I read about two books a month. I like to read novels that I can learn something from, especially history and different cultures. Some books that really stand out for me are "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks that fictionalizes the history of Sarajevo Haggadah, a Jewish text on the Passover Seder, and details the Haggadah’s history; "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese from Ethiopia; "What’s the What?" an autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng about the lost boys of the Sudan, and "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult on racism and white privilege.

Who has been an important person in your life?
I have had a few heroes in my life, one being Rita Steinhagen who blazed her own path. She saw a need, did something concrete to improve the lives of others, and once the work was established, she moved on to the next call. Each time her ministries continued on after she left. She didn’t hang on to her creations possessively but left them in capable hands. It was Rita who called me to Annunciation House in El Paso and introduced me to another hero, Ruben Garcia. Ruben was a co-founder and has been director of Annunciation House since 1975. He started Annunciation House after a prayerful discernment process with four other young people. They discerned a call to shelter homeless who had no other options, specifically undocumented people who were not allowed in any other shelter. They housed immigrants from Central America during the civil wars of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala in the 1980s, economic refugees in the 1990s and 2000s and now the refugees from violence and poverty in Central America. He has continued to direct the Annunciation House Shelter as well as expanding to other shelters and education, managing volunteers to run the shelters with compassion and an attitude of service. I want to emulate these two Heroes.

Currently I am living on the family farm where I was raised, living with my 89-year-old mother, helping my brother on the farm whenever or however I am able, doing gardening and yard work, and working as a nurse practitioner in our rural community. Being able to be with my Mom is meaningful for me and being able to live on our family farm in North Dakota gives me so much joy. I am grateful for this opportunity.

If there was one thing you'd like others to know about you what would it be? I wanted to be a CSJ from the first time I met the Sisters at my first CSJ formation weekend. I was impressed with the strong women who were about something that mattered, that were concerned about issues of justice, and were doing something about it. I wanted to throw my lot in with this community. Since becoming a CSJ I have continued to be impressed with and proud of you, my Sisters and traveling companions. You inspire me and call me to "the more" and to be about "all of which women are capable."
Grandmother Circles and Consociates Visit Kenya

We, Lois Mineau and Karleen Reller, CSJ Consociates and Grandmother Circles members, traveled to Homa Lime, Kenya in September. It was a busy and rewarding trip. We reconnected with Consociates Mary Lieta and Serphine Mambe and interviewed eight potential new Consociate Candidates. We met with the Marit Women’s Group, women who all have their own small businesses, and are a CBO (Community Based Organization) that raises money for those in need. We send them money raised by Grandmother Circles in the U.S. and they choose the girls who will benefit most by receiving boarding high school scholarships. We were also able to interview 10 of this year’s scholarship recipients and have lunch and conversation with them. We shared a meeting, a meal and Mass with The Monica Women’s Group who continue to stand firm on women’s rights in Kenya, especially the right to not be inherited by a brother-in-law when a husband dies.

For the past two years the CSJ Partners in Justice Committee has given a $5,000 grant to be used to educate post high school women in need of funds. We were able to interview these young women, hear their stories and their hopes for the future. They are a future Early Childhood Ed Teacher, Lawyer, Mechanical Engineer, Ecologic Scientist.

We were stand-ins for Anita Duckor and Growing Community Roots (GCR) at a ribbon cutting at two high schools to celebrate new latrines, water tanks and Community Gardens provided by funds raised by GCR. AND we stayed with Mary in her guest house, had meals with her family, met and played with her grandkids, and sat around for an evening shelling ground nuts (peanuts) with the family. A Community Happy Hour with many pictures and scintillating narrative is in the works—so stay tuned!!!!

The Monica Women’s Group in Kenya met in September with CSJ Consociates and Grandmother Circle members Lois Mineau and Karleen Reller.

