The cry of the dear neighbor impels us to go deeper, to journey farther, to respond boldly and creatively.

*The world is waiting.*

- Congregational Chapter 2019
It’s hard to believe that we are already into the second month of 2020. We are in the midst of many things: the transition into the PACE program for our sisters, discernment for a new leadership team, and beginning our discernment process from our Chapter recommendation regarding our governance structure. This is over and above daily responsibilities of life and ministry. It’s a lot to carry within our hearts and minds especially in the midst of the winter blues.

In November I had the opportunity to travel on pilgrimage with our two novices for a 3 ½-week visit with our sisters in Peru. We lived mostly in Canto Chico with Sisters Anne Davis, Yolanda Arrisbasplata and Maria Elena Caceres; lived and worked among the people of their neighborhood. There were three concepts we kept bumping into whether we were with the children in the after-school program, walking to and from Mass in the evening, or gathered around the table enjoying delicious Peruvian food and sharing stories of our lives. Life was threaded with three concepts: compartir/sharing; acompañar/accompaniment; and comunidad/community. Perhaps these concepts might serve us well during these transitional times.

At any gathering, large or small, where people come together to share the events of their lives there is always a “compartir,” a sharing of a simple drink, cookie, meal, your time, or whatever you had. It was always important to share something to show your appreciation for their presence. We in Albany are known for our gracious hospitality that welcomes the Dear Neighbor from near and far. What about with one another? How do we share the loaves and fishes of our lives about what matters most? As our sisters on the A-wing transition into PACE, do we share a moment or two asking how it is going? If you live outside the PH, is there someone you could call or send a note to, letting them know you are supporting them as they live into new ways of doing things? As CSJs we always say it’s all about relationships. What’s the quality of our sharing with one another?

You always accompany a person in their time of need so they will feel that their presence is important. We are all in discernment to select our new leadership team. We have called forth specific sisters to consider the possibility of province leadership. How are we accompanying those who have generously chosen to keep their names in the process for consideration as team? How earnest are we in supporting these women with our prayer or sharing our concerns as well as our affirmations? In another note, when was the last time you sent your Senior Sister a note to let her know you are thinking of her? Valentine’s Day is coming, though any day is a good day to send a card or give a call. How do we make our presence and support known to one another so they know the blessings of community?

(continued on the next page)
Leadership Perspectives (cont’d)

Thus the third concept, comunidad. We have much to be grateful for when it comes to community on the local level, the congregational level and in our neighborhoods, country and world. How broad is our vision? Can we take a step back and consider the good of the whole as well as our own needs? Can we dare to think about the future for all as well as our own immediate needs? What steps can we take that will ensure our service to the Dear Neighbor well beyond our own lifetime?

So as we enter this month where we celebrate the many faces of love in this Valentine season, may it be the love of God that impels us to reach out to one another as we share, accompany and live community in the midst of all the transitions we experience. May we do so for the good of the whole and for the life of the world.

Summary of Minutes Province Leadership Team January 16, 2020

Opening Prayer Jeanne Marie Gocha led us in prayer.

Sean’s Contacts
We sent out the invitation to sisters who were Sean Peters’ contacts to choose another PLT contact. The team shared the names of those sisters they had heard from. Kate Arseneau agreed to obtain a listing of those sisters already heard from and then divide the remainder of those on Sean’s contact list among the five remaining PLT members.

March 1 Meeting on Chapter Directives
The team began a discussion as to the content and process of the meeting that will be held on March 1 regarding the 2019 Chapter Directives. Our preferred goal is that those who are gathered organize themselves in such a way that will enable collaboration so we may work smarter and better and not overlap with current committees and boards. Eileen McCann will contact other provinces to see how they are organizing themselves on this topic.

LCWR Nominations
LCWR requested nominations for president-elect and board members of LCWR. The team discussed possible sisters for both positions.

PACE Construction and Care
There are heating issues in several parts of the newly renovated spaces: An engineer was brought in to assess the situations and provide solutions. There are difficulties in securing the doors to each area of PACE. Kate Arseneau and the PACE district manager walked through each area to examine the problems. Both companies who are involved with securing these doors and providing access to these areas will be brought in to work together to solve these issues. The ramp outside the PACE entrance is now enclosed except for one area. As soon as the last window is in, the door will be moved and the heat will be turned back on.

The transition to PACE on floors 1A and 5A has gone well. We transferred our least needy sisters over to PACE first, so any issues could be worked out before we transition those who need more care.

Annual Visit for Province Justice Coordinator, Doreen Glynn
Sister Doreen Glynn called the team’s attention to the 10 Environmental Guidelines that the Congregational JPIC Team published in the recent edition of We Are Carondelet for January 14, 2020.

Province Boards/Committees
The HomeLand Committee is researching ways to be more conscious of purchasing materials at the PH and in local communities that are environmentally appropriate. The Emergency Relief Board had one request for rent support. The Justice Committee’s membership is growing. The Vocation Committee is meeting at the end of January. The Finance Board is still contacting a few sisters who have yet to make the necessary notifications to transition out of Bank of America checking account.

