EXPECTANCY

It may not be on Christmas Eve
When silver bells are ringing,
There may not be a starry sky
With hosts of angels singing.

It may be very dark the night
When she and God together,
Come seeking out my human heart
To shield them from the weather.

His mother may not be in blue –
I may not even know them –
Perhaps I’d best give all the world
The courtesy I’d show them.

And lest they take me by surprise,
I think it ample reason
To leave my heart’s expectant door
Flung wide in every season

by Eileen Lomasney, CSJ
As I write this, it is “Saturday of the 34th Week of Ordinary Time.” Tomorrow is the First Sunday of Advent.

As usual, all around us Christmas is “screaming at us” — television commercials, internet pop-up ads, sales brochures in the newspapers (which dwarf the amount of space given to news) all urge us to buy more, spend more, own more, and race to the mall to secure the latest gadget before it is gone. It is exhausting, and we have not even begun Advent.

Daily, we are assaulted with stories of violence, terror, dysfunctional government, impeachment, corruption, the breakdown of civility in our politics, in our neighborhoods, on our college campuses and indeed in our world.

If ever there was a time for us to slow down, calm down, and beg “Come, Lord Jesus!” that time is now. Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts, into our homes, into our workplaces, into our church, into our world. Come, and do not delay!

Yet, as disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to be witnesses to hope. In the midst of the chaos within which we find ourselves, where do we find hope? How do we offer hope to one another and to those with whom we share life on a daily basis, much less to the wider world beyond our doors?

It is often the case that when we come to year’s end, we look back, recalling all that has happened in the previous year, and we look forward to what we hope will be a graced new year. As we come to the end of this liturgical year, and look forward to Advent and Christmas and all that the new liturgical year will hold, it occurs to me that there are signs of hope among us.

For us here at the Provincial House, and for the almost 800 people who came to our “Sisters Sing” concert recently, hope was palpable in the music, in the voices of our sisters (not to mention in the months and months of preparation and rehearsal!). Their voices were strong and true and filled with joy as they filled the chapel with song and prayer and praise. It was a thrilling experience to be so uplifted!

Another sign of hope for me has been the partnership with St. Peter’s Health Care and Eddy Senior Services, preparing for the now-imminent establishment of the PACE Program here at the Provincial House. The journey has been long (longer than we ever dreamed) and not without anxiety for our sisters and staff, and we imagine that there will continue to be “bumps in the road” as the program begins. However, the steadfast movement, the dedication of our staff and that of SPHP/Eddy/PACE has been a true experience of partnership in ministry. Once again, it is thrilling to experience such shared values and dedicated service which

(continued on the next page)
Leadership Perspectives (cont’d)
will enable us to continue to care for our sisters here in our home AND to provide the space for a PACE program to serve the dear neighbor.

In particular, I want to note the willingness of our sisters who, despite the anxiety that change inevitably brings, have responded to the entire process with faith, with courage and with a willingness to cooperate with all of the preparatory evaluations and paperwork — no small gift to us! Most of all, our sisters have indicated to us that they pray daily for the success of all of our efforts to bring this to fruition. At the same time, the nursing staff (the employees most affected by the change), despite their own anxiety and questions, have for the most part been very cooperative in the preparations, and are beginning to experience that they are being well-prepared to continue to serve our sisters. Numerous members of administration and other staff, both sisters and lay, have been invaluable to us in the planning for and implementation of PACE.

Finally, a sign of hope continues to be the steadfast faith, constant prayer and loving presence of so many of our sisters, not only here at the Provincial House but throughout the province and across the congregation.

So, as we enter Advent, let us take time, indeed, let us make time, to reflect on how we experience the faithfulness and love of God in the very faithfulness and love of those with whom we share life daily. Let us call to mind God’s blessings which grace us and sustain us each day. Let us deepen our own faith and commitment to what we have vowed – poverty, chastity and obedience in community as a way of living our own discipleship.

May our prayer indeed be “Come, Lord Jesus!” Happy Advent! May this Advent lead us all to a deeper, more profound celebration of the Incarnation — God’s choice to become one with us!

Summary of Minutes
Province Leadership Team
November 21, 2019

Opening Prayer
Katie led us in a beautiful, reflective prayer on winter with its many gifts.

PLT Gathering on December 8
We discussed what our hopes and ideas were for this gathering and assigned preparatory tasks.

Webinar on Dealing with Sexual Abuse Allegations
This webinar is being sponsored by RCRI. Team members believe this is an important webinar for us to attend, so we will take time during our December PLT meeting to participate.

Annual Report: Don Bertoldi
Dan Bertoldi joined us for his annual report which included that we will be transitioning from Office 2010 to Office 2019. The two versions will be compatible. Don does not expect that there will be any major issues with this transition. The good news with this version is that we can use it on our home computers with our present licensing. This is true for any of our employees also. Don also noted that we need more volunteers to “woman” Channel 7. A new platform will allow Don to clean off a computer should it be lost, so that the finder will not have access to our data. Don talked about some future needs especially with regard to the call system on the infirmary floors. The team thanked Don for his work in helping us to stay abreast of IT issues and in keeping our technology running!

Advent Prayer Service and Tree Planting
Katie and Eileen updated the team on the plans to hold an Advent prayer service for Sisters and staff on Monday, December 2 at 11:30 a.m. All St. Joseph congregations have been asked by the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph to plant a tree in commemorating the 350th anniversary of Father Médaille’s death. We will secure a sapling that we can bless at the prayer service and plant in the spring.