Partners In Justice Grants

It’s time to think about organizations you know who fit the Partners in Justice grant criteria. Forms which you can use to recommend a group were available at Sister and Consociate assemblies. The form is also available in the Partners in Justice mail slot at the Administration Center and online. The deadline for your suggestions is December 10. Call Therese Sherlock if you have questions.
**Sister Claudian Moore, CSJ**

Sister Claudian (Eileen) Moore was born the sixth of eight children to Edward and Teresa (Karger) Moore on January 25, 1926 in St. Paul, MN, and died on September 6, 2019, at Carondelet Village in St. Paul. After graduating from Harding High School in 1944, Claudian worked for 3M until she joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1953. After receiving secretarial and clerical work certificates from the University of Minnesota, Claudian offered her skills at St. Joseph’s Hospital, St. Columba Parish, St. Mary’s Home, and Bethany Convent in St. Paul, Boys’ Home, the University of MN, St. Mary Junior College, Holy Angels in Minneapolis, and St. Michael Hospital in Grand Forks, ND. Claudian had a great love of music and a beautiful singing voice that she shared in the Cathedral and CSJ Choirs for many years.

Sister Claudian, as she liked to be called, was very fond of eating her dessert before the rest of her meal. She was deeply prayerful and loved reading her bible. She was a woman of few words with a quick wit and she had a beautiful way of walking, as if gliding, in pursuit of her next destination. She was very determined, agreeable and loyal to her friends.

As Sister Claudian got older she seemed to have a graceful way of acknowledging what was next for her. Although she knew giving up her license would make getting to family gatherings more difficult, she seemed to know it was right and the next step in her journey. Her acceptance of things was amazing.

Sister Claudian, rest in love and peace.

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**Sister Mary Hasbrouck, CSJ**

Mary Hasbrouck kept a box. It was an Abdallah’s Banquet Chocolate Assortment candy box. With the candies long gone, Mary began to keep another assortment that grew to include newspaper clippings, correspondence, her own writings of people she had met over nearly 86 years of life. In that box is a booklet, LIFESCAPE. It contains stories that can be summarized in Mary’s own loving words: “Truly, life is an entanglement, shafts of life, unfolding blossoms, births, a cosmic history interwoven with heartache, loss, war, and death.”

Mary lived a very active life and was often found, during the turbulent 1960s and 1970s, in the front line of demonstrations against the Viet Nam War and racial injustice, nor was she hesitant to speak boldly for church reform and renewal. She always supported people fleeing from addiction, looking for a home, needing work including anyone needing care and love. The focus of her life-study was always to find ways to better relate to her “dear neighbors.”

And so it was that in 1969 that Mary and her beloved CSJ friend Patrice Neuberger moved from the convent adjoining Ascension School, where they were co-principals, into a home on Fremont Avenue in a nearby Minneapolis neighborhood. Mary and Patrice convinced CSJ leadership to buy the home, desperately in need of repair, for $4000. The neighborhood was changing dramatically with white people moving out and minority groups moving in. Through it all, Mary and Patrice said good-bye to some people and then warmly welcomed their new neighbors, including politicians whose voting records Mary and Patrice always tried to influence. They made so many life-long friends, from so many racial and cultural backgrounds.

Wherever Mary was throughout her life, she always had a story to tell – a story that captivated her friends, spun, in Mary’s own somewhat monotone way, yet so engaging voice. There are probably six or seven Hasbrouck generations that thrived on these stories, Mary’s political commentaries, and her encouragement to pursue a spiritual life. Sister Mary, rest in love and peace.
Consociate Commitments

We continue the commitment statements shared at the annual Ritual of Consociate Commitment and Welcome on May 1, 2019 with Hannah Pierson.

**Good evening, Church. My name is Hannah Pierson.** I’m 31 years old. I’m married and have three sons who are six, four, and one. In the mornings, I work part time in St. Paul Schools. In the afternoons I watch my two younger boys along with a friend’s daughter as part of a baby-sitting exchange. I’m a member of St. Peter Claver Church and help run a group for families there. I’m also a member of the community at my husband’s church. I’m the secretary of the Wellstone Elementary PTO.

I list these things, not to brag about how busy I am, but to highlight that I’m not at a place in my life where things have slowed down. I don’t have a lot of free time. My life is full with kids and work and house cleaning. But I need this place, this community, this uplifting spirit, and I am filled with joy to become a part of it.