Sponsored Ministries
The College of Saint Rose continues to address long- and short-term implications of some financial strategies. At Shaker Pointe at Carondelet, Inc. marketing is doing an excellent job as indicated by the current occupancy rates. Shaker Pointe has 99 percent occupancy/reserved with deposit and Parkland has 60 percent. The team noted and commended Shaker Pointe’s board and administration for looking ahead and planning for the future. The Hospitality Center has almost completed the transformation of the Gurry Lounge. Danielle Futia is working with Tracy Needham to find a replacement during Danielle’s maternity leave.

Process Out
The meeting moved along well. It was good to have Jeanne Marie here in person.

Summary of Minutes Board of Trustees Meeting January 17, 2020

Opening Prayer Jeanne Marie Gocha led us in an opening prayer centering on peace, using a song by Sara Thomsen.

CFO Report
All of our investments (General, Ministry Fund, Restricted, Capital Campaign and Board Designated) are holding steady through December, 2019. The interest rate on our Line of Credit has decreased. Our IBM stock showed a modest gain. We have concluded the capital campaign and the results are even better than we had hoped. We compared our income and expenses between 2018 and 2019. Our income is down, mainly due to a decrease in salaries/stipends but our expenses are also down. Both the expenses for food and the Unidine service contract show a (continued on the next page)
BOT Meeting Minutes Summary
(continued)
decrease. Gurry funding to the Provincial House is also less in 2019 than in 2018. Our biggest expense is lay salaries, mainly in the nursing department. As always, Linda’s report was thorough with strong back-up material to support the numbers.

Leviticus Fund
The board voted to renew our $25,000 investment with Leviticus for another five years effective March, 2020. This is one of our alternative investments and we gain 2 percent interest on the fund. This group does good work funding business and housing projects for an underserved population.

Process Out
It was a short but productive meeting.

Well Done,
Good and Faithful Servant

Sister Margaret Louise Duffy
January 21, 2020

Sister Joan Geannelis
February 1, 2020

Sister Agnes Iten (SP)
January 6, 2020

Sister Judith Peters (LA)
January 19, 2020

Sister Charlotte Smith (SL)
January 25, 2020

Mark Amrod, brother of Sister Claudia,
January 29, 2020

Jon Van Deusen, brother of Sister Betsy,
January 30, 2020

Joseph Bonville, brother of Sister Margaret, January 31, 2020

CALENDAR: PROVINCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

February

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Joseph House Finance Meeting</td>
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<td>Shaker Pointe Executive Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>PLT Meeting</td>
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<td>Structures Subgroup Meeting</td>
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<td>13-14</td>
<td>The College of Saint Rose Board Meetings</td>
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<td>Gurry Board Meeting</td>
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<td>St. Mary’s Hospital Board</td>
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March

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<td>Selections Board Meeting</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Province Jubilees</td>
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Abbreviations

BOT = Board of Trustees
CHC = Carondelet Hospitality Center
CLG = Congregational Leadership Group
EM = Eileen McCann
JMG = Jeanne Marie Gocha
KA = Kate Arseneau
KE = Katie Eiffe
LRP = Long-Range Planning Board
MAH = Mary Anne Heenan
PACE = Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly
PEC = Mary Anne Heenan, Eileen McCann, and Katie Eiffe
SP = Sean Peters
Emergency Relief and Homeless Prevention Fund

by Sister Paul Kathryn Barno

Small grants can be requested to meet emergency needs (for example, telephone costs, transportation, prescriptions) or needs directly related to emergency shelter and housing (security deposit, rental supplement to prevent eviction, or utility payment). Grant requests must come from a CSJ/CSJ Associate and ordinarily are between $300.00-$500.00.

Usually, the board will not fund the same person more than once in a three-month period. Checks will be made out to the utility, landlord, or reimbursed to a house account.

To submit a request, please copy the form from our CSJ website and email the completed form to each of the following members of the Emergency Relief and Homeless Prevention Board:

- pbarno@csjalbany.org
- jcomerford@csjalbany.org
- mmastine@csjalbany.org
- karseneau@csjalbany.org (liaison)

We will do our best to be prompt in responding to each request.

Come View the Poignant, Powerful Film, Paris to Pittsburgh

by Sister Doreen Glynn

Our 2019 Congregational Chapter called us to bold conversation and prophetic action. Called together for the life of the world, we strive to be beacons of hope. Our Chapter Statement of Future Direction commits us to respond to the crisis of Earth and global warming.

The Congregational JPIC Team is working collaboratively to act on this commitment. We have four projects we putting into place. The first is to arrange a showing of the documentary “Paris to Pittsburgh” in each of our units some time before summer 2020.

In July 2017, President Trump announced his decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement, saying he was “elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris.” The mayor of Pittsburgh, William Peduto, immediately responded: “I can assure you that we will follow the guidelines of the Paris Agreement for our people, our economy and future.” Pittsburgh is one of the cities leading the fight on climate change and Mayor Peduto’s response inspired the title of this film.

