“When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas...” (and Chapter 2019) continues to:

- Engage in formal communal discernment for governance and simplification,
- Respond to the crisis of Earth and global warming,
- Deepen awareness of our complicity and work toward dismantling interlocking systems of oppression,
- Articulate and authentically live our vows in ways that witness and speak to today’s realities,
- Walk with women as we claim our voice and work toward an inclusive church and society,
- Use our collective voice to accompany others in speaking their truth.

Howard Thurman and CSJ Congregational Chapter

May we find strength in God-present, Emmanuel, as we move forward with governance discernment and simplification, racial justice work, Earth sustainability progress, plans to support migrants, women and girls, always forging theologies and spiritualities for a new church and a world of peace and non-violence.

Blessings in the new year of grace,
Susan, Suzanne and Cathy
On a frigid early November morning Sister Suzanne Herder (center right) and Consociate Carol Gariano (center left) joined hearts and voices at the Whipple Federal Building in St. Paul in solidarity with our dear immigrant neighbors. The CSJ community hosted the prayer vigil on the day of the opening arguments in the U.S. Supreme Court hearings on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program which will decide the fate of the thousands of DACA Youth across our country. This public witness of support of immigrants was hosted in collaboration with the Interfaith Coalition on Immigration, Sisters of St. Joseph Ritual Office, Immigration Working Group, the Social Justice Committee of Lumen Christi Catholic Community, and students from St. Kate’s. (Read more on p. 18.)

**Praying for the St. Catherine University Community**

You are invited to pray for members of the St. Catherine University community.

This vase with purple ribbon holds prayer requests from students, faculty, and staff at St. Catherine University. At Community, Consociate, and Sister Assemblies, as well as in the Carondelet Village Chapel, you can take some requests to pray for particularly.

The enclosed bookmark is designed to remind you to pray for the community as a whole.

They are grateful for the prayers of the CSJ community. Thank you and Blessings be yours.
The December 5 St. Paul Pioneer Press Opinion Page included a commentary by Dr. Katie Freeman of St. Paul, a 2014 graduate of St. Joseph’s Family Medicine Residency Program. The article called, “Gratitude: Thankful for so many lessons from the people of St. Joseph’s Hospital” makes a case for St. Joseph’s Hospital as its owner, M Health Fairview, considers cost-cutting measures throughout its system. Additional articles about the fate of St. Joseph’s Hospital peppered the December papers.

The Congregation of St. Joseph is honored to be the first of seven congregations of women religious featured in the 30 minute film, “Sisterhood” produced by Salt+Light, a Canadian Catholic TV network. The film was created through a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to Loyola Institute of Ministry. Watch the first episode on www.csjoseph.org. (saltandlighttv.org/sisterhood)

The Catholic Spirit (thecatholicspirit.com) included the article “Celestial space: A St. Paul convent-turned-hotel celebrates its legacy” by Maria Wiering. The article, with quotes by Sisters Miriam Shea and Mary Ann Hanley, was about the new St. Paul Hotel + Bar that opened in the former CSJ St. Agatha’s Conservatory. thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/celestial-space-a-st-paul-convent-turned-hotel-celebrates-its-legacy/
The Global Sisters Report blog, “My five loaves and two fishes” by Orange California St. Joseph Worker Honorine Uwimana, who grew up in Rwanda, “a country that witnessed one of the greatest atrocities of the 20th century, and my proximity to widows and orphans who were left helpless and hopeless made me question my humanity.” The heartfelt article considers John 6:9: “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fishes, but how far will they go among so many?” Her current work at a retirement home for Sisters has given her a different perspective than her early life and she now sees God working everyday: “...my fresh background as a pharmacist and experience as a health equity activist is enough for God to feed a thousand people. I said: ‘Here are my five loaves and two fishes. Lord, please use them.’ ““Every day, I go home content that I helped someone push their wheelchair outside to breathe fresh air. I go to bed happy that I have been able to transmit love in the simplest ways possible and that it is making a huge difference in the hearts of those I serve.” “God is using and multiplying the little I have because I allowed him to use it.”

www.globalsistersreport.org/news/spirituality/blog/my-five-loaves-and-two-fishes

The Catholic Spirit article, “Synod process includes celebrating lay leadership,” by Archbishop Bernard Hebda, was published as the Synod Prayer and Listening Events around the diocese began. In the article, the Archbishop wrote, “In her excellent doctoral dissertation, ‘The role of the laity in the thought of John Ireland,’ Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet Katherine McLaughlin noted that the Lay Congress of 1889 had a lasting impact on Archbishop Ireland, leading him to “a much stronger sense of standing shoulder to shoulder with the laity, acting together for the good of the Church and the world.” In the article, he said, “This local Church is particularly blessed with a highly engaged laity.”
Welcome!

Join us in welcoming Kim Wagner, Director of HR. Kim brings about 24 years of HR and Payroll experience, with Fairview Health Services (11 years), the nonprofit Lifetrack (10 years), and Mayflower Distributing (3 years). Kim says, “I am lucky to have all my family in the Cities. We spend most weekends with friends and extended family in northern Wisconsin at my sister’s cabin. I am a fan of all sports and enjoy going to concerts both in and out of state. I feel Minnesota offers such wonderful opportunities to enjoy my two interests but there is nothing like a trip with friends to someplace new.” Please join us in welcoming her!