About four years ago, I was in one of the lowest periods of my life, spiritually speaking. I was between parish homes, lost between my religion and my husband’s, struggling to find my way. On a particularly hard night, after having just returned from a prayer group that was definitely not working for me, I was crying.

I started to think, “When was the last time that I truly felt at home in my faith?” I immediately remembered my time as a student at St. Kate’s and then the Consociate program popped into my head, after having only hearing about it once. God knew where I needed to go and was guiding me to all of you.

My years of candidacy have been wonderful. I have enjoyed getting to know Sisters and Consociates, learning about the CSJs, and growing spiritually, but what the Consociate program has truly given me is grounding. I always knew that Jesus’ example of love was the foundation of my life, but putting it into words within CSJ mission has given me so much strength. Though I’m always learning, I feel centered in the core of my faith. When others push me on the minutia of religion, I feel grounded in love of God and love of neighbor.

My hope is that with this commitment, I begin a lifelong relationship with the CSJ community that will help me to grow in that mission. My time in this community has already helped me to be a better wife and mother, it has already pushed me to love others more through personal interactions, activism and volunteering. My hope is that this community and its mission will only help me continue to grow.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank the wonderful people who helped me get to this
Dear Sisters,

Thank you for your prayerful support for me and my family, especially for the repose of the soul of my great-niece, Penny and her cousin Eleanor, the consolation of their parents, and the healing of my other five great-nieces and nephews involved in the car accident in Dayton, Ohio. At this time only 3-year-old Benny is in need of ongoing outpatient care for a head injury, and his doctors are pleased that he is making slow, but steady progress in walking and talking. Thank you for the notes and calls. Your prayers mean so much at a time like this.

Love, Susan Jasko, CSJ

Karen Olson Johnson, Consociate, Finance and Fund Development, Consociate Leadership Collaborative

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Last year’s Consociate support of the Ministries Foundation was so incredible. We raised more than $97,000, and 99 Consociates supported this significant work. The many people, our dear neighbors that your generosity impacted are forever connected to this act of kindness, this willingness to give.

This year’s Annual Appeal letter will arrive in your mailbox just before Thanksgiving. The letter includes a page that describes the many ways to give to the Ministries Foundation. A financial gift is vital to continue the good works of our ministries and volunteers are needed for everything from the Gala next spring to stuffing envelopes. Everyone can be a part of the important work of the Sisters of St. Joseph Ministries Foundation. Let’s go for 100% participation!

Please watch your mailbox for the Annual Appeal letter!
**SMHC UPDATE**

SMHC’s Community Health Outreach Manager, Cristina Flood Urdangarin MPH, reports that the Ambassador from Mexico to the United States, Embajadora Martha Barcena Coqui, recently visited the Consulate of Mexico (Ventanilla de Salud) in St. Paul. During the Ambassador’s visit she met with SMHC Community Health Worker Rosalinda Alle who works fulltime at the Mexican Consulate providing health screenings and referrals to other agencies along with education for persons coming to the consulate. The Consulate serves residents of MN, North and South Dakota, Northern Iowa and Western Wisconsin. Thank you Rosalinda!
Justice Commission has begun the process of reviewing the working and task group goals for 2019-2020.

Justice Director for the St. Paul Province, Marty Roers, recently met in New York with the JPIC Federation Collaborative learning more about the Federation's work at the United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals, and exploring opportunities for increased justice collaboration among Federation communities. At a subsequent meeting in Albany with the JPIC Congregational Team, St. Paul's justice work was shared along with an exploration of congregational ways to better collaborate on issues including sustainability.

Anti-Human Trafficking Working Group, as a part of Twin Cities Nonviolent (https://twincitiesnonviolent.org), participated in the second annual “10 Days Free From Violence” events throughout the Twin Cities. In collaboration with Twin Cities Prison Ministry, the group hosted a screening of “Sands of Silence,” a documentary about sexual exploitation and trafficking from Asia to the Americas. The film evoked a powerful post-screening conversation among attendees.

