“Perhaps the most cordial charity of Joseph was that he loved the future of God
enough to dream, to attend to the voice of God in the present moment
and to move with God into the future.
We who share the Joseph charism can do no less.”
—Miriam Therese Larkin, CSJ
One of the most frequent questions anyone of us in leadership gets these days is “How many days left?” Every time that question is posed to me, I reply that I am trying to live in the present moment. The operative word in that sentence is “trying.” It is always difficult, I think, to discipline one’s self not to think ahead, especially if the present is challenging or painful or if some great vacation or event awaits us. And human nature being what it is, the temptation to look back and rue one’s mistakes is ever present. Then again, that might just be an Irish thing!

To be sure, we are conscious of our term coming to an end. We mark with mixed emotions the “last time” of everything. We have attended our last CLG meeting. This is my last leadership article for CE. Last August we attended our last LCWR Assembly and in November we were blessed at the Federation Leadership Assembly as one of the outgoing leadership teams. We have one Province Assembly left to plan for and lead. The list goes on.

In this month of March, it is difficult not to think ahead to our St. Joseph Day celebration where we will fete our thirty jubilarians for this year! It is tempting to muse about celebrating the high holy days of St. Patrick and St. Joseph instead of focusing daily on the readings for Lent. March is also the month that ushers in spring and daylight savings time. What beauty of winter might we be missing if we yearn for that future? Do we miss a message about darkness that we need to hear as we long for the extra light that arrives with the change in time?

Our Ash Wednesday reading from 2 Corinthians reminds us that “Now is the acceptable time; now is the time of salvation.” Sister Melanie Svoboda, SND, in her very short reflection for Ash Wednesday, found in Living with Christ, tells us that salvation comes in every now of our life. She suggests that if we string together enough nows well-lived, we will have a well-lived life! Melanie further suggests that Lent is a good time to try to live in the present.

My resolution for our last few months in leadership is to continue to strive to live in the present, to live the now. We on leadership often talk about the blessings and graced moments of these past six-and-a-half years. By living in the now, we will be assured of not missing any of the graces we are meant to receive these last few weeks. By living in the now, we will assure that the duties we are to complete will be done.

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

I echo Melanie’s challenge for each of us. Let’s use this Lent to try to live in the present, so that none of us misses the graces that will be put before us.

By the way, as I write this we have 154 days left! Ergo, we have 154 days of now to gather the graces and celebrate the blessed moments. Our God is good!

Summary of Minutes
Province Leadership Team
February 11, 2020

Opening Prayer
Sister Eileen led us in prayer with the theme of “God is love.”

Review of Goals
We discussed the transition into PACE and are pleased with how our planning has provided for a smooth changeover. In addition, we continue to address our goal of good communication by meeting with our sisters and employees about our projects in process.

Selections
Sister Eileen shared the latest information on the selection of the new Province Leadership Team.

Ad Hoc Committee on Earth Request
Sister Lin Neil sent the PLT a copy of a commitment for a Planet Change Initiative. We agreed to endorse this initiative as individuals and as the Province Leadership Team.

Albany Province Policy Book
Sister Katie presented those few sections of the policy book that we still needed to review. We discussed and approved these sections. Except for a few editorial items, the Policy Book is now complete.

Studio Use
We updated the expectations for Sisters using the Studio for overnight stays.

Facilities Director Annual Visit
Dave Bousquet, Facilities Director, joined us for his annual meeting with the PLT. A recent incident pointed to a gap in our communication with PACE regarding incident reports. We will bring this up at a future PACE meeting. Dave would also like to put additional cameras outside the house. We agreed. Dave updated us on the new condenser tank that we needed to purchase for the boiler house which was not in the budget but was necessary. Dave brought us up to date on the personnel shortage in his area. The PLT thanked Dave for his good work in keeping the PH building functioning properly.

Congregational Leadership Group
We took time to prepare for CLG, reflecting on some of the issues that will be addressed at the meeting.