Proud to be a CSJ

By Charlotte Berres CSJ

On November 21, 2019, I attended the Ministry Formation Day for those serving in the Archdiocese. As I entered the gathering space at St. Bonaventure’s Parish in Bloomington, greeting me at the first table representing Good Ground Press were Joan Mitchell, CSJ and Ansgar Holmberg, CSJ. I noted that all day long people visited with them. I was there with Sue Torgerson, CSJ of the Congregation of St. Joseph, representing the Archdiocesan Interim Commission for Consecrated Life. Both of us connected with many old friends and contacts, and with the candy supply we brought with us, we made many new friends! As we entered the worship space, our Delegate for Consecrated Life, Carolyn Puccio, CSJ greeted us as she ensured that everyone in attendance (about 350 parish ministers) had brochures for the Archdiocesan Synod process with a listing of Listening Sessions. Yes, I saw visible Sisters represented like the Pro Ecclesia Sancti Sancta (PES) (with one of them commenting on how she could tell Caroline was my Sister!) and the African sisters. What impressed me is that we, the CSJs, though smaller in number were still visible and taking leadership roles! I was surprised when, at the end of the day, Joan and Ansgar did a visual meditation with readings from Scripture and commentary/reflection on Ansgar’s art work displayed on the screens. I was PROUD of US! We are still alive and well!

Thanksgiving… What a perfect occasion to celebrate the gift we have in each other as Sisters. Life at Carondelet Village makes it easy to gather with others, engage in great conversation, and enjoy a wonderful meal. We encourage you to open your space and make it happen!
Council Highlights

October 30, 2019

The Council reviewed the Sister Assembly/Consociate Assembly and the Discernment and Simplification Process. The responses from the tables at the Sister Assembly related to Governance Recommendations and the Simplification Process were broad with no common theme. In the future there is a need to find a way for everyone’s voice to be heard. The comments did indicate an openness to discussion on structures and being open to new ideas and possibilities. There was an agreement to include Sisters and Consociates in the December 14 meeting because it will be a critical meeting for setting the stage for the discernment process.

Much of the Consociate Assembly was Sharing of the Heart at tables. Other topics included the upcoming ACOF Convocation that will be hosted in St. Paul in June 2020 and the generous gift Ruth Weise, Consociate, left in her will for the Consocium to establish an endowment.

The Government Committee will be working on the request by the Congregation for simplification. The Council offered suggestions and questions for the Committee to consider.

November 20, 2019

The Council discussed works in progress:

- The Acts of Chapter Committee will meet with Mirja Hansen to develop a plan to track the work around the Province Directives and the Congregational statement of Future Directives, and recognizing how they fit together.

- The Relationship and Association Committee will be reviewing its charter which is based on the 2013 Acts of Chapter and incorporating the Congregational Statement of Directives into the charter.

- When discussing the Ministry Landscape summaries the conversation evolved into a discussion of the need to recognize and honor ministries of individuals and how their ministries give a fuller picture of the ministries of the whole community. Because the scope of this is broad it seemed appropriate to invite the Ministry Commission of the Community Assembly to considering undertaking this process.

The Leadership Team is midway through their term. It is customary for Teams to do an evaluation at this point. The Council agreed this would be good because it gives the Team feedback and gives the Community an opportunity to share their assessment and questions.
Sisters are invited to two Archdiocesan events on January 26

The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis is home to a robust group of women and men living Consecrated Lives. “Consecrated Life includes religious priests, brothers and sisters, members of secular institutes, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virgins living in the world, and hermits,” explains Sister Carolyn Puccio, CSJ, the Archdiocesan Delegate for Consecrated Life, which means she is the Archbishop’s representative to this community. Sister Carolyn explains that the actual number is fluid so she typically says, “there are more than 40 groups” who identify as committed to a Consecrated Life and they number more than 400 individuals.

In January, those living a Consecrated Life in this Archdiocese are invited to two events that will take place on the CSJ campus.

- **Annual Celebration of The World Day for Consecrated Life.**
  “Yearly, those living a Consecrated Life gather to celebrate The World Day for Consecrated Life,” says Sister Carolyn. “This annual, international event typically occurs around the Feast of the Purification in February.” This year, due to schedule conflicts, it was moved to January 26. As it has for the past few years, it will take place in Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel.

- **Pre-Synod Listening Session for those in this Archdiocese Living a Consecrated Life**
  Separately, but later the same day, is a special pre-synod listening session specifically for those in the Archdiocese living a Consecrated Life. This event is one of many local prayer and listening events through March 2020. Of these events, Archbishop Hebda says, “I invite you to join me and many others at one of 20 Pre-Synod prayer and listening events across the 12 counties of this Archdiocese. Simply put, a synod is a process where women and men come together to pray and honestly share what is working here and what challenges need to be addressed with the hope of producing a five- to ten-year pastoral plan.” While the listening session taking place on January 26 at Carondelet Center is for those living a Consecrated Life, anyone interested in attending a session can visit [www.archspm.org/synod](http://www.archspm.org/synod) for other dates and locations.