Risk Management Committee – Review/Revision of Policies
All Risk Management policies are under review and updating, with a plan to have these ready for the next team. The policies regarding missing persons, bomb threats and active shooter need to be done in concert with PACE. Katie and Tracy Needham, Director of Human Resources, are completing them. They will be reviewed by the Risk Management Committee and then given to PLT for final approval.

De-Brief the Province Assembly
The team noted the following from their own observations and from the evaluations received: Evaluations were generally positive. People liked the one-day format, but we know it won’t always be possible to meet this way, given the length of some agendas. There was some confusion regarding the selection process for new board members. We received many positive comments about the PLT report. People were very positive about Jean Wincek and the way she led the process.

Director of Nursing Resignation
Rebecca Sutliff has resigned her position as Director of Nursing, effective December 13. We are discussing how to fill the gap until PACE is up and running.

PACE
The sisters on A-wing are presently going through the necessary assessments in order to qualify for PACE. Presently, five of our sisters who need some level of care do not qualify. Given the weather and the need for at least three consecutive days with no rain, the work in the courtyard cannot be finished until spring. We are working with Marra’s Pharmacy to provide medications for those sisters who do not qualify for PACE. The staffing for PACE is going well. St. Peter’s has held to their promise to honor salaries and (continued on the next page)
PLT Meeting Minutes Summary
(continued)

benefits. Presently, personnel are working on the staff orientation. The enclosure of the outside ramp will be completed after Thanksgiving.

Sponsored Ministries
The College of Saint Rose continues to seek ways to assure financial stability. Shaker Pointe at Carondelet, Inc. held a successful marketing event recently for both Shaker Pointe and Parkland. The annual Christmas Party is scheduled for Friday, December 6; the PLT is invited. The Member meeting will be held at the December PLT. The Carondelet Hospitality Center has plans in place to cover for Danielle Futia while she is on maternity leave. It was a busy fall but things slow down now until the first of the year.

PEC Updates
Kay Ryan has agreed to participate on the interview committee for the Director of Temporary Professed. We have agreed to a contract with Nexamp to provide electricity to the Provincial House based on solar energy. We do not need to have the solar panels on our property. We are “buying into” a solar farm. Twenty-eight sisters have left their names in and will continue in the process for province leadership.

REPORT REVIEW
The team received written reports from CLT, Facility Services, Mission Integration, Network Administrator, Nursing, PH Administration, Risk Management, Unidine and Vocations.

Summary of Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 22, 2019

Opening Prayer
Sister Katie Eiffe led us in prayer.

Audit
We met with the auditor and found that everything was as expected. There were no unusual expenses in the audited reports and no indications of any difficulties with the reports. The auditors found everything well organized and enjoyed working with the Finance Office personnel.

CFO Report
We reviewed the investments as of October 31, 2019. The market continues to be volatile. There has not been a significant change in board-designated funds, but the temporarily restricted fund has had a modest gain. For the capital campaign, we reviewed where the funds are coming from (funds held, patrimony, stocks, cash donations, etc.) and noted that the Finance Office and the Development Office continue to work together to make sure that they have the same information about pledges on their books. The patrimony account had a slight market increase for the month.

In looking at the Income and Expense Report through September 30, 2019, we noted that, as expected, our biggest source of income for the operating budget is the Gurry Fund. The Shaker Pointe land lease provides a modest sum. We have fewer sisters from other communities living with us, so room and board is down slightly. As expected the largest expenses are sisters’ daily living expense, sisters’ health expenses and nursing agency personnel.

Process Out
We were all pleased with the organization of the audit and its report. We appreciated all the work that the Finance Office did in preparation for the audit. As always, the report from the CFO was complete and understandable.

Well Done, Good and Faithful

Sister James Patrick Corbett (SL)
November 4, 2019

Sister Ann Michele Jadiowski (SP)
November 6, 2019

Sister Johanne McCarthy
November 12, 2019

Antoinette (Toni) Belmont, CSJA
November 22, 2019

Sister Anne Theresa Brown
November 26, 2019

Sister Elizabeth Jean Allard
November 27, 2019

Sister Teresa Shea (LA)
November 12, 2019

Sister Mary Dorothea Quinn (LA)
November 21, 2019

Barbara Coy, daughter of CSJ Associate Rose Mattia, November 3, 2019

Frances Lefko, sister of Sister Suzanne Petronis, November 7, 2019

Paul Hilston, brother of Sister Germaine Hilston, November 22, 2019

Words to One Another
From Sister Suzanne Petronis

My family and I are truly grateful for your many expressions of sympathy at the time of my sister’s death. The Masses, prayers, warm words and kind acts of donations to the community have been a great source of comfort to me. I thank you all for your generosity and kindness.
## Calendar: Province Leadership Team

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
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<tr>
<td>7 Joseph’s House Winter Walk</td>
<td>8 PLT Gathering</td>
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<td>9 The College of Saint Rose Reception</td>
<td>10 The College of Saint Rose Reception</td>
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<td>11 LRP Structures Sub-Group Meeting</td>
<td>12 Joseph’s House Gala</td>
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<td>13 PLT Meeting</td>
<td>14 BOT Meeting</td>
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<td>17 PH Christmas Party</td>
<td>18 St. Mary’s Hospital Audit Committee</td>
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<td>19 St. Mary’s Hospital Board Meeting</td>
<td>20 M&amp;T Christmas Party</td>
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<td>26-27 Vacation</td>
<td>27 St. Mary’s Hospital Board Meeting</td>
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<td>28 Capital Campaign Event</td>
<td>29 Capital Campaign Event</td>
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### Abbreviations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BOT</th>
<th>CHC</th>
<th>CLG</th>
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<th>JMG</th>
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<th>KE</th>
<th>LRP</th>
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<tr>
<td>= Board of Trustees</td>
<td>= Carondelet Hospitality Center</td>
<td>= Congregational Leadership Group</td>
<td>= Eileen McCann</td>
<td>= Jeanne Marie Gocha</td>
<td>= Kate Arseneau</td>
<td>= Katie Eiffe</td>
<td>= Long-Range Planning Board</td>
<td>= Mary Anne Heenan</td>
<td>= Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly</td>
<td>= Mary Anne Heenan, Eileen McCann, and Katie Eiffe</td>
<td>= Sean Peters</td>
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## Kindness Works Miracles