Technology
Don, IT Director, has created a new form for a request for AV services. We reviewed the form and made a few suggestions.

PACE Construction
Sister Kate shared an update on the PACE construction. The punch list is getting smaller and smaller and we have solved the major issues for heating. We have a clearer picture of supplies that will be ordered by SJPH and those ordered by PACE.

Boards and Committees
Sister Eileen reported on the recent Justice Committee meeting. The committee members were happy with the Peace Retreat and also the response to the Valentine card program for the people at the border. The Agenda Committee has met and organized the agenda for the next Assembly. The Finance Board has begun the budget process for 20-21. The Vocations Committee met to plan the gathering of the girls from Our Lady of the Assumption. The Emergency Relief Board granted an award for an employee.

Sponsored Ministries
The February Board meeting at The College of Saint Rose will take place on February 13 and 14. At Shaker Pointe at Carondelet, Inc. occupancy is at 98%. Parkland is at 60% occupancy with another 14% reserved. Friday, October 14, is Danielle’s last day at the Carondelet Hospitality Center before her maternity leave. Substitute directors are engaged for the duration of Danielle’s leave.

Report Review
The team reviewed reports from the Community Life Team, Facility Services, Mission Integration, Network Administrator, Risk Management, Unidine Lifestyles and Vocations.

Summary of Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 12, 2020

Opening Prayer
Sister Eileen McCann led us in prayer.

CFO Report
The board reviewed our investment portfolio through January 30, 2020. The market value has increased each month since October 2019 despite withdrawals to cover expenses in each of those months.

The board also reviewed:
1. The income and pledges received for the capital campaign and the withdrawals to date for expenses.
2. The performance and activity of the Patrimony Fund.

Linda Birochik, CFO, presented the preliminary income and expense report thru December 2019. Because our meeting was early in February, the January report was not available. We noted that our revenue for December 2019 was less than in December 2018 and our expenses and losses were also less. The lower revenue was due in part to a decrease in sisters’ salaries and benefits and a decrease in Social Security income. This is not surprising since we are fewer in number with fewer sisters earning. At December 31, 2019, our overall expenses were in line with the approved budget.

(continued on the next page)
Partners for the Common Good
We receive interest from our investment with Partners for the Common Good. Partners for the Common Good would like us to gift this interest back to them. We did this only once before in 2018 for a specific project. Everyone agreed that Partners for the Common Good does good work. After some discussion, a motion to gift back this interest was unanimously approved.

Well Done,
Good and Faithful Servant

Sister Joan Geannelis
February 1, 2020

Sister Marie Louise Matt (SP)
February 13, 2020

Sister Teresa John Zilch (SL)
February 15, 2020

Sister Aline Mohrhaus (SL)
February 15, 2020

Theodore (Ted) Mauger, nephew of Sister Phyllis

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Formoza, niece of Sister Mary Ellen Schopfer

---

**Bot Meeting Minutes Summary (continued)**

**Calendar: Province Leadership Team**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Risk Management Committee Meeting</td>
<td>KE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Selections Board Meeting</td>
<td>EM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>HomeLand Committee Meeting</td>
<td>KA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Joseph House Board Meeting</td>
<td>KA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>PLT Meeting</td>
<td>PLT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>BOT Meeting</td>
<td>BOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Province Jubilees</td>
<td>PEC, KA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Shaker Pointe Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>EM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Forum</td>
<td>KA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Structures Subgroup Meeting</td>
<td>EM, KE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s Day</td>
<td>EM, MAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-27</td>
<td>Vacation</td>
<td>EM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Diocesan Task Group Meeting</td>
<td>EM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Board Meeting</td>
<td>MAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Province Agenda Committee Meeting</td>
<td>KA, KE, MAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Shaker Pointe Meeting</td>
<td>KA, MAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-4/2</td>
<td>LCWR Region 2</td>
<td>PEC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Province Agenda Committee Meeting</td>
<td>KA, KE, MAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Long-Range Planning Board Meeting</td>
<td>PEC, KA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Joseph House Finance Meeting</td>
<td>KA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>Retreat</td>
<td>KA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

---

O Wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

- Percy Bysshe Shelley
Congratulations to Our 113 Congregational Jubilarians!