“Paris to Pittsburgh” is a poignant and powerful documentary that shines a light on the many forgotten communities and people who have been affected by climate change in our country. It brings to life the impassioned efforts of individuals who are battling the most severe threats of climate change in their own backyards. It also shows solutions for how we can fight back and reduce our own carbon footprint. The film will be shown on Saturday evening, February 29, at 6:30 p.m. in Gurry Lounge at the Provincial House. Those who are around for Province Assembly, those who live at or near the PH and all others are encouraged to attend.

Hopefully, the film will challenge us to want to make changes in our daily life and to advocate our local, state and federal government representatives to act to combat climate change. The present crisis of Earth calls us to go deeper, journey farther, respond boldly and DARE TO BE PROPHETIC.

The following appeared in the Amsterdam Recorder in memory of Sister Mary Theresa Murphy on the anniversary of her death.

In loving memory of
Sister Mary Theresa Murphy
Who passed away on January 20, 2016

Sister Mary Theresa was the administrator of St. Mary’s Hospital, Amsterdam when St. Mary’s first started treating people who suffered with problems of alcohol and drug abuse. St. Mary’s is now recognized as the leader in the treatment of alcohol and drug addiction in the Tri-County area.

“Arise, my beloved one and come to see that winter is past, the rains are over and gone; the flowers appear on earth.”
—Friends of Sister Mary Theresa (submitted by MaryAnn Dignazio-Louison, CSJA)
Until the printing press was invented around 1480, all Bibles were handwritten and illustrated. Many of us have seen pictures of these wonderful illuminated manuscripts, most of them copied by monks.

Now a new edition of the Bible has been painstakingly written and illuminated, commissioned by St. John’s Abbey in Collegeville, MN. The St. John’s Bible, as it is called, is one of the very few handwritten and illuminated bibles in nearly 800 years. This work of art, fifteen years in the making, has been praised by artists and calligraphers throughout the world.

There are 300 of these Bibles printed. A volume of one of them is coming to our Provincial House in February, so that we may see it, engage in lectio and visio divina, and appreciate this rare masterpiece. The Bible volume containing the Gospels and Acts will be transported here early in the month. One of the events in the month will be a lecture and service on February 11. The speaker will be Jim Triggs, executive director, the Heritage Program St John’s Bible. It is the hope of St. Peter’s Health Care that our sisters, those participating in PACE and others of us in the Provincial House and area residences, will have opportunities to view and pray this wonderful document.

We are probably more familiar with the prayer known as lectio divina in which a passage of Scripture is read slowly. With some time for reflection, and rereading all or part of the passage, we may find a word or phrase “leaps out”at us. This opening of our heart can lead to prayer and even an action. We are not just reading, but praying the passage. Obviously observing the stunning calligraphy of the St. John’s Bible invites us to begin this reflective reading of the sacred word.

The striking illuminations in the St. John’s Bible offer another way of praying with this beautiful document. The name, visio divina, indicates this prayer form begins with viewing the deeply moving illuminations found in the manuscript. The original illuminations were drawn using pigments formulated to closely duplicate those used in earlier centuries. To look at the illustration, perhaps see even one detail which brings to life the Scripture portrayed, can allow us to hold that image as a starting point for our prayerful reflection, a moment that opens our heart.

Because of our partnership with St. Peter’s Health Care Partners and PACE, we are eligible to have this rare Bible in the PACE dayroom. The Bible is large—two feet tall by three feet wide, made of vellum and illustrated in amazing color as well as gold leaf. In commissioning the Bible, the monks of St John’s Abbey “seek to ignite the spiritual imagination of believers throughout the world.” The volume of the St. John’s Bible will be housed in a display case crafted by the husband of Sherri Wolken, PACE executive director.

Later in February, it will be possible to work out a schedule when those living outside the Provincial House can come to the Day Center to view this beautiful document. That schedule will be posted in the Thursday Updates.

**Sacred Scripture, Work of Art to Come to PACE Center at PH**

**by Sisters Kitty Hanley and Lucille Theroux**

**PH News and Views**

**by Sister Fran Gilchrist**

All the red and gold, pine branches and cones are snug in their post-Christmas storage and, of course, the Valentines are up already and the St. Patrick Green will follow shortly. The house always looks so alive!

There are some new faces (with medical-looking demeanors) around, checking room numbers and matching them to sisters who have an appointment with the PACE personnel! The program has begun for those of us in the PH who qualify, and we who have had an initial interview have found it pleasant. I personally found mine a very nice experience. In addition, the Activities Department of PACE has begun to offer various sessions (with some new games!). Using the brand new area is a very pleasing experience! I’ve heard only positive comments!

The Activities Department continues to arrange for regular as well as unusual events. There will be several viewings of the St. John’s Bible. (This is new to me. Google it for some good materials.)

The Culinary Club has become active again and has members swapping family recipes, producing them for the group and enjoying their parties.

A group made Valentines for children at the border. Sister Doreen Glynn assisted the creators by providing the appropriate Spanish phrases.

A few weeks ago the Activities Department presented a Tea Party planned around the family heirloom of Muna Hassan, one of the members of our Community Life Team. This Tea Set from Dubai is so ornate that one is apt to be fearful of using it! The accompanying cupcakes with an Alice in Wonderland theme were bakery-beautiful as well as scrumptious!