*by Sister Diane Schoff*

A kind word can work miracles! Have you ever felt so down in the dumps that nothing seemed right? You feel like a black cloud is hanging over your head and it will never leave.

Then a miracle happens — a friend calls to tell you how wonderful you are and how much you mean to her/him. You’ve been so used to the negative messages that your own mind keeps repeating to yourself that it’s as if there is nothing good about you at all.

To hear such words of kindness is literally life-giving. The kind words of your friend re-energize you and help you to re-focus on the good life has to offer.

Unfortunately, the kind words are all too often left unsaid. Sometimes it really takes a lot of courage to be kind. It becomes habitual to say the negative things, but a challenge to say the kind things. And yet, it is the purposeful act of kindness that can turn another’s life around completely.

I have been at the receiving end of such a message, and I hope I have been at the giving end of such a message. And I am grateful for both experiences.

Let us, every one of us, make a concerted effort to go out of our way to be kind to other people. We may never know the effect our words have, but we can be sure that they will work miracles.

Thank you to the many miracle workers in my life!
From the Province Justice Committee

A Good Year to Join the League of Women Voters

by Sister Diane Zigo

The first time I heard the word “suffragettes” was in the rousing opening song in my favorite childhood movie, *Mary Poppins*. Mrs. Banks, the maid and the cook march through 17 Cherry Tree Lane singing the refrain, “Our daughters’ daughters will adore us, and they’ll sing in grateful chorus, ‘Well done, sister suffragettes!’”

One hundred years ago, on November 19 in Utica at the State Convention of the New York Women Suffrage Party, the delegates voted to change their name to the New York State League of Women Voters. The organization was formed to ensure that new women voters could be active, informed participants in government, regardless of political leanings. Although the ratification of the 19th Amendment gave women across the nation the right to vote, leaders of the movement recognized that protecting and securing systemic change on behalf of women and other oppressed groups would be an ongoing challenge. Thus, the mission of the LWV, then and now, is threefold: fostering education in citizenship and voter participation, promoting nonpartisan forums and public discussion of civic reforms and supporting legislation that will advance democratic ideals and human rights.

This fall, I joined the Syracuse Metropolitan Chapter of the League of Women voters as a way to respond to the political climate in our nation. I was quickly contacted and given opportunities to volunteer for a variety of initiatives. Business is conducted at a monthly lunch meeting at Tony’s Restaurant on Burnet Avenue. Thirty to forty members attend and get down to work, reminding people to volunteer for upcoming events and engaging in lively discussions and objective analyses of local voting issues (e.g., successes and concerns with the first experience of early voting in NY).

I’ve learned of voter registration efforts to reach out to everyone in Onondaga and nearby counties, especially those whose voting rights are most vulnerable. One member registered 300 voters at the downtown Centro bus hub. Another registered 200 by visiting gas stations and convenience stores. Others faithfully attend parole board hearings at local corrections facilities to register those who have had their voting rights restored through governor’s pardons. Another group coordinates high school registration drives.

I signed up to join the weekend “Get Out the Vote” door-to-door initiative on the South Side of Syracuse. Led by Ms. Joan Durant, director of Voter Services, we visited households of registered voters to encourage them to vote in upcoming local elections; give them a slate of the local races; provide registration, early voting and polling place information; and invite them to candidate forums. LWV partners with other groups such as Onondaga Votes and the local NAACP Chapter to focus on districts with the lowest voter turnouts. Recent statistics suggest that such engagements may be having a positive effect, as turnout in these districts has improved over the past few years.

In October, I assisted at my first U.S. citizen naturalization ceremony at the Federal Courthouse in downtown Syracuse. My partner, Ms. Lois Meyer, mentored me in the League’s role at these ceremonies, distributing and helping citizenship candidates fill out their registration forms and collecting them to (continued on the next page)
League of Women Voters
(continued)
deliver to the Board of Elections afterwards. There are few dry eyes at such a ceremony, and the participants completed their forms with reverence and determination.

The League also organizes and facilitates local forums for candidates in the months prior to elections. To ensure civility and non-partisanship, they strictly adhere to the NYS League’s guidelines for such events. If candidates or groups wanting the League’s help with a forum refuse to comply with these ground rules, the League will decline the invitation. In addition, the League maintains an electronic voters’ guide, Vote411, to allow voters to find detailed information on how and where to vote and candidates’ personal responses to questions related to the office they are seeking.

I am inspired and energized by this dedicated group of women—and men—who exemplify the principles and vision of democracy in the U.S. Bring on the next 100 years!

The Nod
by Sister Joan Sauro

Sister Charla sits against the left wall of the sanctuary of our magnificent motherhouse chapel. This evening she presides over the prayer service for Sister Rose Regina, a woman beloved, as witnessed by the stream of relatives and friends called to the podium. They express their grief, but also their great love, their dear fondness.

