
Albany Province



Carondelet East

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and CSJ Associates

October 2020



*"Autumn shows us the beauty of letting go."
-Anonymous*



by Sister Joan Mary Hartigan

Ruth Bader Ginsburg once said, “So often in life, things that you regard as an impediment turn out to be great, good fortune.” Certainly we have experienced many impediments these past several months. Masks impede our breathing; social distancing impedes our meeting together in person; lockdowns and shutdowns impede our desire to get out and minister, even walk, as we are accustomed to; news stories impede our sleep. The list goes on and on.

How do we make what we perceive as impediments “turn out to be great, good fortune”? Two words might help: “turn out.” As the Family of Joseph, we intuitively know that when we “turn out” of ourselves, we indeed are transformed, and our charism continues. And in God’s design, just months before this pandemic, our Chapter powerfully called us to “turn out.” “The cry of the dear neighbor impels us to go deeper, to journey further, to respond boldly and creatively. The world is waiting.”

I ask myself, how can I “turn out” to the “cry of the dear neighbor” when my primary ways of connecting to others are through ZOOM, phone calls, Facetime, emails, and texting with emojis.

I was inspired by a story (and I am sure that you have a story similar to this one). About a month ago, Joan Sauro watched the news clip about Betsy Van Deusen and the Catholic Charities mass food distributions. Joan said, “Betsy was standing by herself around boxes of food with lines of people waiting.” Joan stated, “I did not want Betsy to be by herself. I wanted us to be with her.” So Joan turned to every CSJ in Syracuse to send Betsy \$10 to \$15. Then Barbara Kuczynski turned to “people in Cortland and Herkimer Counties” and emailed them. Then Pat Hunt turned to the associates and emailed them. Then Mary O’Brien turned and said “We are all in this together.” Some sent money directly to Betsy for Catholic Charities; others sent money to their favorite charity that feeds persons who are hungry. Through “turning out” to connections with one another, sisters and associates overcame impediments and created “good fortune” for persons in need of food.

Later this month, we will be doing our best to celebrate “Community Weekend: Curbside Delivery,” and if you are like me, you might be feeling sad. We are indeed impeded from being physically together with our inspiring speaker, lively table discussion, festive dinner and fun with friends. Yet our years and years of connections have created depth and strength among us. We have a wonderful opportunity to write yet another inspiring story in the Albany Province. In our own local “bubbles,” through

(continued on the next page)

They will perform all the spiritual and corporal works of mercy of which woman is capable.

—John P. Médaille, SJ

CARONDELET EAST
Vol. XXXI, #2, October 2020

www.csjalbany.org

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Carondelet East is the monthly, internal newsletter of the Albany Province, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Its purpose is to provide a vehicle of communication for congregational/province news with a particular emphasis on the acts of chapter.

We welcome signed news information relating to the congregation. Please submit articles electronically, not longer than one printed page. Such material is subject to editing and revision. The deadline is 9:00 a.m. on the first day of each month unless otherwise stated.



Cover Design
by Mary Rose Noonan, CSJ
Adobestock.com #246887000

Leadership Perspectives (cont'd)

our prayer together, reflection on our own complicity in racial inequality, our creatively connecting with one another, our special meal together, and contributions to feed those who are hungry, we can make RBG proud. We can turn what we regard as true impediments into a day of grace, generosity and blessings.

With love and peace,

Joan Mary

P.S. Don't forget to send a selfie or group picture (high resolution) to Mary Rose!

PLT AND BOT MEETINGS SUMMARIES OF MINUTES

Since the PLT meeting was on September 28 and the BOT was on September 29, the minutes of both meetings will be posted in the November issue of Carondelet East. Thank you.



“Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves.

“Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other, no matter how difficult it is.

“Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you.”

—Pope Francis

CALENDAR: PROVINCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

October 2020

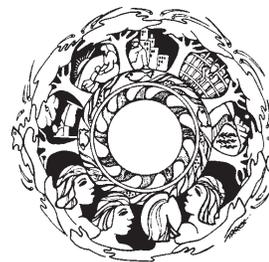
5	Province Agenda Committee Meeting	PEC
14	Memorial Service for Sister Annette Maria Allard	PEC
15	Shaker Pointe Executive Committee Meeting	JMH
15-16	The College of Saint Rose Board Meeting	DZ, ME
17	Community Weekend	PLT
19-21	Federation Vocation/Formation Meeting	RC
21	Memorial Service for Sister Mary Damien Cushing	PEC
21	Gurry Trust Board Meeting	JMH, ME
22	Long-Range Planning Board	PLT
23	RCRI Conference	ME
27	Vocation Meeting	RC
28	Province Agenda Committee	PEC
29	PLT Meeting	PLT
30	BOT Meeting	BOT
30	RCRI Conference	ME

November

4-6	Federation Meetings	DZ, KR, ME
6	RCRI Conference	ME
10	HomeLand Committee Meeting	ME

Abbreviations

BOT	=	Board of Trustees
DZ	=	Diane Zigo
JMH	=	Joan Mary Hartigan
KR	=	Kay Ryan
LRP	=	Long-Range Planning Board
ME	=	Margie Edic
PEC	=	Joan Mary Hartigan, Margie Edic and Diane Zigo
PLT	=	Province Leadership Team (Joan Mary Hartigan, Margie Edic, Diane Zigo, Rose Casaleno and Kay Ryan)
RCRI	=	Resource Center for Religious Institutes
RC	=	Rose Casaleno
SP	=	Shaker Pointe



...to turn beyond ourselves to serve a
WORLD IN NEED.