Tune in next month. This month is a bit short because I am recuperating!
Province Celebration of Jubilees
Provincial House, Saturday, March 14, 2020
Liturgy at 11:00 a.m., followed by dinner

Please complete the following and return to Sister Ranah Phelan by Monday, March 6.

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

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<th>Friday, March 13</th>
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I will need overnight lodging for the following:

_____ Thursday, March 12
_____ Friday, March 13
_____ Saturday, March 14

If overnight lodging is for more than one person, please list names. Thank you!

Overnight Lodging __________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

RSVP to rphelan@csjalbany.org at 518-783-3616.
Marion Waite, CSJA, Inducted into Rome School Hall of Fame

Congratulations to CSJ Associate Marion Waite who was one of five people inducted into the “I Love Catholic Education” Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Catholic Schools Association of Rome. Marion was honored February 8 at the Teugega Country Club, Rome. According to Marion’s citation:

“Marion’s education in a Catholic School began when her family moved to Rome in November of her freshman year. She is the oldest of five children of Mark and Martha Larkin (and sister of Sister Martha Larkin!).

“Born in Syracuse, Marion graduated from St. Aloysius Academy (SAA). At SAA she joined Sodality and the choir, and she enjoyed the Friday night dances. She was a cheerleader and served as vice president of her class in her junior and senior years.

“Marion remembers many wonderful teachers, especially Sister Margaret Patricia, CSJ, and Sister Vincent Gregory, CSJ. After graduation, she continued her Catholic education at St. Elizabeth’s School of Nursing. She also studied at Babies Hospital, Columbia Presbyterian in New York City. Marion was employed at Rome City Memorial Hospital from 1952 to 1987 in various positions.

“Marion was married to the late Paul Waite for 52 years. They raised a family of nine children, all graduates of St. Peter’s School and Rome Catholic High School.

“Marion was also a recipient of the diocesan Immaculata Award given by the bishop to persons very active in their parishes. At present, Marion is a volunteer at Rome Memorial Hospital, St. Mary's/St. Peter’s Altar Rosary Society, and In Mission of the Christ Child Food Pantry. She is also a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph Associate Program.”

Congratulations, Marion!

NEW CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM TAKES OFFICE

On Saturday, January 11, sisters, ACOF, partners in ministry and friends gathered in the chapel at the St. Louis Motherhouse for a ceremony celebrating our new Congregational Leadership Team. Celebrants began by thanking the outgoing team for their service and leadership and asked God to bless them with quiet time, strength and peace after a job well done. The incoming team, who planned the ceremony, shared the song “Dame, Señor, tu mirada,” which they said captured their prayer for the congregation: “Lord, grace me with your perspective imprinted on my heart. Give me your tender loving, your unflagging stride, your caring, life-giving touch.” The gathered crowd blessed the incoming team, asking God to provide them with the graces and gifts they would need in their work.

Welcome to our 2020-2026 CLT: Sisters Mary McGlone, Sally Harper, Therese Sherlock, Sean Peters and Patty Johnson.

Thanks to our outgoing (CLT): Sisters Mary Ann Leininger, Danielle Bonetti, Barbara Dreher, Mary McKay and Miriam Ukeritis!

ALMIGHTY
by Martha Murphy, CSJA

Gentle Master of Love
Calling peace to reign.
Comforter of the Fallen.

Creator of Life
Cherishing the desolate.
Immune to color.

Omniscient Leader

Embracing many worlds
and discarding no one.
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 initial to describe how/why it relates to our shared CSJ/CSJA charism and community. This month’s CSJA’s ABCs belongs to Albany Associate Marie “Re” Eckler.

**MORE.** Always strive for THE MORE in conjunction with our charism.

**AGING.** Aging with grace and wisdom in my seventh decade.

**EXTEND.** Extend myself to the Dear Neighbor in new ways with my diminishment (i.e., calling to church is with other homebound and elderly).

Three favorite writers for eager readers! Thanks, Pat Houlihan and Pat Conron.

**J.A. Jance.** Mystery. Complex plots, with two and sometimes three plot lines which blend in the solution. A sophisticated computer techie helps things along. Great reads!

**Jacqueline Winspear.** Mystery/adventure. Maisie Dobbs, a psychologist/investigator works and lives in the years following World War I. Maisie is a woman ahead of her time; she has an uncanny approach to solving mysteries.

**Linda Castillo.** Mystery. Kate Burkholder was raised Amish and treasures her past, although she left the community. Now she is Chief of Police in a small town with many Amish residents who both trust and suspect Kate as she is called to crime scenes. This series keeps getting better.