Confronting Whiteness and Racism Working Group (formerly the Dismantling Racism Working Group) announces its name change. The change is meant to turn on its head the false but persistent message that people with white skin are the norm while everyone else is “other” or “less than.” Whiteness is a social construct with harmful and divisive consequences for everyone in society. The presence and effects of whiteness are often hidden to white people while obvious to everyone else. Thus, this Justice group supports greater understanding of the ways in which whiteness and its ongoing systems...
of oppression and division function in our culture and society so that we can begin to heal from it and truly move toward love of God and neighbor without distinction.

The group also reflected on the reading from Habakkuk (a Jewish text on the Passover Seder) and talked about the importance of engaging with Consociates and at the Community Assemblies on future work on racial reconciliation in prayer and love, listening to the visions. We want to lead where we can with God’s love, low egos, high impacts and moving at the speed of trust. The group is considering hosting a series of films (“film festival!”) on racial matters with perhaps some lighter hearted films too. Stay tuned.

Criminal Justice Working Group thanks everyone that joined us for the rich October 11 Peace Prayer and the support from the Ritual Office. The group appreciates that Peace Prayer is a great way to interact with the community and share resources for ways for the community to live boldly and take actions supporting restorative justice.

The group also reports that the City of St. Paul has started restorative justice circles in the different wards throughout the city. If you live in St. Paul, watch for these circles and their work in your community.

Gospel of Life Task Group members volunteered at Second Stork storing care-pack items.

Health Care for All Task Group is excited about their Friday Morning Nov. 1 forum on “Health and Housing.” We are looking forward to the conversation with Michelle Decker Gerrard of the Wilder Foundation, former MN State Public Health Commissioner, Dr. Ed Ehlinger, and possibly Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan. The forum will examine the impacts of housing and homelessness on the health of our entire community.

Immigration Working Group members invite CSJ community members to the second Tuesday of November (12) prayer vigil at 7:30 a.m. at the Whipple Federal Building. Carpooling will be available from the CSJ Peace Pole at 7:00 a.m.

Native American Awareness Working Group is planning a field trip to the new Shakopee Mdewakanton Native Cultural Center and Museum in partnership with members of the Church of Gichitwaa Kateri. CSJ community members are invited and welcomed! Details will be shared as plans are confirmed.

For more information about the museum, visit: http://www.startribune.com/shakopee-mdewakanton-debut-new-exhibit-sharing-their-history-culture/560721752/
The group is considering ways it can support the Community Assembly Proposal for Intentional Action on Racial Justice prior to the November CSJ Community Assembly.

Ritual Task Group invites you to the Monday, November 11 Peace Prayer with the Veterans for Peace at 6:30 p.m. in the Our Lady of Presentation Chapel. Carondelet Village Justice Liaison reports there have been many voter engagement activities at Carondelet Village the past few weeks including a meeting with City Council Candidate Patty Hartmann and a forum with Candidates for the St Paul School Board. Remember the City Council and School Board elections on November 5 with early voting options, including at St. Kates on October 30 from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Carondelet Village Justice Liaison and the Legislative Advocacy Partners Working Group remind all to vote on Tuesday, November 5 in our local elections.

Justice Resource Room has a new selection of books about Criminal Justice and Restorative Justice. Stop by the resource room to check out our latest additions.

To support CSJ Ministries visit the Ministries Foundation www.ministriesfoundation.org
“You are a good woman” is one of Sarah’s six mantras. This mantra reminds us we are all good women (good, not perfect). Goodness is the essence of personal identity. Even though we have overcome many trials, barriers and difficulties, we are good women.

- “We are not what happened to us, we are what we wish to become.” C.G. Jung

- “You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them.” – Maya Angelou

At Sarah’s we know ALL our residents are good women!

Below are some reflections from current residents:

“I want to accomplish my goals not only for me but for my granddaughter.”

“At Sarah’s, I eat good food and sleep in a good bed. I love my sisters at Sarah’s. Everyone is friendly and helping each other.”

“My favorite part of Sarah’s is the communal spirit of being together.”

“I am able to get up and go through each day with my head up because Sarah’s made me stronger. I may not have achieved all my goals yet; but have never fallen into that dark, lifeless hole again. Thank you for the love and support.”