Congratulations to all of the sisters who celebrate jubilee in the congregation this year! Our 113 jubilarians share 7,210 years of bringing God’s unifying love to our world!

85 Years
Anne Gertrude Fitzgerald, CSJ (LA)

80 Years
Alice Roberta Benzing, CSJ (A)
Mary Frances Horan, CSJ (LA)
Teresa Marie McIntier, CSJ (LA)
Florine Provencher, CSJ (SP)

75 Years
Margaret Bonville, CSJ (A)
Miriarn Clare Burkett, CSJ (LA)
Marilyn Hayes, CSJ (A)
Roberta Houlihan, CSJ (SL)
Kathleen Maier, CSJ (LA)
Elizabeth Anne Malone, CSJ (LA)
Kathleen Martin, CSJ (LA)
Catherine Roberta Metsker, CSJ (A)
Mary Pauline Oetgen, CSJ (SL)
Mary Catherine Rich, CSJ (A)
Virginia Ross, CSJ (SL)
Helen Louise Williams, CSJ (SL)

70 Years
Mary Ruth Beale, CSJ (A)
Mary Calder, CSJ (SP)
Ann Chamblin, CSJ (SL)
Mary Charity Dalton, CSJ (SL)
Dorothy Daly, CSJ (SL)
Mary Ann Donovan, CSJ (SL)
Julie M. Eigo, CSJ (A)
Beverly Ann Flynn, CSJ (LA)
Mary Fowler, CSJ (SP)
Rosemary Hock, CSJ (A)
Marianne Johnson, CSJ (LA)
Mary Denise Linehan, CSJ (A)
Mary Elena Lopez, CSJ (LA)
Anne Estelle McGurl, CSJ (LA)
Betty McKenzie, CSJ (SP)
Jeanne Rene Mercier, CSJ (SL)
Therese Martin Merla, CSJ (LA)
Jean Vianney Mindak, CSJ (SL)
Maria Dolores Muñoz, CSJ (LA)
Genevieve Therese Murphy, CSJ (A)
Maria Charles Norton, CSJ (A)

Carmen Paas, CSJ (LA)
Rose Irene Parkhurst, CSJ (A)
Rose Mary Rooney, CSJ (SP)
Richard Joseph Sagadin, CSJ (SL)
Louise Michele Sommer, CSJ (SL)
Kathleen Thomas Vail, CSJ (A)
Mary Nicholas Vincelli, CSJ (SP)
Catherine Agnes Wagner, CSJ (SL)
Claire Weber, CSJ (A)
Barbara Joseph Wilson, CSJ (LA)
Josephine Eva Winkeler, CSJ (SL)
Betty Wurm, CSJ (SP)

65 Years
Betty Conrad, CSJ (P)
Mary Ellen Foster, CSJ (SP)
Jacqueline Lawson, CSJ (SP)
Jane McDonald, CSJ (SP)
Dolore Rochon, CSJ (SP)
Marie Shaun Walter, CSJ (SP)

60 Years
Marianne Baehr, CSJ (A)
Rosario Bobadilla, CSJ (SL)
Patricia Cairns, CSJ (A)
Marlene Therese Castle, CSJ (A)
Patricia Conron, CSJ (A)
Elizabeth Cruger, CSJ (A)
Jacqueline Dillon, CSJ (SL)
Rita Jean DuBrey, CSJ (A)
Kathleen Ann DuRoss, CSJ (LA)
Katherine Anne Earley, CSJ (A)
Mary Ann Figlino, CSJ (SL)
Joan Galli, CSJ (SL)
Carmel Garcia, CSJ (LA)
Patricia Giljum, CSJ (SL)
Sharon Gondek, CSJ (SP)
Gerrie Grabow, CSJ (SL)
Patricia Ann Hauser, CSJ (SL)
Mary Jacobs, CSJ (SL)
Anne Michael Kuwabara, CSJ (LA)
Helen Leclere, CSJ (A)