Keep suggestions coming! Readers will thank you.
On Saturday, March 14, 2020, thirty Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet from the Albany Province will celebrate at the Provincial House 80, 75, 70, 60, 50 and 40 years of religious life. The following are the province jubilarians for 2020 who share 1,940 years of service as Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet!
S. Kathleen Vail
60 years

S. Claire Weber
70 years

S. Marianne Bachr
60 years

S. Patricia Cairns
60 years

S. Marlene Castle
60 years

S. Patricia Conron
60 years

S. Elizabeth Cruger
60 years

S. Rita Jean DuBrey
60 years

S. Katharine Earley
60 years

S. Helen Leclerc
60 years

S. Judith Markert
60 years

S. Constance Messitt
60 years

S. Nora Ann Murtagh
60 years

S. Elizabeth Michele Newell
60 years

S. Maddie Pallotta
60 years

S. Carol Ann Peston
60 years

S. Linda Neil
50 years

S. Deborah Timmis
40 years
On January 3, some Albany Sisters of St. Joseph joined members of Capital Area against Mass Incarceration and other groups at a Candlelight Vigil for Clemency at the Governor’s Mansion in Albany. The sisters wanted to shine the light on the mass incarceration system and call on Governor Cuomo to light the way to justice by releasing people from prison who are elders, survivors, sentenced as minors, rehabilitated and low risk. Pictured are Sisters Fran Dempsey, Doreen Glynn and Marie Schuh.

During Catholic Schools Week, Sister Chris Pologa (lt) pastoral care and service director at St. Joseph’s Academy in Baton Rouge, LA, was honored at the Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Schools Week Mass for her 40 years of service in Catholic education: 30 years in New York State and ten years in Baton Rouge.

The Sisters at the PH and the staff of the Activities Department created 100 cards to send to the families seeking asylum and being detained in Mexico waiting for their court date. Team Brownsville will distribute the greetings at the Brownsville/Matamoros border. The event was coordinated by Sister Doreen Glynn. In the photo are Brittany Flannery from Activities and Sister Linda Vendetti.
It is time for me to bid farewell to my position as the executive director of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. It has been a wonderful 8.5 years. Having been elected to the Carondelet Congregational Leadership Team, my last day at the Federation was December 31. I cannot begin to tell you how deeply this work has impacted me. I am enriched by the many meaningful relationships I have formed. We have accomplished so much together.

I am especially proud of our Leaders as Leaven program, the movement of our archives to Avila University, (I am very fond of the Talks and Speeches section where so many great presentations from our past are available online.), and our corporate voice statements done in collaboration with LCWR. These have provided a vehicle for timely reactions to the justice issues of our times.

Our programs, which help us grow in living our spirituality and charism, are being delivered in new ways. We are shifting our resources to make them more available to our membership in recognition of their changing needs. This can be seen through our TIM (Together in Mission) talks, “Justice through the Eyes of the Charism” reflections which include questions for group discussion, regional workshops, our resource and prayer sections on our website, and much more.

I am very excited about our membership expanding to include agrégées, associates, partners in mission, the St. Joseph Worker community and others who share the charism as full members. This offers us great hope for the future.

I am especially grateful for the relationships with the international Sisters of St. Joseph with whom I have worked. Our Federation mission statement says that we embrace unifying love for the transformation of the world; I know that my life has been transformed through this work.

The second volume of the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the United States is almost ready to go to print. I have enjoyed reading the chapters as Sister Mary McGlone has finished each one and I am sure you will enjoy the book when it becomes available.

My small role with the Federation Novitiate has enabled me to develop relationships with the women who are joining our congregations. I truly value the time we have spent together.

I am very happy about our support groups for novice directors that the Unified Vision for Lifelong Formation, approved by the Leadership Assembly in 2016, has been implemented and is in the process of being evaluated for its effectiveness, as well as the four-part series for associate directors.

The Conrad N. Hilton grant that we received allowed us to train 125 Sisters of St. Joseph from around the world on Cultural Diversity and Conflict Management in Le Puy, France and an additional 12 online. The curriculum, developed by an international team of our sisters, produced statistically significant change in the participants who are now using the program back in their own country. Two professional papers on the impact of this program have been presented at professional conferences and will be published in professional journals this year. We have seven sisters prepared to offer this program across our Federation.

Our international efforts at the United Nations and the International Center continue to forge strong bonds among all who share the charism around the world. Our website is currently being revamped to make it more attractive and user-friendly. We use social media, a monthly electronic newsletter, and a new members-only resource area to keep our members fully informed of what is happening across the U.S. Federation. We have an electronic database, Breeze, that makes communication easier.
Q & A with Our New Executive Director of the U.S. Federation

On January 1, 2020, Sister Maryellen Kane assumed the role of executive director of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Get to know more about Sister Maryellen who has worked with the United Farm Workers (the union originally started by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta) and co-founded houses of hospitality that have spread throughout New York City and the surrounding area. As she looks forward to bringing her community organizing skills to the U.S. Federation, read more about what brought her to this new path.

What ministries have you previously been involved in?

Sister Maryellen: For the past 15 years, I served as parish life coordinator at the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene in Queens, New York City. Before that, I served as pastoral associate in a number of parishes in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

From 1994 to 2000 I was a member of the leadership team of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, N.Y., coordinating their office of Mission and Ministry. During this time, I served as a member of the national board of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and chairperson of the New York State Conference Region 2. Additionally, I served on the Advisory Board of the N.Y. State Labor and Religion Coalition, National Advisory Board for New Ways Ministry, and the Governing Board of the U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph.