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**Sunday, January 26, 2020**

**World Day for Consecrated Life Celebration & Mass**

Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel (CSJ Chapel)

1880 Randolph Avenue St. Paul, MN 55105

2:00 p.m.: Mass and recognition of Jubilarians with Archbishop Hebda presiding

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**Consecrated Life Pre-Synod Listening Session**

Carondelet Center

1890 Randolph Avenue St. Paul, MN 55105

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.: Synod Listening Session

6:00 p.m.: Hearty refreshments
In November Consociate Kate O'Connell sent a heartfelt letter to Archbishop Hebda thanking him for acknowledging “the terrible ‘soul sickness’ of systemic and personal racism in which we all have been raised and been complicit in this society.” She called on the Archbishop to “lead all of us in this Archdiocese to do much more, to embrace truth and reconciliation for our participation as a church in upholding racism.”

She continued, “As a white woman, I didn’t understand how complicit I have been and continue to be in this terrible oppression of white supremacist thinking – it took me years to understand that truth or even to use that language or understand how pervasive this thinking is in every aspect of life.”

“I will say that God has helped me see what had been hidden from me: the pain of children of color and their parents who face the message, in so many ways, that they are not really beloved by God, not the way that white children and parents are; the loss of true community that we could have but generally do not, due to the legacies of acknowledged and unacknowledged segregation; the terrible and sorrowful ways that white people struggle to see what is hidden in plain sight: that racism isn’t someone else’s problem, it is ours. Racism may be an issue for different communities of color to address in their own ways, but it is certainly ours to face in the ways that we need to face it; and it is not something from which we can walk away.

“As a start, I recommend calling all parishes to read and pray about the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ letter from a year ago, Open Wide Our Hearts, and use the resources on their website (www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/index.cfm).” Her complete letter, on Forum, cites numerous additional sources to consider.

In closing she wrote, “I believe that God is calling out for justice, healing, and new life for all of us, those of us who personally benefit economically from systemic racism and those who continue to be marginalized. I also believe that God calls us to understand where we stand and to become who we are called to be in the middle of these systems of oppression.”

Throughout this Christmas season, the Christian community remembers the journey of the Holy Family in their search of a safe place to welcome the birth of the Christ child. December 10th Vigil Participants at the Immigration Court of the Whipple Federal Building remembered and prayed in a “posadas” service for those holy families of migrants and refugees who likewise seek safety today. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, may we welcome the Christ in our migrant dear neighbors.
I am the quintessential St. Paulite. I lived my first 17 years, at home and schools, within a six block radius, attending Nativity and Derham Hall. I walked down the street to the novitiate in September, 1960 and turned 18 in October. When I was assigned to the Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield in 1965. My mother thought I was off to missionary territory.

I think that experience is the kernel of my penchant for travel. I left the community 14 years later, feeling a need to grow up. The community paid for my MSW degree for which I am very grateful. I had the great blessing to find the work I was truly fitted for in Hospice and to spend 30 years working full time as a Hospice Social Worker in the Twin Cities at Bethesda, North Memorial and Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Since 2016, I have taken refuge in the TV channel, Animal Planet, and now I’m devoted to “PitBulls and Parolees,” “The Vet Life” and “Dr. Jeff, Rocky Mountain Vet.” I am not regular enough in my habits to own a dog but I satisfy my pet needs by volunteering at The Animal Humane Society where I walk dogs every other week.

I’m a great fan of mysteries as are my sister, my niece and my best friend. For the past four years my high school class has been meeting for monthly luncheons and from them I get leads on good mysteries, especially local writers. I don’t know where William Kent Krueger will write now that the St. Clair Broiler is closed.

Even though I’m thoroughly Irish on both sides, I do lean to British comedy. P.G. Wodehouse is first on the list for my laugh therapy. I have the adventures of Jeeves and Wooster on CD and DVD always at the ready when I need a little levity.

I returned to the community as a Consociate in 2005 and was graciously welcomed by my old friends and former teachers. We had both grown in those intervening years. I haven’t yet perfected my “elevator speech” to explain my commitment to friends. Sometimes I just say I’m a hop-a-long with the Sisters.
Weaving the Wider We

November 13, 2019 Community Assembly Highlights

By Peg Schwendeman

We began the evening with a sung prayer of gratitude for all creation as we remembered that we are all part of one cosmos born out of the love of God.

Karen Olson Johnson and Sophie Mongovon facilitated the evening. Eric Celeste and Cathy Steffens gave a recap of the September Assembly. Several slides depicted the results of the work the Assembly did previously indicating where our 2019 Province Chapter directions and the 2019 Congregational Chapter Commitments intersect. They showed a close coordination between Congregational and Province ministry goals appearing like a weaving of a tapestry. The visual impression was that we are indeed “weaving a wider we” across the Congregation.

Results of a years-long process of close evaluation of Province ministries was shared by Anita Duckor and Mary Louise Menikheim representing the Ministry Commission. Table participants studied reports indicating who else is doing a ministry, gaps, opportunities for future ministry efforts and what recommendations could be shared with the Ministry Commission. We were reminded that ministry is always a work in progress because realities and needs change. The Commission provided a comprehensive mapping of how and where the St. Paul Province is serving our community. Table groups wrote their reflections regarding where we, as a Province, can do the most good and where we can simplify or partner with other entities. An open mic session revealed insights and questions.

Jill Underdahl, CSJ then lead the Assembly in a discernment process on the Racial Justice Proposal. The Commission’s proposal requested the endorsement of a formal process to help the Province undergo a close examination of ways in which we can grow into a more fully inclusive and welcoming place for people of diverse cultures and races. Their presentation was followed by sharing viewpoints through table talk and open mic. The consensus that followed demonstrated that over 85 percent of the Assembly endorsed the proposal and wanted to proceed with implementation. Participants were invited to write implementation recommendations which were given to the Province Leadership Team.