I sit in the front pew, in direct line with the presider. Another sits next to me, and I am glad of it. Story after story I sit, composed.

I will sing The Rose in honor of Rose whom I dearly love. I am unsure of what music, if any, will come out of my mouth. I am prepared to read the words if nothing comes out. I will be last. I wait for the presider.

Finally, she looks at me. And nods.

I rise, make my way up the steps to the podium, and say a few words of tribute. Then I nod to the pianist on the other side of the chapel. She gives me a single note.

And music like I never heard before or since comes out of my mouth.

Some say love it is a river that drowns the tender reed. 
I say love it is a flower, and you, Rose, its only seed.

There is applause, tears, embracing. Breathtaking. Incredibly beautiful. I am awestruck

Months later, I think about that nod that opened the floodgates. That yes, yes, yes. And I think of all the nods we give in a day, just a simple bowing of the head. Yes.

And I remember not so much the beauty of the song as the courage of the first note. And I remember that love does such things.

CONGRATULATIONS, SISTER JACKIE POWER!

The Albany Diocese Catholic Charities Tri-County Newsletter recently announced the following: “The Creative Arts program at the Roarke Center (Troy) has been busy this year! Sister Jackie Power stepped into the program leadership role after Sister Loretta retired this past summer. Sister Jackie has worked in several schools in the Capital Region throughout the years, in both art and English teaching positions. After five years of retirement, she decided to take on the role at the Roarke Center and we are thrilled to have her join us!”

The Roarke Center provides emergency assistance, food pantry, health insurance enrollment assistance, creative arts, adult literacy for those in need in the city of Troy.
PH News and Views
by Sister Fran Gilchrist

The highlight of the month at the Provincial House was, beyond doubt, the Sisters Sing Concert last Sunday. The hours of rehearsal certainly paid off for the singers, Ann Marie Krupski, was their organizer and director, and Sister Patti St. John, the accompanist. The mosaic, the packed pews and the statues rang out as the glorious sun shone through our rainbow windows. I’m positive I heard Mother Athanasia clap. A mighty “Thank you” to all of you for such a glorious way of expressing our gratitude to our friends! The live streaming made it possible for our sisters all over to join in the celebration.

Last week, we sent well over 100 pictures colored by us to area nursing homes. The note we attach tells the recipients that the pictures were colored by us with a hope that it will bring some realization that it will bring some realization that they are not completely alone, that we want to bring a bit of brightness to their day and that we pray for them. It’s a small effort surely, but nevertheless, it creates a tiny bit of positive energy that could shift a dull day for that person. Maybe it’s like a paper smile, a hand shake or a hug!

In the meantime, may we be filled with hope as we eagerly anticipate together the birth of the Christ Child!

CSSJ NGO Marks Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

This year, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (IDEVAW) fell on Monday, November 25 and focused on the theme of Standing up to Rape.

UN Women marked this occasion through the “Generation Equality” awareness-raising campaign which commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, with the theme of “Generation Equality Stands Against Rape.” This campaign involves highlighting survivor stories through social media, the “16 ways to Stand Against Rape” sub-campaign, and the hashtag #OrangeTheWorld.

Some of the 16 ways to stand against rape, which will be highlighted by UN Women and Generation Equality social media, are redefining masculinity, ending victim blaming, and ending immunity for those who commit sex crimes.

Through UN Women, the “Orange the World” campaign is utilizing the hashtags #OrangeTheWorld and #HearMeToo, to promote a violence free future. Along with social media engagement, buildings across the globe will be “oranged out” in order to raise awareness regarding the campaign.

We are getting involved too! The Congregations of St. Joseph NGO at the United Nations is working with the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons (CSTIP) to contribute to the 16 Days of Action Social Media Campaign, working to raise awareness for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

The campaign began with IDEVAW on November 25 and runs until Human Rights Day on December 10. It will take place largely on Twitter and Facebook, so please follow @NGOCSTIP on Twitter and NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons on Facebook.

The twitter campaign will follow the UN Women themes of “Orange the World” and “Generation Equality Stands against Rape” while also having various themed days including poverty and homelessness as a vulnerability to trafficking/exploitation; armed conflict: sexual violence/exploitation/slavery; systems failures: healthcare, foster care involvement, and support for youth at the margins as key part of prevention.

The final day of the campaign, December 10, will wrap up with a Twitter chat from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. EST.

To get involved please Tweet with these Hashtags: #16Days #EndGBV #ListentoSurvivors #OrangeTheWorld #EndTrafficking #NGOCSTIP, follow CSTIP on Twitter, and comment on and share the campaign’s posts.
Introducing a new way for CSJ Associates to share our spirituality and how we too are “called together for the life of the world,” associates were asked to use each of their monogram initials and choose a word or phrase starting with each one to describe how/why it relates to our shared CSJ/CSJA charisms and community.

This month’s CSJ ABCs belongs to Rome Associate Patricia DeMatteo.

P  
Peaceful. St. Joseph, help me to know your peace in circumstances that are unsettling and challenging.

A  
Anointing. St. Joseph, your anointing as a parent inspires me to be thoughtful and slow to respond.

D  
Discernment. St. Joseph, in all matters assist me while making decisions in daily life.

As present-day Magi, what shall we offer the newborn King’s Family?

What gifts do we have to offer: “Kids in cages”
Detained at borders, often separated from their families who braved extreme hardships and perilous journeys to provide a better life for their children?
… the World is Waiting for an answer.