by Pat Hunt, CSJA

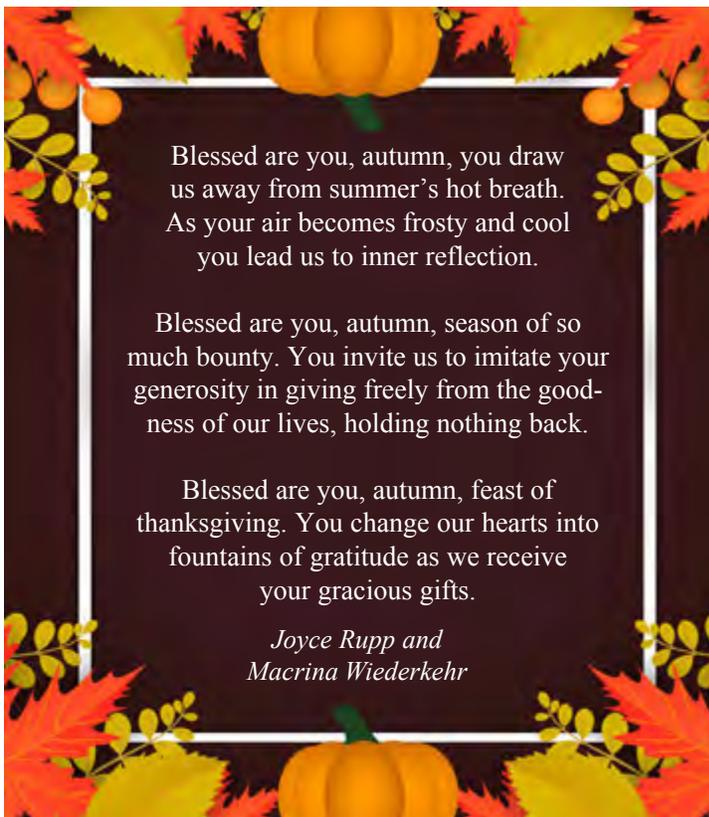
Continuing our series on how CSJ Associates share our spirituality and how we too are “called together for the life of the world,” associates were asked to use each of their monogram initials and choose a word or phrase starting with each one to describe how/why the word relates to our shared CSJ/CSJA charism and community.

This month’s CSJABC belongs to Rome Associate Kathy Young.

K **KEY:** A key to happiness is gratitude for daily blessings.

M **MAIL:** I keep the U.S. Postal Service in business by communicating with countless pen pals all over the world.

Y **YEN:** I still have some Japanese yen left over from my years in Japan. Now I have a yen for growing in faith and community.



Blessed are you, autumn, you draw us away from summer’s hot breath. As your air becomes frosty and cool you lead us to inner reflection.

Blessed are you, autumn, season of so much bounty. You invite us to imitate your generosity in giving freely from the goodness of our lives, holding nothing back.

Blessed are you, autumn, feast of thanksgiving. You change our hearts into fountains of gratitude as we receive your gracious gifts.

*Joyce Rupp and
Macrina Wiederkehr*

Emergency Relief and Homeless Prevention Requests

by Sister Paul Kathryn Barno

When requesting funds from the Emergency Relief and Homeless Prevention Board, please follow the following guidelines:

- Download the form from Members Only section of our CSJ website.
- Complete all requested information.
- Remember, checks cannot be made out to the person needing assistance. Therefore, include the name and address of the landlord or entity to be paid.
- See the updated policy in the province’s updated policy book on the website.
- Sisters submitting the request can pay through their house account, once the request has been approved. That amount will be reimbursed.

To expedite the process, email your request to all the Board members:

- Sister Jane Comerford, jcomerford@csjalbany.org
- Sister Honora Kinney, kinneyh@strose.edu
- Sister Paul Kathryn Barno, pbarno@csjalbany.org

You will be notified of the Board’s decision after all the necessary information has been provided. Thank you for your attention to these guidelines and for your continual care for others.



Sister Catherine McNamee: Visionary Leader, Lover of Peoples and Cultures, Advocate for Justice and Catholic Education

by Sister Fran Dempsey

In the many tributes to Sister Catherine McNamee after her death, the words repeated over and over are visionary leader, justice advocate, lover of peoples and cultures, and advocate for Catholic education. Through these, our dear Catherine lived the CSJ charism of love of God and neighbor without distinction. Catherine's many friendships, including with her many CSJ sisters, spanned her lifetime and touched people on four continents.

Born in Troy, NY, to Kathryn (Quinn) and Thomas McNamee, Catherine was a graduate of Catholic Central High School, The College of Saint Rose and Boston College. She entered the CSJ novitiate in 1957 and made her first vows in 1960. That same year Catherine began her journey in education as a Spanish teacher, first at Cardinal McCloskey High School and then at The College of Saint Rose.

Catherine next continued her Spanish studies at the University of Madrid where she received not only her Ph.D. but also the bright blue cap with the fringe all around that she wore for all academic events. Returning to Saint Rose, Catherine held administrative positions that enabled her to pursue innovations that increased diversity and non-traditional student access to higher education with the Experienced Adult Program. Catherine left Saint Rose in 1975, but remained a "Rosebud" in the College's heart, receiving an honorary degree in 1975, the Carondelet Medal in 1991 and the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006.

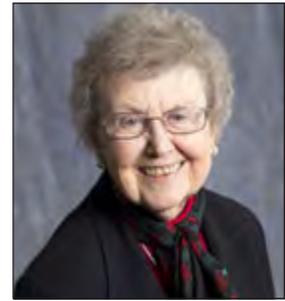
Catherine moved on to serve as Liberal Arts Director at Thomas Edison College in Trenton and in 1976 as president of Trinity College, Burlington. Her long-time CSJ friends, Jean Owens, Sheila Fahrenkopf and Mary Lou Dolan, enjoyed bringing Catherine, her worldly goods (few), her sense of humor

(wonderful), to her lodgings (tiny) in Trenton, Burlington, Scranton and Washington, DC, whenever Catherine accepted a new higher education position.

From 1979 through 1984, Catherine served as president of the College of St. Catherine (now St. Catherine University). While in that position she upheld St. Kate's values of "social justice, inclusion, and diversity," said the tribute to her when the University named her Trustee Emerita in 2019. Catherine led St. Kates in the college's pursuit of weekend and evening programs and opportunities for non-traditional adult students. She added an international link with the establishment of an exchange program with Junshin Junior College in Japan. In 2012 the University established the Catherine T. McNamee International Student Scholarship in her honor. Catherine served on St. Catherine's Board of Trustees from 2013 – 2019.

In 1986 Catherine became the first woman president of NCEA where again she "worked tirelessly to nurture diverse voices in Catholic education." In her first months as president she helped coordinate the meeting of St. John Paul II with US Catholic educational leaders. The pope called US Catholic Education "a gift to the church and to the country."

And Catherine's peers at NCEA say much the same about her ten-year tenure, during which she convened the "National Congress on Catholic Schools for the 21st Century," established Seton awards for individuals who made significant contributions to Catholic education, led Catholic leaders in a meeting about school choice with President George H.W. Bush, and strengthened NCEA's international presence, with meetings in Russia, Australia and Mexico.