The evening closed with a remembrance of Sisters and Consociates who have died the past year. Pictures of these loved members were placed on each table and memories and a video of each deceased person was shown. May they all rest in peace.

A total of $1,160 in donations were collected for ICOM, Interfaith Coalition on Immigration.
Ann Michele Jadalowski, CSJ
May 5, 1925 ~ November 6, 2019
Ann Michele (Monica Theresa) Jadalowski, CSJ, was a fiercely passionate proponent of the great love of God and neighbor without distinction. She was born May 5, 1925 in Minneapolis to Joseph J. and Sophia (Kascieiniak), and died on November 6, 2019 at St. Joseph Hospital in St. Paul. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1949, after completing a BA in History and Music from the College of St. Catherine. In 1963 she earned an MA in History from Notre Dame. After 27 years as a high school history and psychology teacher, Ann Michele shifted her passion to hospital chaplaincy work where she spent 46 years at St. Joseph’s Hospital in St. Paul, accompanying cancer patients. There she helped establish three support groups for patients and their families: CARITAS, Second Time Around, and CHAT for teenagers of cancer patients. These award-winning programs became the standard for the American Cancer Society. Of this work Ann Michele, who continued to lead until her death said, “I continue to be deeply moved by the growing awareness of the relationship between visible reaching out to care for hurting people, and their healing process.”

Friends said, “Ann Michele cared about everyone and would put down everything she was working on to help another, without question and without distinction.” She “had such a great love for God and a love of each neighbor, and family was always so very important to her.”

She loved going to mass on Saturday night with her dear friend Mary Fran, and sometimes they would go to Snuffy’s Malt Shop on Cleveland Ave., where they would order a hamburger and a malt, which they would always ask to be served “lumpy.”

Ann Michele was a master gardener who loved the outdoors, and her extraordinarily large Norfolk Pine tree can be found on the main floor of Carondelet Village. She played the organ and piano, loved classical music and enjoyed classical music concerts. She served as staff chaplain in various roles at St. Joseph’s Hospital.

Sister Ann Michele, rest in love and peace.

*Remembrances are excerpted from the full obituaries that are posted on Forum.

May they rest in love and peace.
Thank you for a wonderful birthday party with a beautiful cake, balloons and 95 candles. Thimbles as a keepsake, and so many lovely, friendly faces. Coffee, wine, Irish Cream, spirits, cards, a beautiful corsage and a tiara. My cousin’s daughter and husband of three years came! What a nice surprise! All my family pictures were displayed and two loose-leaf three-ring-books contained family pictures, and education certificates. There are so many people to thank. You all made my 95th birthday very special. I am so grateful to all of you.

God bless you all,
Mary O’Brien, C.S.J.

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To the Community and friends,
On behalf of Sister Ann Michele Jadlowski, I want to thank you for everything you did to ease the sadness of the day. The funeral was beautiful and everything about the day truly honored Sister Ann Michele in a special way.

Thank you,
Mary Fran Carter, C.S.J.

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Words are not enough for me to express to all of you my most sincere thank you. Your phone calls, emails, cards and offers of prayers mean more to me than you can imagine. I am humbled and grateful for all of you.

Blessings/peace,
Mary Beckfeld, Consociate
Moving Always Toward  
www.csjstpaul.org

Consociate Commitments

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

“Please be patient, God is not finished with me yet.” Over the last 40 years, this phrase has popped into my head many times. I found this quote on a sugar packet at a retirement home where I worked in high school. Every time I think of it, it reminds me that I have more to do on my journey.

Two years ago, two opportunities, which would become branches on my tree of life, presented themselves. In January 2017, after several years of knowing about the Consociate program, and many conversations with people in my life who are Consociates, I decided it was time for me to say “yes.” I had no more excuses, my children were grown and launched, I had completed my education (though, I believe we should always continue to learn), and I was looking to change my career path which would give me more flexibility with time.

The Sisters of St. Joseph and I had been crossing paths for many years. I began my life at St. Mary’s Hospital in Minneapolis. I attended Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield, MN – there were still a few Sisters teaching, serving as principal, and living in the cloister there. For 15 of the 23 years I worked in higher education, I was at St. Catherine – both as staff and as a student. I have family who were CSJ’s and, through my work at St. Catherine, I became friends with CSJs. The more I was able to learn about these strong women, the more I knew I wanted to align my life with their charism.

I mentioned that two branches began to grow two years ago. After I had made the decision to move ahead with my Consociate journey, I learned that my friend, Mary Kraft, CSJ had made the decision to retire as the Archivist for the CSJ St. Paul Province. This is what I had trained for (my Master’s degree is in Library Science with a focus on archives).

On July 6, 2017, I began working for the Sisters as their new archivist. I am blessed to be entrusted with the preservation of, care of, and sharing of the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province. I don’t take that responsibility lightly. I have spent almost two years learning more about the commitment of the women of the CSJs who, since their beginning in Le Puy, France in 1650, have defined social justice in their own way. This is where I belong.
Consociate Retreat

By Andrea Pearson-Tande

On a blustery Saturday in November nearly 30 Consociates gathered at Koinonia Retreat Center for the annual Consociate Retreat. Every year, this is a time set aside to just spend time with one another in community and spiritual reflection. The theme for this year’s gathering was “Harvesting the Times of our Lives: Gleaning for the Future.” Over the course of our day together, we participated in group sharing, individual conversations, and solo reflection on our past and our hopes for the future. The Consociate Retreat is always a wonderful time for connecting to one another and taking time to reflect deeply together. Thanks to everyone who helped make this day a success, especially Barbara McIlquham of the Education and Spiritual Development committee.