What gifts do we have to offer:
Those paid substandard wages
Often working long hours in unfulfilling jobs that barely pay for food or rent?
… the World is Waiting for an answer.

What gifts do we have to offer:
Those Dear Neighbors who have been marginalized throughout the ages?
… the World is Waiting for an answer.

What gifts do we have to offer:
Those whose lives — no matter what stages — are threatened by social and economic concerns of others?
… the World is Waiting for an answer.

What gifts do we have to offer:
Those whose lives seldom anyone engages?
… the World is Waiting for an answer.

by Pat Hunt, CSJA
From the Province Development Office

Sisters, Local Communities, CSJ Associates
Give Christmas Cards as Gifts!

As in years past, we offer you the opportunity to give Christmas cards as gifts! Honor family members, friends and benefactors through a donation to support the life and ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Cards available from the Development Office this Christmas 2019 season include the following:

Card #1
Full-color image

Card #2
Full-color image

Card #3
Full-color image

Card #4
Full-color image

ORDER CHRISTMAS CARDS SOON TO GUARANTEE CHOICE!
Please order your cards by number and give a second choice. If we run out of your desired card, we will make a substitution. Inserts are available if you prefer to send a card of your choice.

**PLEASE SEND A DONATION OF $1.00 PER CARD WITH YOUR ORDER.**

We ask you to send to the Development Office by **December 20** the names of the persons you are remembering through the Christmas cards. We will place those names on the altar for the special Mass, celebrated in their honor in the Provincial House chapel on Sunday, **January 5, 2020**. These names will **not** appear in *CSJ Newsline*.

**ORDER CHRISTMAS CARDS SOON TO GUARANTEE CHOICE!**
A **Christmas Reflection**  
*by Patricia John, CSJA*

**Last Lent,** LeMoyne College offered an 8-week prayer experience for alumni based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. I had never done the Spiritual Exercises but thought this would be a good opportunity for Lent.

The experience consisted of daily prayer using Scripture and journaling and a weekly meeting for faith sharing within the group. Prayer consisted of Lectio Divina or Imaginative Prayer. In the latter, one reads a Bible passage and then imagines the story in detail by placing oneself in the scene.

One week, the Scripture passages focused on the early life of Jesus. I was deeply moved by the exercise about the shepherds and the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-20) and was relating my reflection to some of the CSJ Associates when Pat Hunt, CSJA, told me that I simply must submit it for **CE**. Thus I share my journal reflection with you. It was very interesting in how it evolved.

“My father and brother were shepherds. I had always wanted to go into the fields with them. For a young girl of ten, it was frowned upon. However, persistence paid off and I was allowed to join them for several days. I had a lot of energy and was given the task of rounding up the lost lambs who loved to frolic in the grass.

“One day, a stray black-and-white dog came onto the field. I loved all animals and befriended this creature of God, named him Spirit and taught him to help me to herd the sheep. Dad did not want the dog to stay with us but since he became useful to us, he was allowed to stay.

“One very dark evening around 9:00, the angels came. All the older shepherds were afraid and huddled together but I was amazed and curious, running up to the light and dancing to the angel’s song. Then Dad said that we must go to see what the angels had told us.

“So all of us, including the sheep and lambs journeyed to Bethlehem. I was glad that I had our dog, Spirit, with us as he was a great help in keeping the sheep and lambs from wandering off and roaming through the town. The townspeople and visitors questioned us and wanted to know why we had come and where we were going; so we shared with them the vision of the angels and some of them followed us.

“When we got to the stable, I made my way through the crowd and saw the baby in the manger. Jesus smiled at me. I wanted to pick him up but my father would not let me. Then Mary said it was OK, so I sat on the straw floor and Joseph gave me Baby Jesus to hold. Spirit laid on the floor next to me and all the little lambs surrounded us. Jesus kept smiling at me and reached out his tiny hand and held my finger. Such a special moment! I did not want it to end.

“As morning approached and we had to leave to find pasture to feed our flock, I wanted to stay, but Mary and Joseph told me to return with my family and to share what I saw. I gave my dog, Spirit, to Jesus, Mary and Joseph as that was the only gift I had. Jesus gave me the Holy Spirit to guide me throughout my life.”

May all of you have a Blessed Christmas, filled with gratitude and joy as we welcome our Savior into our hearts and lives!
Sunday, November 24 was our long anticipated “Sisters Sing: A concert of Gratitude” at the Provincial House. After months of practice, the sisters processed in to a standing-room only crowd of approximately 800 attendees!

Directed by Ann Marie Krupski, liturgical planner, pianist and choir director at the Provincial House, and accompanied by Sister Patricia A. St. John, the sisters sang selections from religious, classical and contemporary music with a few numbers in which attendees sang along! In between selections, sister-narrators introduced the pieces and intertwined a history of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The sisters were delighted to be joined by local guest performer Kelly Bird.

The concert was an expression of deep gratitude from the sisters to all our friends, family, associates, neighbors, benefactors and partners in ministry.

Enjoy the photos which convey the happiness of the day!
A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words

Sister Marilyn Vassallo visited the Binghamton Associates on November 13. After the meeting, Sister Marilyn presented the associates with their Act of Chapter booklets during a prayer service. From left to right preparing for the distribution of the booklets are Maria Evans; CSJA, Shirley McCray, CSJA; Sister Marilyn and Debra Davis, CSJA.