Sister Catherine McNamee

But perhaps Catherine was most happy when in 2004 she was honored with the Jesus Maestro (Jesus the Teacher) Award by the Inter-American Confederation of Catholic Education, and when from 2000 – 2005 she served on the Congregational Mission in Chile. While teaching social justice at the Catholic University in Talca also she extended the CSJ mission through accompanying her beloved members of La Familia de San José (CSJ Lay Associates). At the virtual prayer/story gathering held in St. Paul after Catherine's death, multiple voices from Chile radiated their deep love for their mentor.

Catherine's leadership qualities were recognized by her sisters when she was chosen in 2008 to serve on the Congregational Leadership Team. That task completed, in 2019 she retired in St. Paul where she was welcomed and loved.

Catherine's many achievements might make her seem larger than life, but we who knew her well saw her delightful human side. She hated to sew and would wear her habit with frayed hems and holes until someone offered to mend it. She calmly stood up to the Spanish government when officials kept delaying the awarding of her degree but was terrified of mice and could leap onto a tabletop. She loved to swim and spent most of her one novitiate week at Brant Lake and CSR's summer visits to Pyramid Lake in the water.

Catherine was outstanding in every way: she served Catholic education, she enjoyed life, she loved much. Rest in peace, dear Sister Catherine.

SJA Students Serve the ‘Dear Neighbor’ by Providing Sticker Sacks to Those Suffering the Devastating Effects of Recent Hurricanes

by Mindy Brodhead Averitt and Sister Chris Pologa

As Hurricane Laura ripped through southwest Louisiana in the early morning hours of August 27, Baton Rouge families with relatives from the region nervously awaited word on how much devastation the Category 4 storm would cause.

After the storm tracked north, Jeff and Mary Miller and their children, Mary Grace “MG” (St. Joseph’s Academy Class of 2016) and Joseph (Catholic High School Class of 2014), drove to the Lake Charles area to check on the house of Jeff’s parents. Jeff is a native of Iowa, a small town just to the east of Lake Charles on Interstate 10. The Millers were astounded by the damage they found.

A 1985 graduate of St. Joseph’s Academy, Mary Miller knows firsthand the emphasis her alma mater places on helping those in need. So does her daughter. Surveying the damage, MG said to her mother, “We have to help. We have to feed the people.”

Since the fall of 2013, SJA students, faculty and staff have partnered with St. Vincent de Paul to provide approximately 250 brown bag lunches each Tuesday. A sticker sack is a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a beverage, chips, cookies and fruit in a brown paper bag. Mary Miller reached out to SJA Principal Stacia Andricain to ask if Academy students would be willing to make the Sticker Sacks for those impacted by the hurricane. Andricain agreed and asked SJA’s Service Coordi-

nator, Sister Chris Pologa, to spearhead the Iowa Sticker Sack effort. Sister Chris challenged the student body to “roll up their sleeves and serve the dear neighbor with loving compassion.”

Sister Chris said she hoped to collect 1,000 Sticker Sacks. But as brown bag lunches began to fill and then overflow from offices and lobbies, it became evident that the Redstickers’ (nickname for SJA) generosity would far exceed expectations. Indeed, more than 8,000 brown bag lunches were donated.

“I was overwhelmed, thrilled and humbled by the response of SJA Sticker family,” Sister Chris said. “As waves upon waves of SJA students dropped off the Sticker Sacks, I was watching the parable of the loaves and fish come alive right before my eyes. Truly, the charism of our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and the gospel values of Jesus Christ are alive here at SJA.”

When Mary Miller learned that 8,000 Sticker Sacks were coming her way, she was moved to tears. “What I felt was utter and complete joy,” she said. “I never expected to receive so many Sticker Sacks, or for a small group of students to travel to Iowa to serve lunches to the community. We had so many Sticker Sacks that we were also able to bless thousands of others: The Cajun Navy, St. Agnes, St. Vincent de Paul, Serenity House Sober Living, several Catholic schools in Lake Charles, the fire department and the veterans’ homeless shelter in Lake Charles.”

For freshman Anna Castro, her reason for participating was simple: “I wanted to make Sticker Sacks because I felt horrible for the people who lost everything or had damage,” she said. “I just wanted to help them. I think it’s important to be there for others, especially in tough times.”



Sophomore McKenzie Howard was in Lake Charles with her family to help her grandmother who lives in the area. Howard, her mother, Daphane Stevenson, and her grandmother, Ester Stills, joined the group from SJA to help serve lunch. “My grandmother was impacted by Hurricane Laura, and she unselfishly took a break from all the chaos to help me volunteer,” Howard said.

Mary Miller has five cousins who are current students at SJA. Senior Jenny Sims is among them. Sims traveled to Iowa with senior Lanie Powell and freshman Sophie Leblanc to deliver Sticker Sacks. “People were crying and just saying, ‘Thank you, thank you, thank you.’ It really humbled us and just made us thankful for everything that we have,” Sims said. “Seeing what happened in that town made me extremely thankful for SJA and for the people in this community who rally and come together to help others. God really called our community to come together and answer His call.”

Senior Jennie Belle Holder is also a cousin of Mary Miller. “In south



SJA Hurricane Relief (continued)

Louisiana, everyone has experienced how destructive hurricanes can be, so I think it's very important to help those affected by Laura in every way we can," she said. "It was amazing to see how everyone at St. Joseph's came together and made so many Sticker Sacks for those who needed them."

Cousin Grace Anne Crifasi, a junior, helped transport Sticker Sacks between school and the delivery departure points around Baton Rouge. She said sending 8,000 meals to the Lake Charles area was truly a sign of love. "It gave them not only a meal, but a symbol of SJA's support, so that they know they have a community behind them supporting them and praying for them," she said. "It's so heartwarming to know we made their day a little brighter as they continue to face challenges rebuilding their communities. At SJA, we are called to serve the dear neighbor, and our school community responded by doing exactly that."

Members of the SJA volleyball team banded together to make Sticker Sacks for southwest Louisiana. Team captain Simone Moreau, a senior, said it was a labor of love. "When the call came from Sister Chris that our friends in Lake Charles were in need, we rallied to create Sticker Sacks," she said. "Team members prepared Sticker Sacks out of their home kitchens. We hope they were



comforting to those receiving them, and we are praying that their community has a speedy and safe recovery.