50 Years
Nancy Corcoran, CSJ (SL)
Pam Harding, CSJ (SL)
Linda Neil, CSJ (A)
Barbara Whitlow, CSJ (SP)

45 Years
Althea Johns, CSJ (SP)
Martha Merriman, CSJ (SP)
Tam Thi Tran, CSJ (P)

40 Years
Kathleen Eiler, CSJ (SL)
Rosa Orellana, CSJ (P)
Zaida Pérez (P)
Deborah Timmis, CSJ (A)
Tam Thi Tran, CSJ (SP)

30 Years
Teresa Ponce (P)
Simone Campbell, SSS, executive director of NETWORK, a lobby for Catholic Social Justice, delighted and challenged us at the annual Peace Retreat in January. Her topic, Walking Toward Trouble, indicated we are to move to action as well as engage in difficult conversations concerning the many issues we are faced with at this time.

Simone began with recalling the Vatican censure of women religious in 2012 and how we used the moment for mission and how the Spirit used the tension to have us reflect and respond with a greater sense of our call to fidelity. She called it a mystical moment for mission and it’s when she created Nuns on the Bus as a way to reach more people with the message of advocacy for the common good.

Simone believes deeply in the power of prayer and contemplative practice to transform situations. When engaging in tense and challenging conversations, how do we look at the different viewpoints and listen to what is important to each one? If the anguish is too intense, she feels we may have to walk away. Can I enter into dialogue or should I leave? Can we listen and show compassion for one another? Often this will change the situation.

For me, compassion is the key combined with how to listen more intently to other people’s stories.

Simone has a new book entitled Hunger for Hope coming out this fall. In the book, she addresses the voting phenomena of a single issue and how the abortion issue is being used as a political strategy, a litmus test of fidelity. Can we have a conversation around the issue? What do we value? Pope Francis in his letter, Education on Holiness, states that equally important are the issues of care of the poor, the homeless and the hungry.

With our new understanding of quantum physics, our interconnectedness and relationship as one Body, what part of the body am I? What is the gift I have to bring to the whole body? How do I pay attention to ways God is opening us to bring compassion and justice to our world?

When you touch the pain of the world as real, there is a solidarity, an engagement with the Gospel, a living faith that blossoms forth. -Sister Simone Campbell

When was the last time you really thought about water? How do you use it? How much of you is made of water? What happens when you don’t have it? We have had various discussions about water over the years – bottled water, not wasting water, what we use to clean; these are all water questions and the answers invite us to reflect on paragraphs 27-31 of Laudato Si.

Pope Francis puts water in the context of depletion of natural resources and says, “It is not possible to sustain the present level of consumption in developed countries.” (27) Thus the questions I began with... I know that I have needed to “practice” paying attention to water. When and how long do I let the water run down the drain warming it to do dishes? We have water jugs that we fill to water plants later. Brushing my teeth? When I go to a restaurant, I make sure I finish my glass of water and not take a refill if I know we will be leaving soon.

What about laundry and dishes? Do we run full loads and wash more dishes less often? And what about the cleaning supplies we use? Are they biodegradable? And then the question of how much of each of us is made of water? According to https://www.healthline.com/health/body-water-percentage#body-water-function, the average percent of water in adults over 51 is between 47 percent in women and 67 percent in men. And did you know that our plasma is 90 percent water! So the kind of water that comes into our bodies and the bodies of our sisters and brothers all over the world matters because so much of us is water.