Sister Maria Charles Norton reports: “On October 26, we had an annual World Mission Living Rosary in the PH chapel, an event we have had for the last 13 years. Some sisters at the PH are also involved in the World-Wide Guild Chapter whose members pray through the intercession of Venerable Patrick Peyton, and for his canonization. We also have materials on the ways in which Father Peyton has been linked to the Albany area since 1942, and with the Sisters of St. Joseph, especially at The College of Saint Rose.”

Sister Marilyn Vassallo visited the Binghamton Associates on November 13. After the meeting, Sister Marilyn presented the associates with their Act of Chapter booklets during a prayer service. From left to right preparing for the distribution of the booklets are Maria Evans; CSJA, Shirley McCray, CSJA; Sister Marilyn and Debra Davis, CSJA.
We are ONE. The emotions were palpable at this year’s meeting of the Global Coordinating Group, the gathering of Sister of St. Joseph Federation Directors and International Congregation leaders. Butterflies were a part of the décor, and there was no doubt that we found our wings and flew high this year. The U.S. was represented by Sisters Patty Johnson and Mary Elizabeth Nelsen (Orange).

Our prayer calendar has been a global success with sisters, associates and friends from around the world praying for the work in one of the 46 countries each week in which Sisters of St. Joseph are present. The Canadian Federation will be issuing a revised calendar shortly. We will continue to send reminders through social media about where we are and what the sisters are doing in that country. Also, our new statistics are in. Globally there are 7,912 Sisters of St. Joseph and 5,642 associates. We finally have found the will and the way to update these statistics annually through the International Center.

On December 30, we will celebrate the 350th anniversary of the death of Jean Pierre Médaille, SJ. Sisters around the world are planting trees. Each U.S. Congregation is encouraged to plant a tree and take a photo of it. You can send the photo to the U.S. Federation, and we will forward it on to the Italian Federation who is planning a special way to display all the photos. We have already planted a tree at the International Center to celebrate the anniversary.

Additionally, we also have a new priority at our NGO at the United Nations. Globally, we will focus our advocacy efforts at the UN on access to clean water and share this global focus. The Canadian Federation has been giving this topic a major focus for the last two years and knows what a difference it makes.

Intercultural connections among our younger sisters continue to flourish as we offer opportunities for them to gather. This year our U.S. novices have connected with other Sister of St. Joseph novices for sharing of the heart. So far we have met with novices from Haiti and Oslo, Norway and have an upcoming meeting with novices from India. Last year U.S. sisters attended a Latin America gathering in Brazil. We hope to have younger members from Latin America and the Caribbean join Tending the Flame this spring.

The desire to connect with young people seems to be a priority for sisters around the world. Inviting them into our convents for prayer and sharing, sponsoring programs for them, and trying to hear what they need seems to be happening in many places. Attending to the outcomes of the Youth Synod in Rome and implementing it in our homes is an emerging trend.

The Global Coordinating Group has recognized that there is an emerging presence of laity in our work. They have formed a subcommittee to further discuss the role of laity in our global efforts. They will be broadly consulting with lay partners over the next 18 months and reporting back at the next Global Coordinating Group on next steps.

The Italian Federation is inviting us to join their work in Amazonia, Congo, or Chad where we might be able to form an international congregational experience. This would be open to youth volunteers, perhaps even being a second-year opportunity for volunteering through the St. Joseph Worker Program.

We are thinking and acting with a global view, and it is truly momentous! [Sister Patty Johnson is executive director of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph.]
Highlights of the Year in Review at the International Center in LePuy

by Sister Patty Johnson

So much has happened at the International Center in the last year. We want to provide you with a few of the highlights.

Mount St. Mary University (LA) has bought the childhood home of Mother St. John Fontbonne, a very significant sister in the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph! The home is in Bas-en-Basset, France, not too far from the International Center in Le Puy. In the past, visitors could just stand outside the house. Now the International Center has a key and is able to add this to tours for those who are staying at the International Center.

At long last, we will soon have an elevator connecting the kitchen and the Center for Living History at the center. This will allow easier access to both. The staff at the International Center can conduct tours during regular business hours, making it more convenient for guests and program participants.

Scholarships provided by the U.S. Federation and the Canadian Federation are making a difference. This year the Federations provided eight scholarships which allowed sisters from the Global South to attend programs at the International Center; in 2019, 29 of 52 participants in five programs were from the Global South. This is not only a tremendous opportunity for them, but also the opportunity allows many more participants to have a richer intercultural experience. The International Center has truly become our international home.

The schedule and registration process is posted online for next year’s programs at the center. It is never too early to decide on a trip to Le Puy! We continue to offer yearly some of the successful high-demand programs, such as The Lace Is Not Finished Yet, Mission Effectiveness and the Heritage Tours. The Anna Moggio Foundation has made possible a new program, “From Archives to History,” through generous scholarships. New programs, such as Roots and Wings, The Two Trinities as a Model of Dynamic Love and Creation Spirituality, are added regularly.

An exciting new trend is that more young people are visiting the center.

It is clear to us that the Strategic Plan is working. We now hope to engage in more fund-raising to continue to provide scholarships for our sisters from the Global South to attend programming.

International Center Announces 2020 Programs and Retreats

This year’s programs offer you several opportunities for an incredible historical and spiritual journey into the origins of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Included is a guided retreat, pilgrimages and workshops including two new offerings. All of our programs include visits to important historical sites for sisters, associates, colleagues and friends of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

We also provide you with the experience of the Living History Centre which has truly enhanced visitors’ understanding of our history from its origins and its development to the present day. Thanks to the use of video equipment that facilitates six different languages (English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Flemish), the Living History Centre has become an essential addition to the Kitchen where our founding sisters lived in 1650.