Co-captain Morgan Perry, a junior, said she and her teammates felt a connection to those being served. "We are so fortunate to have been spared from this hurricane," she said. "To have the opportunity to give back and be able to just give those affected a meal, smile and maybe some hope is humbling and warms my heart. I think each player who helped out and donated Sticker Sacks can say that this service project made us grateful for our opportunities, and it felt great to give back."

Senior Mallory Matthews made 50 Sticker Sacks. She said that through the simple act of providing a bagged lunch, she hoped to make a small difference for someone who is dealing with devastation. "I want those who received the Sticker Sacks to know that we all care about them at this difficult time," she said.



Junior Sydney DeSoto said her contribution was personal. Friends who live in Lake Charles are living in a hotel in Texas for the foreseeable future as their home was destroyed. "They have six children," DeSoto said. "Knowing the effects of this storm made me want to help in any way possible. When I found out that we made 8,000 Sticker Sacks, I was truly shocked and proud to be a student at a school that could do such wonderful things."

Senior Anna Delafield contributed 20 sacks to the cause. "It filled me with so much joy that I was able to help those in need," she said. "Members of my family were displaced by Hurricane Laura and are struggling with so many things at the moment. Even though I was not affected, it touched my heart to see that so many people were willing to help those who are in need. I know that all of these families were so grateful for these Sticker Sacks."

Enjoy the photos of the SJA students and the 8,000 Sticker Sacks they made for those suffering hurricane damage!



Sister Chris Pologa



Father Patrick Peyton and the Albany Sisters of St. Joseph

by Sister Fran Dempsey

Jesus drew large crowds through his ministry of healing and his message of love.

Father Patrick Peyton drew large crowds through his ministry of prayer and his message of love: *“The Family that prays together stays together”*; *“A world at prayer is a world at peace.”*

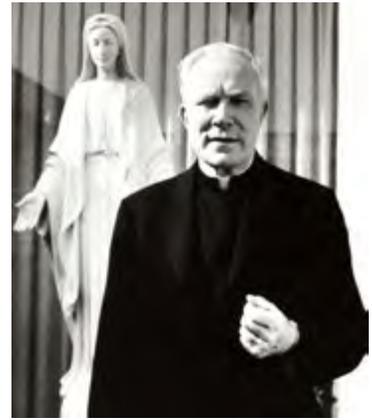
The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet have been part of Father Peyton’s Family Rosary ministry since the beginning. Father Peyton, shortly after his 1941 ordination as a Holy Cross priest, arrived in Albany as chaplain to the Brothers teaching at Vincentian Institute. In no time, this man with a passion for Mary and the rosary found at the nearby Catholic College of Saint Rose helpers for the new Family Rosary ministry. Soon the official Family Rosary office was housed at the College, and student volunteers prepared the mailing of letters that introduced Father Peyton’s Family Rosary Movement to the world. The Saint Rose administration and faculty found in this new movement a true expression of their charism of “unifying love.”

With the work of Father Peyton and his CSJ volunteers, the message of families praying together spread from Albany across the United States. Eventually, with a ticket donated by one of our sisters who had planned to visit her father in California, Father Peyton traveled to Hollywood. Sister Gerarda Joseph did not regret the sacrifice she had made. In Hollywood, Father Peyton expanded the Family Rosary Crusade via radio and television broadcasts with stars like Bing Crosby and Loretta Young.

Starting with the Sisters of St. Joseph who knew Father Peyton personally, CSJs gave and still give the Family Rosary the most practical help: they have made rosaries, hundreds, indeed thousands. These handmade beads traveled with Father Peyton’s Crusade near and far – to more than 40 countries that hosted Family Rosary rallies. Always, too, Father Peyton and his Family Rosary Crusade, have been in the prayers of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Father Peyton died in 1992, but the Holy Cross community continues to spread his message that family prayer is the way to peace and unity. In 2001, in support of this mission, the Holy Cross Community opened Father Patrick Peyton’s Cause for Canonization. On December 18, 2017, Pope Francis declared him “Venerable.” An estimated 700 people participated in celebrating at Holy Cross Family Ministries in N. Easton MA. Bishop Howard Hubbard, a personal friend of Father Peyton, concelebrated the Mass.

In conjunction with the cause for Father Peyton’s canonization, the Worldwide Father Peyton Prayer Guild was begun. Because of the connection of the Albany Sisters of St. Joseph with Father Peyton, we were asked to form a Guild Chapter. A Chapter was formed in 2003 under



Fr. Patrick Peyton

the guidance of Sister Maria Charles Norton. Sister had been on the staff at the Peyton Center on the grounds of Stonehill College in N. Easton, MA where Father Peyton is buried. Fifty CSJs are members today and receive monthly newsletters.

As a Guild Chapter we have a *World Mission Rosary* Prayer Service every October and a *Crowning of Our Blessed Mother and Rosary* every May, coordinated by Sister Mary Lois Goldner. Guild members across the world pledge to pray for:

- The canonization of Venerable Patrick Peyton;
- The continuation of his mission through the Holy Cross Family Ministry;
- Their family and all families around the world.

The new film, “PRAY: The Story of Patrick Peyton,” will be released on October 9, 2020. The film is booked for October 9 at Colonie Center. We ask CSJs to continue promoting the power of family prayer and world peace by spreading the word about this excellent film: to their families and friends, to schools, parishes, ministries, and through bulletins, posters, and word of mouth. For more information, see PrayTheFilm.com and www.FatherPeyton.org.

Sister Marion Receives ‘Seed Tender’ Award from Genesis

Sister Marion Honors received the Genesis Spiritual Life and Conference Center “Seed Tender” Award (via Zoom) on September 11, 2020.

Sister Elizabeth Oleksak, foundress and long-time director of Genesis, presented the award saying: “Marion’s love of nature influenced her art to the extent that she immersed herself in the works of the late Passionist and geologist, Father Thomas Berry. This led her to produce a slide presentation of her art work, *Stories of Home/Earth our Common Home*. Marion’s presentation of her art through media, with the story of each piece, became well-known not only at Genesis but at 80 other centers in the U.S. She influenced hundreds, inviting us to ‘Wake Up.’”

