Congregational justice team plans programs to respond to ‘crisis of Earth’

Implementing the chapter’s Statement of Future Direction through its continuing collaboration was the focus of the congregation’s Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) team at its annual October meeting in Latham, NY. The team agreed to focus on responding to the crisis of Earth and global warming, the first of five issues noted in the directional statement. Plans are already underway for a series of JPIC events to be offered in each of the provinces over the next 18 months.

“Congregational chapter members were clear in their Statement of Future Direction that we have work to do as members of the Congregation of the Great Love of God,” says Sister Mary Flick, justice coordinator for the St. Louis province. “We are to be beacons of hope in our world by our commitment to five areas of relationship. And the first mentioned is with Earth.” The JPIC team will offer a number of actions to help members live out the chapter call and the call of Pope Francis in his document, Laudato Si’. “We see this as a way of witnessing to our congregation’s unity amid diversity, and the collaboration these times call for,” says S. Doreen Glynn, justice coordinator for the Albany province.

The JPIC team will offer viewings and discussion of the National Geographic documentary, Paris to Pittsburgh. Set against the national debate over the nation’s energy future, the film capture what’s at stake for the communities around the country and the inspiring ways Americans are responding. The JPIC team
will also be preparing and distributing community prayer services that can be used in conjunction with Earth Day on April 22 and International Day of Peace on Sept. 21.

The main feature of this developing collaborative effort will be selecting a speaker who can lead each regional unit in its consideration and action as a response to the crisis of Earth. “Climate change is happening, and we’re not going to stop it,” says Marty Roers, justice director for the St. Paul province. “But we don’t know what the future will bring.”

But S. Diane Smith, justice director for the Los Angeles province, notes that “Now more than ever, we need to be people who view this crisis through our CSJ lens of unifying love. It is what we have to share with a world in need of hope.”

Specifics concerning the events and resources will be announced through congregation and province media outlets as they become available.

**Encountering Earth with Laudato Si’ Workshops Available**

Sister Linda Neil, CSJ offers a variety of workshops focused on Laudato Si’ that weave art, music, poetry, and story to engage our hearts, inform our minds, and fire our passions for transforming and celebrating our relationship with the Earth community. The workshops use PowerPoint presentations incorporating art by Marion Honors, CSJ, and Sister Linda would be happy to lead them as webinars/videoconferences via Zoom, or she would consider traveling to present to small or large groups.

If you would be interested in organizing a workshop for a group, please contact Sister Linda at (518) 393-0528 or linneil19@gmail.com to talk about the various options.

**Happy 106th birthday, Sister Constance!**

Sister Constance Fitzgerald now has the distinguished honor of being the oldest CSJ in the Congregation. She celebrated her 106th birthday on November 13th! Her younger sister, Sister Anne Gertrude, is 104 years old; and their other sister, Sister Catherine Anita, looks down from Heaven.

Constance entered the congregation in 1930. For most of her years, her ministry was as an outstanding secondary English teacher. Phrases that describe Constance are champion of justice, friend to many, dedicated teacher, and wonderful CSJ!
Upcoming events & meetings

November 28-29: Congregational Offices Closed
December 10: Next We Are Carondelet published

As we prepare for our congregational leadership transition, we will spotlight the five women recently elected to our incoming Congregational Leadership Team.

Patty Johnson, CSJ
St. Louis, Missouri

Hometown: St Louis is my emotional home. Honolulu would be second. My dad was in the military, and we moved every three years of my life.

What is your current ministry? For the last 8-1/2 years, I have been the executive director of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St Joseph. It’s a position that I have really loved.

What are you currently reading? I am still spending time reading Pat Murray’s keynote address to the 2019 LCWR. I think her insights really will help us move forward in the evolution of religious life.

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving? I am grateful for the relationships that I have developed, especially internationally, during my time in the Federation. It was truly transformative to work with Sisters of St. Joseph from all over the world on so many interesting projects. It has really helped me to develop

What is your favorite hobby? I love to play golf. I developed this passion while in Hawai’i where I could play every week. My current location and job schedule have not made that as possible, but I love it whenever I can get in a game.

What do you love about the Carondelet community? Someone once asked me what the Sisters of St. Joseph were known for. I told him that we laugh a lot. He said, “No, no, I mean like the Sisters of Mercy are known for their hospitals.” I told him that what I love about being a CSJ is that we laugh a lot. You can always tell when a group of us are together.

Rest In Peace

Johanne McCarthy, CSJ
September 6, 1936 - November 12, 2019

Mary Dorothea Quinn, CSJ
October 27, 1934 - November 21, 2019

Happy Birthday!

November 26
Associate Paula Holmquist
Sister Paula Patrice Michaud
Sister Elizabeth Michele Newell

November 27
Associate Michelle Becker
Sister Patty Clune
Sister Kathleen Connor
Associate Connie Dorko
Associate Patricia Sheridan
November 28
Associate Marilyn Clinton
Sister Mary Carmen Paas
Associate Jean Simmons

November 29
Sister Joy Giovannoni
‘Ohana Mary Hamilton
Sister Kathleen Mary McCarthy
Associate Rafael Ramirez
Sister Maura Rhode

November 30
Consociate Carla Nitti
Consociate Nancy Parlin

December 1
Familia María Elena Baeza
Sister Susan Hames
Consociate Beryl Theresa McHale
Consociate Margaret McRaith
Familia Anita Morales
Associate Trudy Murphy
Associate Jennifer Petree
Sister Cristine Marie Robertson
Familia Margarita Tobar

December 2
Associate Vandetta Farrington
Sister Teresa Scottino

December 3
Consociate Ania S. Duckor
Associate Steve Helmich
Associate Vikki Kocar
Associate Onie Mision-Reed
Sister Chris Partisano
Consociate Linda Marie Villegas
Consociate Martha West
Sister Diane Zigo

December 4
Associate Nancy Broach
Sister Patty Chang
Sister Kathleen Elliott
Sister Mary Catherine Ryan
Associate Sharon Stockwell

December 5
Sister Joan Casey
Associate Kim Crosson
Sister Frances Dillman

December 6
Sister Rosalie Callen
Sister Sharon Howell
Associate Karen King
Sister Sharon Margaret Ninteman

December 7
Associate Mary Jane Astur
Associate Kathleen Delgado
Sister Teresa Maria Eagan
Sister Arline Eveld
Consociate Christine Furlong
Associate Sherrill Joseph
Sister Mary Ann Nestel
Sister Carolyn Puccio
Associate Jim Sustman
Familia Margarita Villena
Sister Michaela Zahner

December 8
Associate Patricia Hicks
Associate Catherine Sullivan
Sister Maria Vasquez

December 9
Sister Sharon Gondek
Associate Julaine Preston
‘Ohana Luz Ramil
Associate Shawn Tucker

HAPPY THANKSGIVING