Consociate Finance and Fund Development Listening Sessions

The November listening session focused upon the financial future of the Consocium and brought together about twenty Consociates. The conversation included a historical perspective of Consocium ideas regarding our financial future, the establishment of our Consociate Endowment Fund, the Consociate Operations Budget and a sharing of ideas about our financial future. We will continue this discussion in January. Please look for an announcement of the dates for these listening sessions in an upcoming Consociate email with a compilation of the thoughts shared at our November listening session. We would appreciate your involvement in these discussions in January.

Claiming Our Commitment Forms

Consociates and Consociate Candidates are reminded to submit their “Claiming Our Commitment” form in support of the Ministries Foundation of the Sisters of St. Joseph (if you have not already done so). The work of the Ministries Foundation is vital to so many in our communities who have profound needs. Please recall that the form describes many ways that we can be of support including volunteer opportunities and various ways of financial assistance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Olson Johnson at mrskmoj@aol.com.

I sincerely hope the year of 2020 brings you abundant blessings.

Karen Olson Johnson
Finance and Fund Development Key Area Lead
Consociate Leadership Collaborative
Sister Anna Goulet (1883 – 1983)

Sister Anna (Frances Delores) Goulet was born on February 16, 1883 in Hamel, MN. She entered the Novitiate in St. Paul on March 19, 1909 and professed final vows on August 15, 1916.

Sister Anna graduated from Holy Angels Academy (Old Holy Angels) in 1901. She taught for one year at St. Anthony in Minneapolis and in 1911 was missioned to the College of St. Catherine to teach music. She completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music/French/Italian/German at the College of St. Catherine in 1916 and a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1917 at Columbia University in New York, NY. She then went to the Chicago Musical College (which is now part of Roosevelt University) and completed her Master’s Degree (1923) and Ph.D. (1925) in Music.

Sister Anna spent her entire career at St. Catherine before retiring to Bethany Convent in 1971. During her long career, she published two books in 1937/38 entitled “Pageant of our Musical Heritage (vol. 1 and 2)” for the music appreciation course she taught at the College – these she dedicated to Mother Antonia. She became the first Sister member of the Music Teachers’ National Association, where she was asked to address the annual meeting in 1938 and, she wrote a Haiku honoring the altar of Mary in Our Lady of Victory Chapel (the altar stands, approximately, where wild roses bloomed prior to when the Chapel was built):

Wild blooms enameled
On Rose Hill (then); our wisdom,
Mystical Rose, now.
MINNESOTA CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE ETHICS

Facing a Complex Health Decision? MCHCE May Be Able to Help.

By Karen G. Gervais, Ph.D.
Director, Minnesota Center for Health Care Ethics

Since 1994, the staff of your Ethics Center has provided healthcare ethics-related education sessions, articles, and tools for the CSJ Community, inspired by the CSJ mission of social justice, as well as the ethical concerns of an aging community. For example, we have presented to you on such diverse topics as the Affordable Care Act and equitable access for all, health policy reform impacts on undocumented persons, advance care planning and advance directives, appointing and serving as an agent (your appointed healthcare decision-maker), palliative care and pain management, dementia, the POLST form, and frailty.

In addition, we have met with many of you individually and confidentially to help you prepare your advance directives, support you as agents, and be there to assist you in processing information for complex healthcare decisions if you have requested our participation.

Our purpose here is to emphasize that when a Sister faces a difficult decision among alternative healthcare interventions, we at the Center may be able to help you gather helpful information, and want to remind you of this. If a medical device, surgical intervention, or medication change is recommended, we may be able to access information that will help you understand the intervention, the results of relevant clinical trials, and the benefits, risks, burdens and quality of life impacts associated with some of your options.

At a minimum, we can help you formulate the questions you should ask your provider, so that you get information sufficient for you to make fully informed choices about the treatments offered to you. To be perfectly clear, the purpose of offering the Ethics Center’s assistance to you in sorting out a complex healthcare choice is NOT to advise you, but to provide you with information helpful to you in making your own informed, wise decision.

Let us give an example. Many people, as they age and are at risk for stroke, are prescribed a pharmaceutical product called a “blood thinner” in everyday language. Now, there are also surgically implantable medical devices developed for the same purpose – prevention of stroke. Device implantation, like any medical intervention, poses risks and potential benefits that need to be taken into account. Especially important is information about the outcomes of the device or the pill in cohorts of patients with similar health conditions. So there is a lot to learn before one can make an informed choice between the device or the pill.
CELESTE’S DREAM

The annual Empty Bowls Soup Social event, hosted by first-year The Reflective Women courses at St. Catherine University, took place on November 19 and invited students, faculty, staff members, and broader community members to gather and enjoy homemade soup made by Open Arms of Minnesota. The mission of Open Arms is to serve local community members who are battling life-threatening illnesses and provide them with medically focused and nutritionally tailored meals. The Soup Social has grown to be a successful and established event on campus, as over one hundred people attended and engaged with the mission of Open Arms.