Elizabeth remembered when in 1995 the publishers of “Common Boundary Magazine” presented Marion with the Green Dove Award. This award recognized “Marion’s creative presentation of Earth Forms and Stories of Home which communicated the interdependence of Ecology, Psychology and Spirituality.” Thomas Berry presented this award to Marion; since then she has said, “It was the highlight of my life!”

In closing, Elizabeth presented to Marion a pen designed from one of Genesis’ maple trees as it made room for the growth of the “new kids” in the wood land, hoping Marion would be moved to do with her new pen “a little ink sketch.”

Marion’s particular gift, the love of creation spirituality, always manifested in her words and her art, supported the Center’s focus on Creation spirituality: “Each of us is a seed of God that is meant to grow into the likeness of God.”

Congratulations, Marion, for tending that seed wherever you are!

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

On September 10, **David Bousquet**, director of Facility Services at the Provincial House, retired after nearly 19 years of service. Dave was honored at a reception, safe-distanced-and-masked style, in the Community Room. Enjoy the photos; you might even be able to recognize a person or two!



Sister Katie Eiffe



Lynn and Joan



Sister Claire Weber



Sister Julie Eigo



Sister Joanne St. Hilaire



Sister Karen Gaube



Tracy



Brittany and Lisa



Eileen



S. Margie Vincent and Kris



Peggy



Dave



EQUALLY SACRED PRIORITIES FOR VOTERS IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

In recent years, Pope Francis has provided explicit instruction on the many ways we are called to defend, promote and protect the sacredness of life. In his writing and speaking, Pope Francis makes it clear: **abortion is not the only issue that matters.**

Faith does not fit into political parties neatly. Still, we are called to engage in politics. This is no small feat. It requires us to be informed, to develop our conscience, to connect with like-minded people, and to listen to those who think differently.

Here you will find a comparison of President Donald Trump and Vice President Joe Biden’s policy positions in the areas Pope Francis names as “equally sacred” to the defense of the unborn.



We invite you to consider this information prayerfully.

Gaudete et Exsultate
March 2018

101. Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of the human life which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born

General Audience
June 3, 2020

We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.

Defense of the unborn is clear.

	<u>TRUMP</u>	<u>BIDEN</u>
Seeks to overturn <i>Roe v. Wade</i>	✓	✗
Would increase pregnant women’s access to health care and nutrition	✗	✓
Addresses maternal mortality, particularly for Black women	✗	✓

Equally sacred are those already born.

	<u>TRUMP</u>	<u>BIDEN</u>
Supports families in the tax code and family-friendly workplace policies	✗	✓
Advocates for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors	✗	✓
Rejects racism, xenophobia; supports policies that address systemic racism	✗	✓
Supports Native American tribes’ sovereignty and prosperity	✗	✓
Opposes discrimination against LGBTQ+ people and disabled people	✗	✓
Opposes the death penalty	✗	✓

Equally sacred are ...

Gaudete et Exsultate
March 2018

101. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection. We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in a world where some revel, spend with abandon and live only for the latest consumer goods, even as others look on from afar, living their entire lives in abject poverty.

Evangelii Gaudium
November 2013

53. Today we also have to say “Thou shalt not” to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills

People and families on the economic margins

	<u>TRUMP</u>	<u>BIDEN</u>
Believes housing is a human right	✗	✓
Supports the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	✗	✓
Would protect people from predatory financial practices	✗	✓

Those who are sick, disabled and older adults

	<u>TRUMP</u>	<u>BIDEN</u>
Protects the Affordable Care Act	✗	✓
Opposes cuts to and restrictions on Medicaid	✗	✓
Supports the priorities of the disability community	✗	✓
Supports the health and wellbeing of older adults	✗	✓

Victims of human trafficking and economic slavery

	<u>TRUMP</u>	<u>BIDEN</u>
Upholds the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act	✗	✓
Supports raising the minimum wage	✗	✓
Protects workers' right to organize	✗	✓

“A good Catholic meddles in politics.”

-Pope Francis

(continued on the next page)

If we are pro-life...

Gaudete et Exsultate
March 2018

102. We often hear it said that, with respect to relativism and the flaws of our present world, the situation of migrants, for example, is a lesser issue. Some Catholics consider it a secondary issue compared to the “grave” bioethical questions. That a politician looking for votes might say that such a thing is understandable, but not a Christian, for whom the only proper attitude is to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their lives to offer a future to their children.

We cannot ignore economic inequality.

	<u>TRUMP</u>	<u>BIDEN</u>
Seeks to accurately measure and address poverty	✗	✓
Supports a just tax code	✗	✓

We cannot overlook the situation of migrants.

	<u>TRUMP</u>	<u>BIDEN</u>
Opposes expanding the U.S.-Mexico border wall	✗	✓
Supports DACA protections	✗	✓
Bases immigration policy on family unity	✗	✓
Ensures humane treatment at the border and by interior enforcement	✗	✓
Extends support to immigrant families in the U.S. and treats them with respect	✗	✓
Respects and observes international laws on asylum	✗	✓

President Trump and Vice President Biden’s positions were taken from their campaign website, the official White House website, Vice President Biden’s voting record as a six-term senator, public speaking engagements and their verified Twitter account

Learn more:

www.networkadvocates.org/2020election/scorecard



Catholic Sisters Lead the Way in the Anti-Trafficking Movement

by Sabrina Wong

Editor's note: To observe the United Nations' World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30, Global Sisters Report (GSR) published this excerpt of a longer essay by Sabrina Wong, program officer for the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's Catholic Sisters Initiative. The article is reprinted with permission of GSR.

Human trafficking has many faces. Imagine a teenage girl pressured into prostitution by her boyfriend to pay the rent; a foreign national tricked into domestic servitude with promises of a better life; a fisherman trapped at sea working for wages that never materialize. These are just a few accounts of the estimated 40 million people who are enslaved across the world today.

July 30 marked the United Nations' World Day against Trafficking in Persons, a time to raise awareness around human trafficking and amplify efforts to stop it. With the COVID-19 pandemic contributing to the re-traumatization of survivors and increasing risk among individuals experiencing disadvantage, the need is even greater to shine a light on the work Catholic sisters are doing to address the realities of human trafficking, both domestically and abroad.