In paragraph 29, Pope Francis wrote about the quality of water, saying that unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases. In so many parts of the world, potable water is
not available. I remember being in Africa and India during my Habitat days and being told not to drink the water or have ice cubes. Bottled water is needed in many parts of the world but it is not needed here. (In fact, bottled water is not regulated and the cost compared to drinking water is astounding!) He also warns of the pollution of underground water sources caused by mining, farming and industrial activities in industrialized nations that lack adequate regulation and control.

When was the last time you thought about water: sitting by a stream, watching the ocean waves or seeing a movie with a lake in it or having a nice refreshing glass—eight times a day! I think we change the more aware we become. I recently email subscribed to Ignation Carbon Challenge (igsol.net/iggycarbon) which keeps me focused on paying attention. We invite you to consider this question during Lent: What about water and what can I do to be a good steward of it?

Congratulations to CSJ Associate Marion Waite (2nd from rt.) who was inducted Saturday, February 8, into the “I Love Catholic Education” Hall of Fame in a celebration sponsored by the Catholic Schools Association of Rome. Monies raised at the event will remain in Rome to enhance and enrich programming at Rome Catholic School. With Marion in the photo are her sister, Sister Martha Larkin, CSJ Associate Mary Ellen Flanigan and Sister Rosaire Anne DeMare.

On February 9, the Delatour Community hosted some friends of Sisters Miriam Ukeritis and Danielle Bonetti to welcome home Miriam and Danielle and thank them for their generous service to the Congregation. Among the attendees were (sitting, l. to r.) Sisters Phyllis Mauger, Miriam, Honora Kinney; (standing, l. to r.) Sisters Libby Costanzo, Lucille Theroux, Fran Dempsey, Margie Vincent and Kay Ryan.
Words to One Another

From Sister Betsy Van Deusen
Your prayers, cards, emails, presence and Masses have been so consoling for us as we grieve the death of Jon. He was full of life and his sudden death from a freak snow mobile accident underscores that we do not know the day or the hour! Laurie and their children, Zack, Maureen and Katy, as well as my siblings, Jim, Nancy, Marie, Bobby and Peggy, and I are grateful for your continued prayers.

From Sister Mary Anne Bookman
In honor of and in gratitude for our 2020 Jubilarians, a donation has been made to the House of Mercy which shelters, feeds, clothes and advocates for the homeless in Rochester. Congratulations to all!

From Sister Joy Milos
I wasn’t planning to spend my first two years of retirement having body parts replaced! Fortunately, there have been wonderful doctors turning me into a bionic woman here in Spokane. That plus your prayers and advice and caring have added to my recovery from my recent shoulder replacement. Today I was finally freed from my harness and assured that all is going well. Thanks you again for the support and I’ll see you in Albany at the April Assembly!

From Sister Patricia St. John
Your words, cards, masses, promise of prayer, presence, compassion and care have meant so much to me and my family at the time of our dad’s passing. As you know, my dad was battling health issues for a long time, but his tenacity and love of life kept him going for all these years. Having battled five cancers and won, he couldn’t figure out why he couldn’t beat this last one. It’s not that he didn’t try! He loved the Sisters of St. Joseph and often boasted that he could recognize a CSJ anywhere. I think he had our charism! So, thank you for being a part of his life and for gifting me with the opportunity to be a part of yours! I am so grateful.

From Sister Mary Catherine Rayo
A Mass has been offered for all 2020 Jubilarians in honor of their many years of loyal commitment to our Community, to the religious life and in the loving service to the dear neighbor. Congratulations!

From Sister Carolyn Schanz
I am appreciative for the cards, get-well messages and especially for your prayerful support during my rehabilitation at the Eddy Heritage House for my fractured hip after my fall.

From Sister Carmella Ann Pfohl
Congratulations, 2020 Jubilarians! A Mass will be offered on Monday, May 4, for your intentions. God love you!

From Sister Maddie Pallotta
I will be very grateful for your prayers but please, no cards or gifts for my jubilee. Thanks a million!