Like Open Arms, the St. Kate’s food shelf serves all St. Kate’s students who are food insecure, thus addressing the immediate needs of hunger within our campus community. Because of our similar mission of ensuring equal access to three meals a day, the St. Kate’s Food Insecurity Project team had the opportunity to share their work and educate guests about the needs of the campus during the event. As the Empty Bowls project continues to grow and expand during spring 2020, our collective vision is to continue our partnership through the Sisters of St. Joseph community and Celeste’s Dream office to coordinate the education and outreach components of the event. The goal through this partnership is to create greater awareness surrounding food insecurity on campus and potentially incorporate funding for the St. Kate’s Food Shelf into the event.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

The Big Picture: Food Insecurity in Minnesota

*Nearly 1 in 10 households with children in Minnesota are food insecure - a population that is about equal to the cities of St. Paul and Minnesota combined.

*Almost two-thirds of students surveyed on a Minnesota college campus said they missed meals in the past semester due to food insecurity.

*Despite these high numbers, Minnesota has the sixth lowest food insecurity rate in the nation.

ST. CATHERINE UNIVERSITY FOOD SHELF

addressing hunger within the local campus community
Justice Office together with the Province Leadership Team have begun the process of hiring for a new Justice Associate in the Justice Office. Please hold this process in your prayers as we search for a candidate to help us in our collective work for justice.

Justice Commission has affirmed their goals for 2019-2020. We commit to:

- Refine and expand our actions and advocacy efforts for systemic change, especially through our participation in at least one advocacy Day on the Hill with a partnering organization or outside group.
- Follow through with at least one Legislative Advocacy Partners (LAP) Alert this year.
- Work together with other Working/Task Groups and/or partnering organizations on a justice activity.
- Be accountable to the process of assessing our Working/Task Groups in order to better inform the discussions on the reality of the structure of the Justice Commission.
- Extend the invitation and increase the engagement of the whole CSJ community (Sisters, Consociates, Friends of St. Joseph, SJW alumnae, the St. Kates community, and Partners in Mission) in actions for justice and advocacy.

Justice Commission has also affirmed the 2019-2020 goals of all the Working & Task Groups. These goals are now posted online Working or Task Group webpages.

The Justice Office reports that the: Justice Office together with the Province Leadership Team have begun the process of hiring for a new Justice Associate in the Justice Office. Please hold this process in your prayers as we search for a candidate to help us in our collective work for justice.

In Loving Solidarity with Our Dear Refugee and Immigrant Neighbors

The Immigration Working Group and the CSJ Ritual & Liturgy Services Office together with many members of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Consociates community gathered outside the Whipple Federal Building near Fort Snelling in St. Paul on November 12 for a special prayer vigil. We gathered together with the Social Justice Committee and Choir from Lumen Christi Catholic Community, students from St. Catherine University, and the Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM) in compassion and solidarity with all our ‘dear neighbors’ without distinction. The CSJ community raised our voices in prayer and song in love and on behalf of our immigrant neighbors, especially anyone facing hearings at the immigration court. We also prayed for migrant families separated by our nation’s broken immigration system.

On November 12, the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. began hearing arguments on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. We prayed for the Supreme Court Justices as they decide the fate of the thousands of DACA Youth across our country. In the words of Pope Francis, we also prayed that our eyes and hearts might be opened to truly see how these divisive issues on immigration are “not just about migrants, but about all of us.” St. Kate’s student senate president, Zaynab Abdi, shared moving remarks about her life experiences as a refugee, her finding a “home” at St. Kate’s, and her deep passion for the CSJ charism of love of dear neighbor without distinction.

In the words of one vigil participant, this vigil hosted by the CSJ community was “THE MOST MOVING vigil I have ever attended.” Another vigil participant commented, “Thanks to all who made our experience at Bishop Whipple [Federal Building] so well organized and meaningful... many of us want to do something and you make it possible!” Thank you to the CSJ Community for your continued prayers and support of our dear immigrant neighbors.

The Justice Office reports that the: Justice Office together with the Province Leadership Team have begun the process of hiring for a new Justice Associate in the Justice Office. Please hold this process in your prayers as we search for a candidate to help us in our collective work for justice.

Justice Commission has affirmed their goals for 2019-2020. We commit to:

- Refine and expand our actions and advocacy efforts for systemic change, especially through our participation in at least one advocacy Day on the Hill with a partnering organization or outside group.
- Follow through with at least one Legislative Advocacy Partners (LAP) Alert this year.
- Work together with other Working/Task Groups and/or partnering organizations on a justice activity.
- Be accountable to the process of assessing our Working/Task Groups in order to better inform the discussions on the reality of the structure of the Justice Commission.
- Extend the invitation and increase the engagement of the whole CSJ community (Sisters, Consociates, Friends of St. Joseph, SJW alumnae, the St. Kates community, and Partners in Mission) in actions for justice and advocacy.

Justice Commission has also affirmed the 2019-2020 goals of all the Working & Task Groups. These goals are now posted online Working or Task Group webpages.
Ministry Updates

www.csjstpaul.org/justice

JUSTICE

Justice Working Group Updates. The:

Anti-Human Trafficking Working Group invites you to join the Sisters of St. Joseph Congregation’s End Trafficking Committee and the CSJ Justice Office for an interactive, multi-location event called “Human Trafficking and Its Intersections with Pornography” on Saturday, January 4 at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Center’s Assembly Room.