Since 1982 I have had extensive practical experience and training in community organizing, including Industrial Areas Foundation National Training and mentoring and supervision in action and strategies. While serving on the pastoral team at St. Barbara Parish in Bushwick, Brooklyn, I was a leader in East Brooklyn Congregations. While on the staff of the Intercommunity Center for Justice and Peace (in conjunction with the Industrial Areas Foundation), I worked with local churches to develop broad-based community organizations in the South Bronx, East Harlem and the westside of Manhattan.

In 1978, along with three other sisters, I cofounded Providence House Inc., houses of hospitality for homeless, abused, and formerly incarcerated women and their children. I lived as a core member in three different Providence Houses for 18 years.

My professional life began as a teacher in elementary schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn. I served for 4 years as an organizer with the United Farm Workers in California and Florida.

What are some of your passions?

I think the things that I have the greatest passion for come from the two great influences of my life. I was a teenager during the time of both Vatican II and the Civil Rights movement. Our religion teachers in high school used the documents of Vatican II as our textbook. The understanding of the Church as the people of God and the universal call to holiness were particularly important to me. The desire to share this vision of Church with others led me to get a degree in pastoral ministry and to work for many years in parishes where we could make this vision a reality.

Of equal influence was the Civil Rights movement. I was very involved as a young person in local civil rights activities. When I was a sophomore in high school, two sisters from the Brentwood congregation answered the call from Dr. King and went to march in Selma, Alabama. One of those sisters was my religion teacher, Sister St. Thaddeus. When the sisters returned from Selma, the students were invited into the gym to hear the sisters speak of their experience and why it was important that they went to Selma. It was on that day that I decided that I wanted to be a Sister of St. Joseph.

I think these two influences led me to understand the passion of my life to live the love of God and neighbor without distinction.

How have you previously been involved in the Federation?

I have had wonderful experiences with the U.S. Federation that have enriched my religious life. In the years 1994 to 2000, while serving on the leadership team of my congregation, I was a member of the Governing Board of the U.S. Federation. I spent two summers studying our foundations at the Bearers of the Tradition Program. Along with Sister Dolores Clerico (Philadelphia), I gave several presentations to the Atlantic Region of the Federation. I was a mentor at one and presenter at all three cohorts of the Leaders as Leaven program. I recently served on one of the subcommittees in the organizational audit process of the Federation and at the request of Sister Patty Johnson, the former executive director of the U.S. Federation, gave the first Together in Mission (TIM) talk for the Federation. I was also blessed to have attended two different programs at the International Center in LePuy, France.

What made you apply for the position of executive director?

I was encouraged to apply for the position of executive director by my great love of and appreciation for our collective charism of active inclusive love. More (continued on the next page)
than ever as militarism, terrorism and racism tighten their grip on our way of life, we need to support each other in the task of unconditional love. This moment in history requires us more than ever to not just talk of, but also to realize the power that we have in our relationships. In a society fueled by the politics of difference, where some people are valued more than others, and some are not valued at all, unity and reconciliation are in great need. I see the Federation as the vehicle through which we can join with others in the healing of a broken world and broken lives.

What are you most looking forward to in your new role as executive director?

I believe in the power of relationships and believe that the U.S. Federation’s commitment to expand its membership and widen its tent is the opportunity and challenge of this time in our history. During my years in ministry, I have been blessed to work with people of different races, cultures and faith traditions. All these relationships have enriched my life and helped me to look at life and situations from various perspectives. I have had extensive training and experience in community organizing, which is really the art of building public relationships. I have seen the power of these relationships bring about real change in the public arena. I bring that experience to the role of executive director. I look forward to developing new relationships here in the United States. I am also excited about continuing to expand our relationships internationally.

Federation NGO Participates in Affordable Housing and Social Protection Plan to Address Homelessness Internationally

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that housing is a human right. Despite this, there is no accurate, up-to-date census of global homelessness. The current rough estimate is that 100 million people are experiencing homelessness globally.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) are all directly tied to the issues of sustainable housing and global homelessness, yet there is no agreed upon international definition of homelessness.

The lack of an internationally agreed-upon definition of homelessness has fed into the failure of the ability to accurately assess the scope of the issue.

The 58th Session of the Commission on Social Development (CSocD) to be held at the United Nations in New York, this month, with its theme “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness,” will attempt to address some of these issues.

The UN NGO Congregations of St. Joseph has been involved with this effort in several ways. Jacqueline Witwicki, our intern for this year, has been supporting this cause through her contributions to the Working Group to End Homelessness.

As an NGO, the Congregations of St. Joseph support the 58th Civil Society Declaration which will be finalized during the Civil Society Forum which is held during the Commission Meeting. This declaration points to the importance of universally adopting a single definition of homelessness and endorses that of the Nairobi Expert Group on Ending Homelessness: “Homelessness is a condition in which a person or household lacks habitable space with security of tenure, rights and ability to enjoy social relations, that is a manifestation of extreme poverty, growing inequalities and the failure to implement earlier decisions on social protection systems and human rights.” It also calls for standard, agreed-on metrics for data analysis and collection in relation to homelessness that specifically focus on gender and other intersectional demographics.