Utica Celebrates Sister Thea Bowman House Day

Utica Mayor Robert Palmieri declared February 12 to be Thea Bowman House Day in Utica in honor of the Black History Month. According to its mission, Thea Bowman House is a non-profit, childcare center serving children and families in and around Utica, providing quality care to vulnerable children and youth in hope of breaking the cycle of poverty through educational and social enrichment and support.

During the ceremony, held in the DeSales Center at 309 Genesee Street (the former St. Francis de Sales School), a performance by the children highlighted the life of Sister Thea Bowman as part of Black History Month.

The life of Sister Thea Bowman has been the inspiration to Thea Bowman House which provides child care and supportive services to over 300 children and families each day.

Congratulations to CSJ Associate Jane Domingue, executive director of Thea Bowman House, and CSJ Associate Sandra Wright, program director!
We Albany CSJ Associates continue 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 that letter relates to our shared CSJ/CSJA charism and community. This month’s CSJ ABCs belongs to Syracuse Associate LuAnn Sims.

**LIFE.** Living in God’s grace is a wonderful adventure!

**SILENCE.** Only in the silence can I hear the still small voice within me.

Thanks for the many ideas! It looks as though we have sufficient suggestions to take us through the summer. We might resume this column at another time. For now, consider these favorite writers:

**Julia Spencer Fleming:** Clare Fergusson is an Episcopal pastor of a church in upstate New York (Little Falls, maybe). When she isn’t visiting parishioners in the Glens Falls hospital or waiting for the Bishop to come from Albany, Clare is solving mysteries and dealing with everyday church issues. The local color makes this series fun to read.

**Faye and Jonathan Kellerman:** Faye’s hero is a police detective married to an Orthodox Jewish woman who helps him with cases. This is a great way to learn a bit about Jewish observance while tracking down crooks. Faye’s husband Jonathan writes Alex Delaware, a psychologist, who is called in to psych out and find other crooks. This couple must have great conversations!

**Louise Penny:** If we have a favorite writer, this might be the one. Set in a tiny idyllic village in Quebec, these novels feature Chief Inspector Gamache, who explores human nature, crime, and the consequences of small actions. Thoughtful, often witty, with French phrases sprinkled in here and there.

**Anne Perry:** Perry has two major series, one featuring Inspector William Monk and the other with a couple, Inspector Thomas Pitt and his wife Charlotte. Both series are set in Victorian London with wonderful cultural touches and bits of history.
Religious life today is like a house being renovated.

In many ways the house was disintegrating, breaking down as all human enterprises do. Much of the framework had caved in, walls were collapsed, and the roof wanted repair. The elements had gotten in, and strange creatures had taken to nesting. Many of the furnishings were outmoded, no longer serviceable, unsuited to the needs of the occupants.

The whole environment outside the house had changed, and the house had not adapted much. In certain quarters, stuff had accumulated in closets. Some rooms had been abandoned, while others had grown far too rich over the years.

The people who lived there took a good look at the house. And some of them left. For different reasons — they didn’t believe the house was worth saving, or they saw some other house in better shape, or they wanted to start a new house from the foundation up.

Some of the people who stayed tried to find themselves a clean, warm corner somewhere, away from the upset. Like Rip Van Winkle they pulled the covers over their heads and determined to sleep through the transition.

Those who cared about the house set about renovating it. They believed that the foundation of the house was strong, able to support a greatly changed structure and all the disturbances of the transition. And the transition was very disturbing.

No one could see what the new structure should be. Or let us say, many people thought they could see, but their views were highly incompatible. There was much uncertainty, ambiguity and turmoil. Far more mistakes than successes were recorded. The changes in the house, often of an experimental nature, tended to look purposeless and fragmented. There was lack of agreement on important matters and much heartache in the removal of what they had known for many years.

It would be encouraging if I could report they all got together and reached a consensus on what the internal structure of the house would be, but that did not happen. Eventually, different groups got together and went to different rooms. And that is the present state of the house.