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!
At Learning in Style School we are celebrating our Whittier community partnerships this month. We value the community we have been a part of for the last 25 years and are a proud member of the Whittier Neighborhood Alliance. We have successfully partnered with area businesses to employ our students, share resources and make our neighborhood a better place. Thank you for a wonderful 25 years!
Brewing Change Fundraiser Welcomes SJWs From Far and Wide

Last month the St. Joseph Worker Program hosted the annual Brewing Change fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Workers and the Program!

This fun-filled night couldn’t happen without the time, energy and resources of our SJW Community. Those who have experienced the program for themselves are the driving force behind this event. A group of them including Monica Shaffer, Sarah Hentges, Marni Kaldjian, Amanda Steepleton, MacKenzie O’Kane, Maggie Hogan, Sarah Hentges, Rachel Kennedy, Emily Monson, Lindsay Schaefer and Alyssa Howells spent many hours planning and organizing this event.

These were not the only people involved. They reached out to others in the SJW community to participate, including SJW community members now living across the country and the world. They participated by donating silent auction “mystery boxes” filled with items local to the places where they now live.

Others participated by donating to the gift card wall, encouraging their friends to attend or give financial support to the program. Still others came to the event bringing their joy and energy to the room in celebration of the SJW Program.

Brewing Change is just one way that SJW community members continue to participate and further the mission of the CSJ community. Many are involved throughout the year, not just for this one event. Some are becoming Consociates. Some are involved in CSJ ministries and justice activities. Many answer the request to attend an event or meet for a one-to-one with our current SJWs. Whether they are near or far, they continue to live their lives actively loving their neighbor. These wonderful people really live out the saying “Once a St. Joseph Worker, always a St. Joseph Worker!”

*Photos from the 2019 event.*
CELESTE’S DREAM

Shake It Up!
By Alma Silver, St. Kate’s Community Leader Intern with Celeste’s Dream and Justice

On Tuesday, September 17, over one-hundred students, faculty and staff, sustainability partners and Sisters of St. Joseph and Consociates (CSJ) community members came together on the Coeur de Catherine patio to form connections during a community-wide event, “Shake It Up with the CSJs.” The event invited guests to engage with both the St. Catherine University and Celeste’s Dream community gardens by enjoying green smoothies with freshly picked ingredients. The event also brought visibility to the broader sustainability initiatives uniting both St. Kate’s and CSJ community members together.

“I am happy to say that we are thrilled with the enthusiasm we saw from the students, faculty and staff who attended the ‘Shake It Up’ event,” said Sr. Sharon Howell, director of the St. Kate’s Center for Spirituality and Social Justice. “It was wonderful to experience the desire of the participants to do more around sustainability on campus. For such a warm day, it was a great, energizing time!”

During “Shake It Up,” students took the opportunity to network with the CSJs and engage in interactive activities, including a trivia game that brought them closer to the history and legacy of the original Sisters who laid the foundations of St. Kate’s. Several sustainability student coordinators and staff members introduced themselves as well, describing the work that they do to address food insecurity and diverse environmental concerns impacting the student body.

“The event brought the CSJ and St. Kate’s communities together around our common concern for environmental sustainability,” said Jennifer Tacheny, co-director of the Celeste’s Dream Young Adult Spirituality program.

Following “Shake It Up,” many guests attended the Pollinator Party hosted by the St. Kate’s Bio Club to celebrate the opening of their pollinator pathways. Overall, the high attendance at both events reflected a promising collective energy surrounding sustainability initiatives. Hopefully, this energy will foster connections and innovative actions throughout the coming year.
FOUNDRATION

Save the Date for the 2020 Carondelet Gala!

Mark your calendars now for Friday, May 8 for the 2020 Carondelet Gala at a new venue, the InterContinental Minneapolis – St. Paul Airport. Back by popular demand, internationally acclaimed performer, Jearlyn Steele, is returning for her second year as our emcee.