Human trafficking is commonly defined as the exploitation of another human being for commercial sex or labor through the use of force, fraud or coercion. Broader characterizations include child soldiers, the sale of organs and forced marriage. Human trafficking is notoriously difficult to expose, and yet the International Labor Organization estimates that it is a \$150 billion criminal enterprise — the third largest illegal activity in the world, behind drug trafficking and arms dealing. Traffickers may elude authorities by crossing international borders, or they may be part of domestic networks that crisscross regional lines.

Although many people are just beginning to recognize human trafficking as a critical human rights issue, Catholic sisters have championed the anti-trafficking movement since the first widely recognized case of human trafficking in the United States surfaced over 20 years ago. In 1995, over 70 Thai nationals were found enslaved in a makeshift garment factory in El Monte, California, shocking an array of human rights leaders, including sisters in the Los Angeles area. Sister-led ministries, such as the Good Shepherd Shelter and Alexandria House, as well as congregations, such as the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, all rallied around survivors. Nonprofits, such as the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (Cast), were founded to support anti-slavery efforts.

Today, Cast is a well-known anti-trafficking organization that has received accolades from the U.S. State Department and the United Nations. However, when Cast first began, Catholic sisters were among its only allies. While others didn't want to believe that slavery still exists or were afraid of getting involved, sisters immediately recognized the significance of this issue and provided trafficking survivors with long-term shelter in their houses and convents. As the anti-

trafficking movement has grown, Catholic sisters have faithfully led the way. Sisters, who serve people without regard to religious beliefs, provided Cast with the first shelter in the U.S. exclusively dedicated to trafficking survivors, who have distinct needs due to the nature of the trauma they have experienced.

At an international level, Catholic sisters have also pioneered the prioritization of human trafficking as a top line issue. In 1998, the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), the worldwide leadership association of Catholic sisters, initiated a formal study of and collaborative effort against trafficking in persons. Two years later, the United Nations adopted its landmark Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. Within six months of the U.N. resolution, the UISG officially made a commitment to address human trafficking “insistently and at every level” through working in solidarity with other congregations across the world. Catholic sisters have taken this mandate to heart. Today, UISG ministry Talitha Kum has an active membership of 2,600 sisters and their collaborators located in 92 countries, making it the largest anti-human trafficking network in the world.

Talitha Kum is translated from Aramaic as “Little girl, arise!” and is a reference to the biblical passage Mark 5:41, in which Jesus heals a young girl who is
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Sisters and Human Trafficking

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thought to be dead. The expression speaks to the possibility of transformation and wholeness even in the most extreme situations. The effectiveness of Talitha Kum has been recognized by the U.S. State Department, which publishes an annual Trafficking in Person (TIP) Report, the world's most comprehensive source of information on human trafficking. In 2019, the TIP Report recognized Comboni Missionary Sister Gabriella Bottani as a TIP Hero for her role as the international coordinator for Talitha Kum.

Catholic sisters, also known as women religious, have unique qualities that make them especially apt foils for human traffickers. Trafficking intersects with the extreme and abusive drive for money, sex and power. Through vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, the lives Catholic sisters lead are a testimony to the futility of subjugating people to abuse in order to gain power and control. Thus, sisters possess a piercing moral authority and clarity that is underscored by their lifelong commitment to the restoration of human dignity. Catholic sisters, who are grounded in years of prayer and personal reflection, are experts in exposing the lie that any human being is worthless or can be forgotten.

One of the most insidious aspects of human trafficking is the way traffickers break down the self-worth of victims to the point that force is oftentimes no longer necessary to keep them enslaved. Traffickers attack the human dignity of victims through abuse, unspeakable degradation, and threats both to the person and their loved ones. Catholic sisters are committed to lives of compassion and mercy, and are attuned to recognize people under duress. In fact, when sisters conduct awareness campaigns, it is not uncommon for them to be in conversation with young people who suddenly realize that they themselves are victims of human trafficking. Women religious instinctively see the wounds of others and, through acts of kindness and attentiveness, are able to awaken a sense of common humanity within survivors, who may be numb to their own reality.

The root causes of human trafficking are complex: forced migration, domestic abuse, profits from commercial sex, armed conflict, and even climate change are all factors that contribute to human trafficking. However, the most common factor is poverty. This lack of basic necessities makes people vulnerable to predators who use psychological tricks to build false trust and hope. With their sacred vows of poverty, Catholic sisters can look people experiencing extreme disadvantage in the eye, rightly recog-

nize them as equals, and walk with them side by side into wholeness. This act of accompaniment — physical, emotional and psychological support — contributes to a healing process that nurtures the resilience in survivors to deal with past trauma.

Although women religious work on behalf of victims of human trafficking regardless of gender identity, Catholic sisters stand in special solidarity with fellow women. The U.N.'s 2018 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons estimates that over 70% of all human trafficking victims are female. The low esteem that many cultures hold for women and girls contributes to their risk for being trafficked, often through the complicity of family members and people in the local community. With 700,000 women religious serving in over 200 countries, any statistical analysis would show that a percentage of Catholic sisters have had first-hand experience with the same discrimination and exploitation that affect women and girls worldwide. Sisters can identify with the pain of other women, and they possess a deep understanding to offer practical, compassionate support.

In *Pastoral Orientations to Human Trafficking*, Pope Francis declares, "We are facing a global phenomenon that exceeds the competence of any one community or country," and therefore, "we need a mobilization comparable in size to that of the phenomenon itself." Pope Francis himself has recognized women religious as "Super Nuns" who are a mobilized network of global frontline actors. While sisters do provide first-rate direct services, they differ from international non-governmental organizations in their life-long commitments to the communities where they serve. Moreover, sisters work in remote villages and poverty-stricken areas that are especially prone to trafficking, and where large international NGOs do not often reach.

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Sisters and Human Trafficking

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To show the scale of Catholic sisters' ministries, the Arise Foundation estimates that at least 900 women religious are working against exploitation in the state of Assam, India, a region known for its eponymous tea. Tea plantations require intense physical labor, and are often sites of forced child labor. In addition, poor living conditions in rural areas such as Assam make villagers prone to the deceit of human traffickers who promise better lives in the city. By sheer numbers, the 900 Catholic sisters in Assam alone match the workforce of the largest anti-slavery NGO in the world.

The ministries of Catholic sisters typically include one or more components of the internationally recognized anti-trafficking framework of prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership. For example, in Nigeria, Talitha Kum member Committee for the Support of the Dignity of Woman (COSUDOW) is a partnership formed among more than 50 congregations of women religious. COSUDOW members unite to disrupt a familiar, heart-rending narrative: a young person in poverty seeking a better life encounters someone who seems trustworthy. Honest employment is offered in Europe or the Middle East, but the young person is instead trafficked for labor or sex.