**The Different Rooms**

Some groups are in the cellar, far below eye level, working to restore the foundation laid by the one who built the house. Those on the front porch are coming to know the neighbors and the environment better. Many work on the principal rooms on the main floors. They keep one eye, so to speak, outside the house, and one eye inside.

A few labor on the very center of the house, in a room with no windows and no door leading directly to the outside. Their effort is to renew the spirit of God in the house. Another small group works on the attic. These are the artists. At the high point in the house, they take the long view. Whereas those in the cellar work to see the perspective of the past, those in the attic labor to envision the future.

Wherever they are stationed in the house, each small community tries to uncover what is valuable and worth preserving in that part of the house, and what is not, what needs adapting and what is yet to be created.

Gradually, each room is taking on a unique shape and style. In time, the people...
of the house will reflect on all the experimental rooms and select those innovative patterns which suit the foundation, respond to the environment, and renew their life together.

Meanwhile, a few observations.

First, there is more dissension, disturbance and failure than needs be, simply because some in the house insist on being twenty-four-hour-room people, that is, foundation people, attic people, porch people, etc., twenty-four hours a day.

Those in the cellar need to come out on the porch for air; they need to visit the center of the house and take a look out the attic window. The attic dwellers need to come down now and then, to meet life immediately in the main rooms and on the front porch.

You can continue the application of this principle for yourself. Then locate yourself in the house and make the application personal.

Second, renovating communities might consider running a house sketch with the words, “We’re renovating,” for vocation ads. This would draw some, frighten others, and have the advantage of a true picture.

Finally, everything said about the house and religious life in general applies to each individual, in particular. You yourself are the house, with main rooms, porch, inner room, foundation and attic.

You might like to re-read this article from this point of view, considering where your life is and is not spent, and what renewing is going on in your house.

The Parable of the House appeared in the magazine, SISTERS TODAY on October, 1977. Volume 49, Number 2. It is reprinted here as it originally appeared.

CSJ ASSOCIATE COMMITMENT WEEKEND

June 5, 6 and 7, 2020

The Associates of the Albany Province invite all our vowed Sisters to share this special commitment weekend with us. Together we will explore...

Sister Mary McGlone, author and speaker, will be our guide.

Mary M. McGlone, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, hails from Denver and has ministered in the U.S., Latin America and Eastern Europe. A past president of the U.S. Catholic Mission Association, she is the author of “Comunidad Para El Mundo, A History of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the Vice Province of Peru” and “Sharing Faith Across the Hemisphere,” the winner of the 1998 Catholic Press Association award for Best History Book of the Year. Sister Mary holds a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from St. Louis University and has taught on theology faculties in the U.S. and in Peru. Sister Mary is presently serving on the Congregational Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, located in St. Louis, Missouri.

Since 1650, congregations of St. Joseph have grown in Europe, the Americas, India and the Orient, all attracting women who are called to do anything of which they are capable to serve their dear neighbor.

This is a great opportunity for Sisters and Associates to come together to share our CSJ Charism lived out in the lives of the women chronicled in this work.

SAVE THE DATE!

Look for more information in upcoming Weekly Updates and issues of CE!
Sister Joan Geannelis, CSJ  
(Sister Joseph Paul)  
1925 ~ 2020

Sister Joan Geannelis received rich gifts from her growing-up days. The Green Mountains of Vermont, where Joan was born in Bennington, gave her a love of natural beauty; Joan would later translate this love into the music she made so generously on her clarinet. Her parents, of Greek and Scandinavian heritage, gave her a passion for living and a love for food as well as enthusiasm for snow and winter sports.

All these gifts enriched Joan’s early years with her parents, Veronica and Peter, and her five siblings. Joan would bring her gifts with spirit and joy when she entered the Sisters of St Joseph after attending The College of Saint Rose. Joan never stopped giving, as numerous sisters and other friends can attest.