Confronting Whiteness and Racism Working Group (formerly Dismantling Racism) invites community members to join us for carpooling to a special Rev. Martin Luther King Day film screening on the evening of Monday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m. at Penumbra Theatre for the film “I am Not your Negro” with discussion following.

The Group also hosted an engaging community conversation on “Dare to Move Beyond White Fragility” on December 3 with Consociates Mari Ann Graham and Donna Hauer. It was a great opportunity to challenge ourselves to go deeper, journey farther, and respond boldly to the issue of racism.

Criminal Justice Working Group invites you to the Carondelet Village Theater in early January to three FREE screenings of Hollywood film on Sr. Helen Prejean’s work, “Dead Man Walking,” at 1:30 p.m. on each of the following days in January: 9 (Thursday), 11 (Saturday), and 12 (Sunday). Also save the date for “Life and Death: Criminal Justice, Capital Punishment, and the Work of Sister Helen Prejean” on Thursday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Catherine University’s Ballroom (with live-streaming of the event in the CV auditorium).

Also plan to join the working group at the Second Chance Coalition’s Day on the Hill at the MN State Capitol on February 19.

Earth Partners Working Group discussed and completed the Working and Task Group Assessment and identified goals for the next year. A new goal is to advise on the development of the CSJ Province Sustainability Plan. Earth Partners look forward to a joint meeting with St. Kate’s Student Senate Sustainability Committee on February 17.

Gospel of Life Task Group is working with Carondelet Village to screen the film “Unplanned” in January. Watch for dates on notices in Carondelet Village.

Immigration Working Group encourages prayers at this time for the U.S. Supreme Court as they decide the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program. Also remember to pray for all immigrants and refugees this Immigrant Sunday, January 5.

Legislative Advocacy Partners (LAP) Working Group continues meeting with St. Kate’s students in various classes, engaging students in their social justice passions, and inspiring their actions, activism, and justice advocacy. LAP is also planning in the new year for a skills training open to the entire CSJ Community to better prepare us for more effective legislative visits as a part of 2020 Days on the Hill. Watch for more information about this training.

LGBTQ Connections Task Group are looking forward to bingo with RECLAIM, a nonprofit supporting queer and trans youth, sometime in the new year.

Native American Awareness Working Group hosted Minnesota Rep. Mary Kunesh-Podein at Carondelet Village on November 21. We were joined by CSJs, as well as students and faculty from St. Kate’s. Rep. Kunesh-Podein gave an update on the MN State Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women as well as sharing her other legislative successes and Issues close to her heart. We will continue to explore ways we can better advocate with, and for, the Native American Community.

The group was well represented at the Circle newspaper’s annual fundraising breakfast on December 13, 2019 which has been a part of the group’s tradition for several years.

The group partnered with our friends from the church of Gichitwaa Kateri on December 7 for a field trip to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community’s Hocokata Ti cultural center. More information about the museum can be found at https://shakopeedakota.org/culture/hocokatati/

Ritual Task Group invites you to the next peace prayer on Saturday, January 11, focusing our prayers on Trafficking Survivors. The prayer will be at 6:30 p.m. in Our Lady of Presentation Chapel.
SARAH’S... AN OASIS FOR WOMEN

The Best Feminists in Minnesota

Excerpts of a Commemorative Speech given by Sara Rabon (age 21) at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, on Thursday, December 5. Sara is the daughter of Martha West, Consociate and Community Relations Specialist at Sarah’s... an Oasis for Women.

The CSJs support women and others in need, minority communities unrepresented in their government, and victims of human trafficking. Sarah’s... an Oasis for Women, or Sarah’s, is a home for adult women of all backgrounds, of all histories, of all experiences to find safety and community. About 30 women at a time live in the home and grow in this warm community. The CSJs and the staff at Sarah’s help provide avenues for education at all levels, work visas, and legal help to gain citizenship. Since 1996, this small home in St. Paul has stood against alienation and for acceptance. According to Geneti, a former resident, “a home is the most basic need in human life.” I was provided “a home and food” at Sarah’s. This gave me healing in my broken heart.” Sarah’s is home to Geneti, and to other hurting women in Minnesota. Beyond Sarah’s, the CSJs manage a Legislative Advocacy Partners Working Group which partners with other organizations to fight for social justice. Those who work in the advocacy group promote emergency homes for the homeless, universal driver licenses, a task force for missing indigenous women, and other kinds of support. They have passion and faith for a better future in a world of uncertainty and doubt.

Despite how distant the idea of human trafficking may seem, Minnesota had the third-highest number of human trafficking cases in the USA. Women and men, young and old, citizen and immigrant, are dragged into some of the worst conditions a person could imagine when they are trafficked. Considering all we know about the CSJs, it comes as no surprise that they work to raise awareness and end human trafficking through the Anti-Human Trafficking Working Group. Sisters are active in public policy change, and provide education as well as support to victims. The CSJs work to bring viable solutions directly to those affected.

The CSJs are the best feminists in Minnesota! My Mother, as a CSJ Consociate, has brought their teachings into our home, and the CSJs have brought hope and faith to many Minnesotans, including me.