To prevent this tragedy from gripping youth in their communities, Nigerian

sisters conduct awareness campaigns in schools and churches, and provide job training so that young people can find livelihoods in their hometowns instead of seeking employment abroad. Nigerian sisters also offer hope and restoration for survivors who have been sent back home to Nigeria through psychological support and shelter. In addition, COSUDOW leaders have partnered with civil society in drafting and passing anti-trafficking legislation. This legislation provides the necessary framework for human traffickers to be prosecuted for their crimes.

Because poverty is the most prevalent risk factor for human trafficking, the ministries of many Catholic sisters intentionally include practical job skills as part of a holistic continuum of care for survivors. Southeast Asia is a known hub for sex tourism, where the boundaries between the sex trade and human trafficking are often blurred. In Pattaya, Thailand, Our Lady of the Good Shepherd Sisters run the Fountain of Life Women's Center, where young women who have been involved in commercial sex can learn skills such as hair dressing, jewelry-making and computer literacy.

In Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Maryknoll sisters direct the Horizons Vocational Training Institute, where former commercial sex workers take part in a two-year residential program that employs a skills-based curriculum developed for the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Participants take



classes in basic math, science, reading and English, as well as classes in essential hotel operations, such as reception, catering and housekeeping.

In India, where the sex trade also thrives, Sisters Adorers manage the Nava Jyoti Dan center in the red-light district of Kolkata. At the center, young women learn skills like tailoring and making handicrafts. Likewise, Las Adoratrices Sisters provide sewing and cooking classes for sexually exploited women at the Kredita no ba center in Cape Verde, an island off the west coast of Africa that has been a historic stopping point for the slave trade into Europe. The faith of women religious has led them to envision these centers, dotted across the globe, in which former sex workers can "arise" to more fulfilling lives.

Young women at these centers learn job skills but, equally important, they also experience the unconditional love of Catholic sisters, who value them as people made in the image of God. At all of these centers, sisters provide counseling services that support the inner healing necessary to recover from years of trauma and degradation. Women religious have learned that self-acceptance and the ability to generate income work together in the restoration of the dignity and wholeness of women who have been trafficked for sex.



Three Lessons I Learned from a Squirrel

by Sister Virginia Herbers

I have started this column three times. It is unusual for me not to have a topic in mind when I turn the corner on a deadline, but today I am struggling. It is not that I am lacking for a topic, actually. Several are vying for attention, but as I have sat to compose this column, each one of them has fizzled out.

My first attempt: the importance of civil discourse. I began writing about the increasing prevalence of polarized speech, not just in politics and sports (where we are probably used to it), but now even in school choice, scientific data and personal postings on social media. Disagreements become battle lines, and diverse viewpoints that used to broaden a conversation now serve to entrench positions instead. Right, wrong; good, bad; holy, evil.

The very rigidity that the Gospel tries to break through seems to be hardening all around us. Three paragraphs into this topic, I got so disheartened that I walked away from the computer and went for a two-mile walk, just to breathe normally again. I sat down and picked a different topic because nobody needs to read more of anything that will raise blood pressure.

Second attempt: finding joy in the little things. This time I wanted to focus on the positive. What are the areas of life right now that shine little beams of light on an otherwise dreary landscape? Listening to the “Hamilton” soundtrack on repeat, making homemade chocolate chip cookies, taking a long walk on a crisp morning. This topic definitely made me breathe easier, but somehow it too petered out because it felt escapist. I can’t bear to put something out there into the universe right now that contributes to either irrelevance or tone-deafness to the very real issues that are assailing us.

Third attempt: guardian angels. Today is the feast of the Guardian Angels, and I can think of no period of time in more need of angelic guardianship than right now. I started writing about my friend’s experience in college when she believes she actually met her guardian angel (his name was Tom) and about the time my brother-in-law felt protected by his guardian angel at a particularly important moment. Again, these paragraphs just kind of faded away, not from lack of relevance or energy, but just because I couldn’t seem to keep up the momentum.

So here I sit, typing at Word No. 405 of this column, and I am going to address the issue of apathy. (Both obvious and ironic) I have noticed, more than anything else lately, that as we pass through Month 6 of this pandemic, many people are experiencing a sense of ennui. There is a listlessness to our daily doings, an ever-present question mark with which we are living that is becoming wearisome. Contributing to this feeling is the inability to make plans for holidays or vacations, weddings or graduations; the uncertainty of our government, our finances, our health; the lackluster tone that “free time” has acquired. All these things are taking a toll and we are doing the best we can to grapple with them without becoming depressed or anxious.

I remember one afternoon, shuffling through the house, landing in the

kitchen where my mom was making dinner, and standing with the refrigerator door open, uttering that oh-so-common refrain that teenagers say: “There’s nothing to eat.” When my mom protested that it was too close to dinnertime anyway, I wandered over to see what she was cooking, and it was equally uninteresting. Plopping down at the table, I paged through the catalogs that had come in the daily mail, sighing dramatically.

My mom, having a keener understanding of my feelings than I had at the time, said, “Why don’t you go play the piano?” Nah. “There’s time for you to take a bike ride before dinner. Get out there and do that.” Don’t feel like it. “How about you set the table for dinner then?” It’s too early. “Virginia Marie, get up and do something. Take the dog for a walk or just run around the block for all I care, but get moving. You’ feel better and I won’t have to work around you.”

With no slight feeling of umbrage, I got on my feet and went outside. I didn’t make it even past our front sidewalk before I plopped down on the steps and just moped some more. It was autumn, so the leaves were falling around me, and I noticed that there was a very neatly formed pile of acorns right there on the step.

One by one, I picked them up, throwing each one as far as I could to reach the



Lessons from a Squirrel (cont'd)

houses on the other side of the street. I was so singularly focused on my acorn-lobbing that I hadn't noticed the squeaky sound coming from the tree above me, where the squirrel who had so laboriously gathered those nuts was voicing his complaint. He proceeded to pelt me with acorns from above, until I actually had to get up and run away from him. He then came down the tree and gathered up the remaining acorns, taking one last annoyed look at me, twitching his tail, and running back up the tree.