After a twelve-year stint teaching in high schools, Joan was missioned to The College of Saint Rose, where she quickly became something of a legend to the students. Since the College operated with a very small administrative staff, Joan moved from assisting in the Financial Aid Office to Dean of Students. In this capacity she extended her commitment to service to the students, “volunteering” them for all sorts of activities whenever she received a phone call from an agency needing help. Because of Joan’s no-nonsense manner, students were initially awed and a bit skittish, but they soon discovered Joan’s marshmallow interior and became friends, although still committed to the services to which she assigned them. It was, they noted, not possible to say no.

Saint Rose did not forget Joan and she continued to keep ties with the many students whom she had disciplined and then enjoyed over the years. “Joanie G” stories abound and are told with affection. Joan was later missioned to St Joseph’s Provincial House where she again wore many hats: director of development, driver, transportation coordinator, and staff member in the Communications Office. In this later role Joan went about tracking down stories with zeal, not letting her subjects escape until she had interviewed them to her satisfaction.

In addition to her countless ministries, Joan enjoyed life. She continued to play her clarinet, she loved a good game of golf, and she was an eager traveler and willing chauffeur. She was a mild and observant driver with sporadic (and, she maintained, justified) fits of road rage, although her only four-letter word was “Jerk,” spoken with righteous frustration.

Joan was fun. She enlivened conversations, appreciated others, enjoyed jokes, and took a lively interest in life around her. She could think outside of the box and at times did not even notice that there was a box.

Joan, we need your upbeat approach to life and joy in others. Intercede for us and “volunteer” us for service to the Dear Neighbor just as you did for so many years at Saint Rose. Rest in Peace, friend.
Silent, Gentle Joseph: A Contemplative Man of Few Words

by Marie Ann Eckler, CSJA

What were you thinking when Zachary pointed out the young Nazarite virgin, Mary, in the Temple for your potential betrothal?

What were you thinking when that same Mary, returning from visiting Elizabeth for three months, was with child and the community shamefully whispered in private?

What were you thinking in Mary’s ninth month of pregnancy when as a family you walked together without benefit of transportation covered in winter mud and cold to Bethlehem to register for the mandatory census?

What were you thinking when Mary’s water broke and no one was willing to provide shelter for the woman who would remain unclean for 40 days according to the Law?

What were you thinking when your calloused carpenter hands gathered straw for the trough bed among animal waste in a stone grotto to provide a temporary resting place for the King to be born?

What were you thinking when you fulfilled all the prescriptions of the Law and were blessed as a family in the Temple by Simeon who said to your beloved Mary, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted, and you yourself a sword will pierce, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed”?

What were you thinking when Herod issued his infamous order that all infants under two years were to die, and you fled in exile to Egypt with Mary and the baby only to return to Nazareth years later?

What were you thinking when you searched frantically at the Passover for the 12-year-old for three days through the caravans backtracking to find Him preaching in the Temple?

What were you thinking when you saw your foster child Jesus grow and become strong, learned in carpentry and masonry, and filled with wisdom?

What were you thinking when you closed your glazed eyes for the last time in a sigh of joy and deliverance?

Silent, gentle Joseph, what were you thinking with my prayerful intercessions? Will you break your silence and intercede?

A Blessed St. Joseph’s Day!
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.
**SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET**  
Spring 2020  

**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.
Many people and groups responded to Sister Doreen Glynn’s request to make Valentine cards with messages of hope and love to children and families detained at our southern border. Among the volunteers (but not limited to!) are students and religious education classes in Syracuse under the leadership of Pat John and other Syracuse Associates; Sister Renée Adamany and SCC students, along with children and staff at the YWCA of Northeastern NY Children’s Center; CSJ Associate Jo-Ann Ferris from Florida; the Sisters at the PH; and the Albany County Immigration Assistance Center and Girls Inc. Enjoy some of the photos!