Many members from our 2019 Gala Committee are back and want to make this year’s event an even bigger and better celebration of all the Sisters of St. Joseph Ministries; we welcome anyone who would like to join one of our committees:

- Sponsorship
- “Social 90”
- Live / Silent Auctions
- Marketing / Communications & Promotion

If you would like to participate or know more about one of the committees, please call Mimi at 651-690-7058. And, even if you’re not on one of the committees, we would still like your help if you have or know of any live or silent auction items. Again, please give Mimi a call at the number above or email her at mpizzi@csjministriesfoundation.org. It’s never too early to start collecting these items.

Stay tuned to future issues of Together for more updates on the 2020 Carondelet Gala and how you can engage in this effort!

Help the Ministries Foundation raise to the max by Giving to the Max!

This year from November 1 - 14 help the Ministries Foundation spread the word about Give to the Max by telling your friends, family and neighbors about the ministries we support.

Visit our website or contact Alyssa to get involved!

csjministriesfoundation.org

ahowells@csjministriesfoundation.org
St. Mary’s Health Clinics provided 279 flu shots and 15 mammograms at an October health fair.
NEW PARTNERS, NEW EYES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

By Sister Agnes Foley, CSJ, gnsfoley@gmail.com

Her invitation came with the simple words “Will you help me?” spoken by Fadumo, a Somali woman. She is a former student at Learning In Style, having attended more than 20 years ago and never forgetting the help she received. She is currently the founder and executive director of an organization called Tasho.

The goal of Tasho is to prevent the deterioration of the Somali community in their new country by creating a number of care initiatives. Fadumo’s specific request was for tutors for Tasho’s after-school program for Somali students from grades five through twelve to help assure their success in school. Tasho provides a safe environment where a diverse group of volunteers form a community to help Somali youth receive the help they need to attain skills in basic areas of the curriculum.

“Will you help us?” Last year I brought this request to the CSJ community through an article in Together. We were grateful for responses from: the Immigration Working Group, students from Cretin/Derham-Hall, St. Catherine University, Augsburg College, Partners In Justice, a Consociate and friend, a former office volunteer at
LIS who continues to respond by giving of her many talents.

Responding means partnering, a word that has become a common word in our understanding of the CSJ charism to love God and neighbor without distinction. Our 2013 Congregational Chapter urged us to “partner with new eyes” and “to explore new ways of partnering.” The CSJ 2019 chapter urges us to “deepen and expand partnerships in mission to meet the needs of the dear neighbor.”

Partnering with Tasho is new for many reasons. It is by invitation, bringing us to “their turf.” These are immigrant needs that bring us into partnership with a different culture, ways of organizing, measuring, determining curriculum, expectations, etc. with persons of a different language, race and religion. Understanding and trust are bonds that make the partnership work for the benefit of all.

Last year was an experimental year. We are in real need of more tutors. We have found that high school student volunteers often have transportation problems that limit their time. The commitment means giving an hour or two each week or every other week between the hours of 4:30 and 8:00 p.m., meeting at the Tasho headquarters at 2424 Nicollet Ave in Minneapolis. No teaching background is needed to help young students with their homework, or with basic skills in math, reading and writing.

The CSJ’s have a long history in education. It is a powerful one that we are urged to use now to act in areas that fit with our call to help the dear neighbor. The rewards are great. It is a new way to “partner with new eyes” under our CSJ umbrella.

I may be contacted at gnsfoley@gmail.com or at 651-695-5317.

Fadumo Abdinur is a former Learning In Style (LIS) student, Somali woman, and executive director of Tasho. Tasho, a nonprofit working to keep the local Somali community intact, is partnering with LIS to create after-school opportunities to provide educational help for young Somalis.
Sunday, December 1, 8, 15, and 22

Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel
1880 Randolph Ave., St. Paul
4:30 ~ 5:30 PM

Advent Evening Prayer
Holy Light, warm our night,
warm the time of winter.

Join us for a peaceful hour of prayer, reflection,
and music, throughout this Advent Season
refreshments will follow

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates
FFI: 651.690.2805 • csjstpaul.org

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and special guests Katherine True, Jeanne Cotter,
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SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 17TH • 6:00 PM • TICKETS: $ 27
Our Lady of Presentation Chapel • 1880 Randolph Ave., St. Paul, MN
Tickets: loritrue.eventbrite.com

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