So browse the following offerings and begin planning a trip to Le Puy-en-Velay today by selecting a program that best fits your interests!

International Center (continued)

From Archives to History

Begins Sunday, March 29, at 7 p.m. and ends Saturday, April 4, after breakfast. This session will focus on the Archives. What does the word “Archives” cover? We will discuss the different types of archives: written, sound, architectural, artistic. How do they allow us to write history? We will try to experience it through concrete exercises. There will be ways to define what can today “feed” our archives, what we must preserve to transmit the material to future generations and how to render this possible.

Presenters
Sister Catherine Louis was the first Superior General of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Institute. Sister Nadia Boudon-Lashermes is from the Institute of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in France. Register by March 1, 2020.

The Lace is Not Yet Finished - A CSSJ Federation Workshop

Begins on Thursday, May 28 at 7 p.m. and ends on Wednesday, June 3 after breakfast. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the hearts of a small group of women in Le Puy-en-Velay were enflamed by God’s call to reach out to people suffering from devastating poverty, pervasive violence, and stifling oppression. They joined together in 1650 as followers of Jesus to become the community of God’s Great Love, the Sisters of St. Joseph. In this program participants will get in touch with and claim once again the transformative power of this charism in our midst and into the future. They will also explore the streets of Le Puy-en-Velay and visit and pray in the original Kitchen, Living History Centre, Cathedral of Notre Dame du Puy, Chapel of St. Michel d’Aiguilhe, Eglise du Collège, and Tree of the Martyrs. Then they will travel to Lyon to visit the Heritage Room and graveside of Mother St. John Fontbonne. The Lace begun in 1650 is not yet completed. The threads are now in our hands.

(continued on the next page)
The relationality between and among the Uncreated and Created Trinities as an expression of Divine mystery, providence and plan calls all to a radical response. This is the prophetic nature of the spirituality of the Sisters of St. Joseph, which calls us to move relationally into the world, with the dear neighbor without distinction. This program offers a pilgrimage of the heart for all who are drawn to the charism of unifying love. We will explore the prophetic nature of our call in the world today and learn how the dynamic love as expressed by the Two Trinities is a model of our call toward relationality in our wounded world. It is in this openness to relationship that we incarnate Triune Love and participate in the process of bringing God alive in the world. The week-long experience offers a rhythm of input sessions, interactive participation, reflection, as well as an orientation to the city of Le Puy and a visit to the Kitchen and Living History Museum.

**Presenter**
Sister Linda Buck, CSJ, is a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange (CA). She currently serves in the ministry of Initial Formation and is a psychotherapist and spiritual director. She is a frequent presenter in the areas of theology, spirituality and psychology.
Register by September 24, 2020.

We offer you many opportunities at the Centre throughout the year including: Guided pilgrimages, Group visits, individual visits, private retreats and personalized reflective days. For more information, including costs, or to register for programs, e-mail us at: centre.international@wanadoo.fr.

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**Establishment of “The Little Design”**
Begins on Monday, July 13 at 7 p.m. and ends on Sunday, July 19 after breakfast.
We will make an historical journey of the origins (16th-17th centuries) and development of the Sisters of St. Joseph until the French Revolution (1789). We will then examine how the emergence of “The Little Design” was made possible in several contexts: political, social, religious, ecclesial during this particular period of history. We seek to understand how we have fostered the emergence of the Sisters of Saint Joseph spirituality and how it can be inscribed while in a relationship of proximity and universality for today.

**Presenters**
Sister Catherine Louis was the first Superior General of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Institute. Sister Nadia Boudon-Lashermes is from the Institute of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in France.

**Listening to the Heartbeat of the Creator Retreat**
Begins on Tuesday, July 21 at 7 p.m. and ends on Tuesday, July 28 after breakfast.
In Laudato Si Pope Francis calls us to engage in a spirituality that is “capable of inspiring us...which encourages, motivates, nourishes and gives meaning to our individual and communal activity” (LS. 216). Where do we find this inspiration? With today’s hi-tech microscopes and telescopes, something of the Creator’s breathtaking magnificence is being revealed. To know that this is pulsing through our veins, inspires us to acknowledge our place in creation as co-creators. We will explore the story of creation as revealed to us today, from the splendour of the universe to the interdependence and interconnection of all life on our planet.

**Presenters**
Sister Bridget Pritchard is a Sister of St Joseph of Amnecy living in the UK.
Sister Henrietta Curran, SSJA, also lives in the U.K.

**Mission Effectiveness: The Charism Alive in CSSJ Ministries**
Begins on Saturday, September 26 at 7 p.m. and ends Saturday, October 3, after breakfast.
This program offers a pilgrimage for lay partners in mission and provides an immersion experience into the original spirit and global dimension of the charism and spiritual tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph. If you are associated with one of the ministries founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph as an administrator, staff person, board member, or supporter, this program is for you! Come deepen your learning, nourish your imagination and strengthen your conviction in participating in a world-wide movement that fosters union with God in drawing all into one. A day trip to Lyon is also included.

**Presenter**
Sister Dolores Clerico, a Philadelphia Sister of Saint Joseph, is a frequent speaker, workshop presenter and retreat facilitator for sisters, associates and partners in mission throughout the United States and annually at the International Centre.
Register by August 26.