Outside of preparing for CSocD, the Congregations of St. Joseph have participated in a variety of events to learn more about the issue of global homelessness. In one of these events, The World’s Biggest Sleep Out, more than 60,000 people slept outside for one night in over 50 cities to raise funds and awareness.
Sister Margaret Louise Duffy, 89, died Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at the Provincial House. She had been a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet for the past 68 years.

Sister Margaret, the former Mary Louise Duffy, was born in Syracuse on August 19, 1930, daughter of the late James and Georgia Louise May Duffy. After graduating from St. Vincent de Paul High School in Syracuse, she worked as an operator for the New York Telephone Company. On March 19, 1952, Margaret entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Troy and professed final vows on August 15, 1959.

Sister Margaret received a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a master’s degree in speech and hearing, both from The College of Saint Rose.

For the first 17 years of her life as a Sister of St. Joseph, Margaret taught in schools of the Albany and Syracuse Dioceses. In 1971, she began an 18-year career as director of the Syracuse Diocesan Apostolate for the Deaf and also taught religious education at the New York State School for the Deaf in Rome. In 1989, Margaret was appointed treasurer of the Albany Province, a position she held for 8 years. For the next 16 years, she was a pastoral associate and then a volunteer in St. Mary’s Parish, Ballston Spa. In 2013, Margaret retired to St. Joseph’s Provincial where she served in the archives.

Sister Margaret was a pragmatic, matter-of-fact woman: direct yet respectful, straightforward yet kind, strong of mind yet tender of heart. In her service as teacher, treasurer and parish associate, Margaret’s reliable work ethic, combined with her wry sense of humor and sincere care for people, led her to effective and fulfilling ministries. However, it was her nearly two decades as director of the Diocese of Syracuse’s Apostolate for the Deaf that brought Margaret the most joy. In the tradition of the first six Sisters of St. Joseph who traveled in 1836 from Lyon, France to St. Louis, MO, to instruct the deaf, Margaret trekked the various regions of the Syracuse Diocese, assisting parishes, hospitals and educational facilities in welcoming and providing services for persons who were deaf or hearing impaired. In addition, her years of providing religious education to Catholic students at the NYS School for the Deaf fueled Margaret’s passion and energy for her ministry as it created a faith-sharing experience for her students and herself.

During Margaret’s Mass of Christian Burial, held at the Provincial House on January 24, Father Geoff Burke spoke about the Scripture readings as they related to her life. Both the readings from Isaiah and Paul speak of God’s promise to be with us on the journey and to give us what we need for each “task.” Margaret trusted God’s promise and went from ministry to ministry bolstered and strengthened by that belief. In John’s Gospel, the story of the Last Supper, Jesus reaffirms his love for the disciples and reminds them to love one another. Margaret brought God’s faithful love to so many through her generous and steadfast service.

Sister Margaret is survived by her cousins, Jeffrey Pierce, William Gallagher and Russell May and their families, and many dear friends.

Dear Margaret, may the angels welcome you to paradise!
CSJ Associate Nancy Lee Sweeney, 92, died on the evening of December 21, 2019.

Born in Binghamton on October 16, 1927, Nancy was the youngest of three children born to Joseph and Mary Lee Sweeney. In 1946, Nancy graduated from Binghamton Central High School and shortly thereafter, pursued a nursing degree in New York City. Upon graduation with a bachelor of science degree in nursing, she cared for the sick and mentally ill as a registered nurse at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

When Nancy retired, she returned to Binghamton and continued helping others in need through various positions at: The Nearly New Shop (run by the greater Binghamton chapter of The Ladies of Charity, a religious organization whose roots go back to 17th century France when it was founded by two saints to meet the needs of the destitute); St. Patrick’s Church Food Pantry; The Board of Elections; and The Binghamton Free Clinic.

Nancy was a member of St. Patrick’s Church and the Ladies of Charity and a director at large for The New York State Nurses Association.

Nancy’s compassion extended to helping animals by adopting rescue dogs, giving them love and a good home.

Nancy is survived by her special friend, Margaret Gallagher of Binghamton; her sister-in-law, Ruth Dambousky Sweeney of Binghamton; and several nieces and nephews and their families.

Nancy was predeceased by her parents; her sister, Esther; and her brother, Norman J. Sweeney.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Nancy at St. Patrick’s Church, Binghamton.

CSJ Associate Mary C. Cooney reflected on Nancy’s life: “When I first joined the CSJ Associated as an observer, I would find Nancy volunteering all over. At St. Patrick’s, she lectored, was a Eucharistic minister, and made sandwiches for people who came to the door hungry. When I went to the Nearly New Shop, Nancy was there taking donations, hanging them on racks or boxing out-of-season items and hauling them down to the basement for storage.

“Beside people, Nancy’s heart went out to shelter dogs. She always had a dog and all of them were rescue dogs. She encouraged others to do the same.

“When Nancy became a patient in the Good Shepherd Nursing Home, I had a chance to tell her how I had taken her example. She smiled.

“Nancy enjoyed a good time with good friends, and the St. John Vianney Club made that possible. They prayed, enjoyed refreshments and played cards. Nancy enjoyed keeping busy and being productive.