Sara Rabon, daughter of Martha West, Consociate and Community Relations Specialist at Sarah’s... An Oasis for Women.
LEARNING IN STYLE

Update from Learning In Style School

We continue to leverage strong community partnerships at our school. Recently, over 50 sixth graders from Blake School (a private, coeducational, nonsectarian PK-12 college preparatory day school located in Minneapolis) joined us in the classrooms. The LIS students interviewed the Blake students and then the Blake students interviewed the LIS students. The interview questions were structured around the three units that we’ve covered so far in class...sharing personal information, the classroom, and friends and family. Everyone did a great job and learned a lot from one another. Coming up, a number of seniors from Blake will be doing far more intense interviews with our students to understand what it was like to experience war. Only students who feel comfortable talking about this will participate.

We are also partnering with Metro Transit to coordinate student applications for reduced bus fares. We will hand out reduced fare bus cards to qualified students and teach them how to put money on their cards. And finally, we are partnering with the Court system. We are grateful to Bankruptcy Court Judge Fisher who talked to our students about budgeting, credit, money, saving and debt on November 25. Thank you Judge Fisher and colleagues. Happy New Year!
St. Joseph Workers

During the week of January 20, the St. Joseph Workers and staff will be on the US/Mexico border in McAllen, TX. We will be joined by SJWs and staff from the New York and Los Angeles locations.

Our week on the border will be spent working at a respite center in McAllen as well as crossing the border to work in either Reynosa or Matamoros, Mexico with migrants and asylum seekers who are staying on that side of the border. Our work is in coordination with S. Norma Pimental and the Diocese of Brownsville. We are looking forward to deepening our understanding of the immigration issue and the realities of current US policies as we work to meet the needs of our neighbors. When we return we hope to share with you some of our new insights, understandings and experiences.

The St. Joseph Worker Program wishes everyone a Blessed and Happy New Year!

SMHC UPDATE

With Gratefulness SMHC Receives Two Grants

The Otto Bremer Trust (OBT) has awarded a $65,000 grant to St. Mary’s Health Clinics for general operations to support free, culturally and linguistically appropriate health care, education, and outreach to low-income, uninsured families and individuals.

The Otto Bremer Trust, based in St. Paul, is a private charitable trust established in 1944 by founder Otto Bremer, a successful banker and community business leader. OBT owns 92 percent of Bremer Bank and also manages a diversified investment portfolio. The mission of OBT is to invest in people, places and opportunities in the Upper Midwest. Since its inception, OBT has invested more than $600 million in organizations throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, and western Wisconsin.

Medica awarded a $50,000 grant to support and expand mental health services for SMHC patients.
God of Life and of the Living
Hedgerow Spring 2020
Life, love, loss, death, hope—the common coin of human experience. The new season of Hedgerow features Gnostic scholar Elaine Pagels as she reflectively traces her own spiritual journey in her memoir *Why Religion?*. Lent features Elizabeth Johnson’s creative dialogue with the satisfaction theology of Anselm—that Jesus had to die for our sins, Creation and the Cross: The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril.

February Mondays 3, 10, 17, 24. Elaine Pagels struggles through loss as a parent, spouse, scholar, friend, and ever curious seeker for healing and hope. Why do we need religion? How do spiritual traditions sustain us—our rituals and prayers, our contemplative practices and generous actions for the good of others? Who sustains us, especially in pain, crisis, and loss—family, friends, spouses, communities of faith, Jesus, God?

March/April Mondays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 13, 20. Celebrate Lent and all creation this spring with fresh Easter theology. What do we make of Jesus’ death today? For nearly a thousand years Anselm of Canterbury (A.D. 1033-1109) has shaped the Western Church’s idea of God and the cross of Jesus, making God an abusive father who sends his son to die for our sins. Johnson’s book journeys from Anselm’s feudal interpretation into the life of Jesus’ resurrection in cosmic context. By Easter participants may be a new kind of Christian.

Instructors: Joan Mitchell, CSJ, PhD; Andrea Pearson Tande, MA; Rev. Barbara Lund, Colleen Carpenter, PhD, and other guest presenters.

Cost for CSJs and Consociates is: $120.00 for the twelve sessions or $12.50 per session.

Look for more information in the Wisdom Ways catalog or call Wisdom Ways at 651-696-2788. www.wisdomwayscenter.org.

Security Concerns

Please be aware of increased security concerns at Carondelet Center. Late last month, two women had their purses stolen off their shoulders while entering their cars after an event. The same week someone smashed a parked car window, taking and immediately using a stolen credit card. While these events occurred in Carondelet Center parking areas, we ask all on the CSJ campus to be especially attentive to security. Please consider placing your purse under your coat and having your car keys in hand before leaving the building. Do not leave items in your cars that would invite theft including purses, phones, electronics, etc. The Leadership Team is considering additional steps that might enhance campus security though each of us must do our part.
Friendsgiving Event Brings Together the St. Kate’s and CSJ Communities

By Jennifer Tacheny, Co-Director Celeste’s Dream

Clara Godoy-Henderson and Alma Silver, the Community Leader Interns working with Celeste’s Dream and the Justice Office, hosted a Friendsgiving meal for students and CSJ community members on Tuesday, November 19. Campus student organizations prepared various dishes such as roasted sweet potatoes, herbed lentils and homemade pumpkin pie. More than fifty people gathered for the shared meal and relationship building. Donations collected at the event went to support our St. Kate’s food shelf. Thank you to those who participated in this lovely Thanksgiving event that might just become a new CSJ/St. Kate’s tradition!

Epiphany Evening Prayer
Sunday, January 5, 2020 ~ 4:30 PM
Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel

Reflection will be offered by Susan Hames, CSJ
All are welcome ~ light reception to follow