**The Prophetic Stance of Relationship: The Two Trinities as a Model of Dynamic Love**
Begins on Saturday, October 24 at 7 p.m. and ends after breakfast on Friday, October 30.
Sister Johanne McCarthy, CSJ
(Sister Agnes Marina)
1936 ~ 2019

Born in Syracuse, New York on September 6, 1936

Entered the Congregation on September 15, 1954

Received into the Novitiate on March 19, 1955

Professed Final Vows on August 6, 1962

Died November 12, 2019

by Sister Mary Rose Noonan

Sister Johanne McCarthy (Sister Agnes Marina), 83, died Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at Samaritan Hospital, Troy. She had been a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet for the past 64 years.

Johanne was born in Syracuse on September 6, 1936, the daughter of the late Joseph and Alice Foreman McCarthy. After graduating from St. Anthony’s High School, she entered the novitate of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Troy on March 19, 1955, and professed final vows on August 6, 1962. She received a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in elementary education, both from The College of Saint Rose.

For 35 years, Johanne served as teacher, principal and business manager in schools of the Albany and Syracuse Dioceses. She also worked for several years in parishes in both dioceses as pastoral associate and parish life director. In addition, Johanne was administrator of St. Joseph’s Provincial House, Latham, for ten years.

Johanne was a strong woman of faith and action, with a tender heart for God’s people, a strong love of family and friends, and a conviction that life is a gift, meant to be lived with purpose, meaning and passion. Whether teaching a young person, conducting a faculty meeting, administering a parish or enjoying loved ones, Johanne had a special talent for spreading hope, kindness, compassion and warmth. She faced difficult times with tenacity, grace and spunk, and she celebrated joyful moments with exuberance and delight. When she envisioned changes in society, community and Church, she was always willing to engage in dialogue and discernment. In all her endeavors, Johanne embodied the call of the Sisters of St. Joseph to bring unity, reconciliation and peace to God’s people, and the world is a better and happier place because she was here.

During Johanne’s wake, held at the PH on November 18, many sisters and friends shared their memories of Johanne. Her beloved friends, Joan and Mary Jo, spoke of Johanne’s wonderful way with people and her determination “to get things done.” Joan described Johanne’s very clear position as matriarch of the McCarthy family and her love of taking on projects, giving special mention of establishing the Refugee Committee at Shaker Pointe and working with The Evangelist to get better coverage of sisters’ obituaries. Joan used a quote to describe Johanne’s basic approach to God: “The door is always open to let God in.”

Mary Jo focused on how Johanne was so proud to be a Sister of St. Joseph and so aware of carrying on the heritage of the thousands of sisters who went before her. Mary Jo also spoke of how dear Johanne was to her own family: “Nobody could make my mother laugh like Johanne … She was a treasure to all of us.” Mary Jo also concluded with an apt quote to define her relationship with Johanne: “A friend is half your soul.”

During the Mass of Christian Burial the following day, Fr. Geoff Burke defined Johanne as that friend described in Sirach: “A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; the one who has found one has found a treasure.” Using 1 Corinthians (“… and the greatest of these is love”), Fr. Burke also described Johanne as a genuine example of a life whose guiding force was love—love of God, family, friends and the dear neighbors wherever they may be. Dear Johanne, may your soul be in peace forever!
ANNUAL PEACE RETREAT 2020

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH AND CSJ ASSOCIATES OF THE ALBANY PROVINCE

WALKING TOWARD TROUBLE: PEACE IN AN ACHEING WORLD

SISTER SIMONE CAMPBELL

Sister Simone Campbell is the Executive Director of NETWORK Lobby, a federal advocacy organization founded by Catholic Sisters to lobby in Washington, DC, for policies that mend the gaps in income and wealth in the United States. Sister Simone will lead us in exploring the challenges that we face in this year of politics and chaos. How can we be witnesses to the deeper truth of our lives? How can we talk to each other about things that matter? What does it take to be a peace builder in the face of polarization?

St. Joseph’s Provincial House
Hospitality Center, Delatour Road, Latham, New York 12110

Friday, January 17, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. to Saturday, January 18, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION by January 4, 2020

Name____________________________________________________ Phone___________________

Address or e-mail ______________________________________________________________________

Please make check payable to Sisters of St. Joseph and mail the registration form to: Sister Joanne St. Hilaire, 385 Watervliet-Shaker Road, Latham, New York 12110.

$100 Overnight Guests; $55 Commuters and PH Residents
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**KEEP THE SPIRIT AND TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS WITH ALTERNATIVE GIFTS!**

Have an abundance swap. Give away one nice item that you have but really don’t need.

Have a do-it-yourself gift exchange using only items you have around the house.

Host a homemade-food swap and/or have a big potluck meal.

Share an experience or plan a group outing together.

Donate to a charity on a loved ones behalf.

Adopt a family in need for the holidays.

Send a care package to a member of the armed forces.

Visit a local nursing home and spend time with those who don’t have family.

Have a re-gift swap and use random gifts floating around your room, closet or trunk.

Make a custom coupon book.

Give the gift of a magazine subscription.

Donate the gift of your time.

Get creative at a second-hand store.

Spend the day as a family delivering meals to seniors.

Host a holiday movie marathon with snacks.

Have a “cleaning-out-the-closets” clothing exchange.

Go caroling as a group.

Deliver cookies to people who have to spend the holiday working.

**REJOICE IN THE SMALL, SIMPLE GIFTS OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

“It is a return to simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things . . . . to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack.” (*Laudato Si* #222)

During Advent as we prepare for the coming of God incarnate among us—in the small things of our lives—let us turn aside from a consumers’ Christmas and turn toward the simple things that are filled with great joy!  
—*from the Province HomeLand Committee*