“Nancy could be a force to be reckoned with. One thing she could not abide was a meeting, Mass or any other event that did not begin on time. She would point to her watch very ostentatiously to bring attention to the time. When Nancy felt strongly about something, it was obvious!

“Nancy may have passed on, but I am sure she is still reaching out to the poor and needy to relieve their suffering. She loved our Lord and his creation and her own work on their behalf continues. I can’t imagine Nancy resting on her laurels!”
GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING A PROPOSAL FOR STEP FUND  
Spring 2020

In preparing your proposal, we ask that you include the following information, using this format:

1. Description of organization and copy of IRS 501c3 tax-exempt verification letter
2. Description of specific project(s) or service(s) to be funded
3. Description of how this project fulfills at least one of the following criteria:
   a. Relief from oppression of the economically poor
   b. Development of leadership among the poor
   c. Promotion of institutional change, whether in the United States or in the global society (A proposal that addresses a policy change; a proposal that provides money for a clean water system; a proposal that addresses immigration needs).
4. Project/Agency Budget
   a. Submit a budget for requested project(s) or service(s) which includes such itemized areas as personnel expenses, operating expenses, etc.
   b. Be specific as to how this budget fits into your agency’s overall operating budget.
5. A listing of other significant sources of funding, if not already indicated in the budget
6. If the applicant is not a Sister of St. Joseph or CSJ Associate from the Albany Province, a letter of sponsorship by an Albany CSJ or CSJ Associate must accompany the proposal.
7. If you wish, you may also include additional materials to support your application (e.g. program brochures, newspaper articles, etc.).
8. The form and guidelines from the current year needs to be used.
9. If the agency receives a grant, an accountability form needs to be completed.

We strongly encourage those submitting proposals to contact STEP board members if you have questions about preparing or resubmitting a proposal. Proposals are reviewed with the following considerations in mind:

1. Degree of involvement of a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet or CSJ Associate
2. Degree to which this project or service promotes authentic systemic change that is consistent with the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Acts of Congregational Chapter 2001
3. The number of persons who will ultimately be reached or influenced by this project or service
4. Clarity of materials submitted
5. Degree to which this agency or service is likely to be funded by other sources as well as efforts of agency to seek a variety of sources of funding. STEP funds are intended primarily to help meet the needs of deserving agencies that are in serious financial need, who are unlikely to receive funds from a variety of other grants or donors, or who are in need of start-up or seed funding as they increase their base of support. While agencies may reapply if they have already received funding, the STEP fund is not intended to be the source of regular support for an agency over an extended period of time.
6. Degree of accountability to STEP Board and Sisters of St. Joseph if agency has received prior STEP funding.
7. In the overall BUDGET, please list what specific items will be funded by the STEP money.
8. Clearly write in sentence/paragraph form what portion of your proposal will utilize the STEP funds.
9. Clearly state the specific outcomes of this proposal.
10. Proposals that are not submitted by April 1, 2020 will not be accepted.
FUND FOR SYSTEMIC TRANSFORMATION FOR THE ECONOMICALLY POOR (STEP)

Proposal Cover Sheet
(Please duplicate as needed.)

1. Name of Person(s) Submitting Proposal __________________________________

2. Name of CSJ Sponsor __________________________________

3. Name/Mailing Address of Agency __________________________________

4. Name of Program or Project __________________________________

5. Amount Requested __________________________________

6. Proof of Tax-Exempt Status (copy of IRS 501c3 verification letter) __________________________________

7. Have you ever received prior funding from the Sisters of St. Joseph, Albany Province?

_____Yes  _____No

8. If you have answered yes, please list date(s) and amount(s) received.

In preparing your proposal, please refer to the accompanying guidelines. Limit your entire proposal and additional supportive materials (including cover sheet) to no more than ten pages. Please do NOT send the proposal via return-request mail as this will slow up the process. Submit six complete copies of the proposal to the following address no later than April 1, 2020.

Sister Patricia St. John, CSJ
Sisters of St. Joseph
52 Peyster Street
Albany, New York 12208

If you need additional information, call 518-482-2542.
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LAUDATO SI REFLECTION

Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. Recognizing the reasons why a given area is polluted requires a study of the workings of society, its economy, its behavior patterns, and the ways it grasps reality. Given the scale of change, it is no longer possible to find a specific, discrete answer for each part of the problem. It is essential to seek comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems. We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature. (Laudato Si 139)

PH RETREAT 2020

The week of June 22

Theme: “Three Women of Faith”

Presenter: Fr. Thomas Berardi

Come along on the journey and meet Sarah, Hagar and Mary in some new and exciting ways, and be inspired by their witness to faith!

Fr. Tom is a retired priest of the Albany Diocese. He was ordained in 1976 and retired in 2016. He has given days of retreat at parishes, convents and at the Dominican Retreat House.

The cost of the retreat is $550 for those who do not live at the PH.

Please call (518-389-2475) or e-mail cwhimple@csjalbany.org if you would like a registration form.

Torn Fabric by Marion C. Honors, CSJ (submitted by Mary Lou Dolan, CSJ for the HomeLand Committee)