I laughed, I marveled and I found myself apologizing to that little fella for having inadvertently ruined his plans. He was mighty mad at me in the moment, but my guess is he recovered pretty quickly, went back about his business, and certainly never planned retaliation on my own stockpile of goodies inside (I gathered M&Ms.) He and I resumed our life of peaceful coexistence, and I went back inside to relate the story to my mom while setting the table for dinner in a slightly more cheerful mood.

I've never looked at an acorn pile the same way again.

The squirrel and I, three lessons learned:

- We did not see things the same way, and we valued the same thing very differently.
- I did not go outside looking to get pelted, but the experience did pop me out of my self-absorbed funk and give me something new to look at.



- This memory returned to me today for a reason, despite the fact that I honestly don't think I've thought about it since it first happened.

Now, let's revisit those lessons in light of the first three paragraphs I tried writing for this column:

- Looking at the same reality from two opposing perspectives: difference of perspective and opinion doesn't necessarily mean one side is right and one is wrong, one good and one bad.
- Finding a way out of our downheartedness: Sometimes it takes something a little forceful to get us back on our feet, but the first step is to "get up and do something," even when — or especially when — we don't feel like it.
- Celebrating a guardian angel: I don't believe that the 30-year-old memory of that squirrel came back to me today just out of coincidence. That memory held a lesson for today, for now. Thank you, Guardian Angels, for the gift.

All three original storylines can be strung together from a silly memory of my adolescence. But that's just me. Ponder for yourself today: *How are you doing? What is it that you most need? And how might your own memory of things long past lead you straight to it?* Let's make a pledge together: let's get up and do something today.

(Virginia Herbers is an Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus who is currently on sabbatical after serving as director of spiritual formation at St. Louis University. The article is reprinted with permission of Global Sisters Report; Oct. 2, 2020.)

CSSJ Federation Focuses on Civic Engagement

As you know, the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph is offering a simple CSSJ reflection, rooted in the ten principles of Catholic Social Teaching, for the weeks leading up to the November 3 elections.

The Federation encourages all of us to use/share/email/post/tweet these reflections. They have been designed to spark reflections and conversations via social media and engage all of us in the upcoming 2020 elections.

Here is the link to the page is <http://cssjfed.org/civic-engagement>.

Thanks to the JPIC Federation Immigration Working Group for creating the series.



**WELL DONE,
GOOD AND FAITHFUL
SERVANTS**

Sister Catherine Marie Kreta (LA)
September 8, 2020

Sister Mary Ellen Jones (SL)
September 9, 2020

Sister Ann Weltz (LA)
September 21, 2020

Teresa Crisalli, sister of Sister Maureen Rainone, September 3, 2020

Jane Wysolmerski, sister of Sister Theresa Wysolmerski, September 23, 2020

James Foran, brother of CSJ Associate Kathleen Tait

Take My Hand, Help Me Stand – Spiritual Growth in the Time of COVID-19

by Pat Pilon, CSJA

It was our hope that the presentation by Kathy Poupart, CSJA, would bring us to a calm, reflective place—a time to put aside all the worries, fears and anxiety we all live with, particularly during this pandemic; a time to find our own path to a spirituality that would open us to seek a quiet soul place to ponder our own lives and how we could continue to move deeper into a spiritual relationship with God.

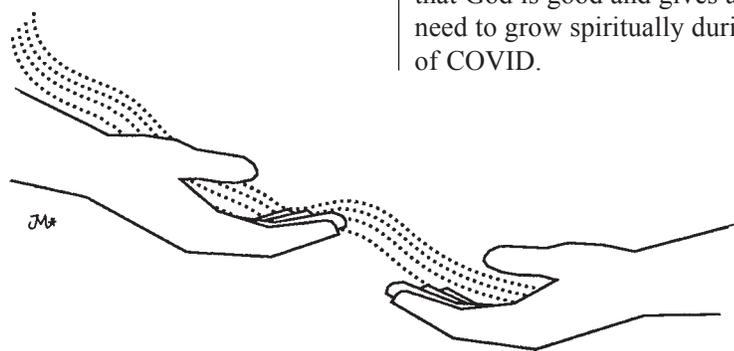
We were given interesting questions to contemplate in small groups:

- How have you seen the Spirit at work in these troubled times?
- Who helps you to remember that you are not alone?

The sharing of our reflections were inspiring. In one small group, all shared their fears and how they were worried more for others than themselves. Daughter working ... husband laid off ... elder sister working in an essential job...

“Who helps you remember you are not alone.” We need to ask this question to our inner selves and find the answer for each of us.

We are better for having spent time together with spirituality, prayer and reflection the entire focus!



A Reflection on Spiritual Growth

by Kathy Poupart, CSJA

“I came to an understanding that God has made me for just this time.” So said my friend, Regina. This spiritual awakening was a result of her participation in last week’s ACOF presentation, “Take My Hand, Help Me Stand: Spiritual Growth in a Time of COVID.”

Having time in break-out groups to answer the questions, “How have you seen the Spirit at work in these troubled times? Who helps you to remember that you are not alone?” enabled folks to make new acquaintances and to share their own stories of challenge and hope. For some, it provided a bond that they are not alone and that it is together that we find courage to be a sign of unifying love.

Quotes such as, “Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset” (from St. Francis DeSales) and “The world doesn’t simply need what we have. It needs what we are” (by St. Teresa Benedicta aka Edith Stein), served as an entry point to moments of quiet personal prayer and a remembering of the strength of the CSJ Charism in each of our lives.

We finished while listening to the hymn, “Salve Regina,” but the beauty of the moment was captured by the ten minutes it took participants to sign off. My takeaway from last Wednesday is that God is good and gives all that we need to grow spiritually during this time of COVID.

Embarking on Our Spirit Journey

by Elise D. Garcia, OP, LCWR
President

As summer ends and schools reopen, ALCWR enters a new year following our annual culminating gathering at the August assembly. Like so many other things in this age of pandemic, the 2020 assembly was like none other in our 64-year history. More than 1000 gathered in virtual space, experiencing both the bane (technology glitches) and the gift (safe togetherness) of that medium.

At the assembly, we shared three distinct but interrelated initiatives that LCWR is centering on as we enter this new year:

- A Spirit Call within a Call—committing to a five-year journey to address systemic racism and white privilege in ourselves, our institutes, conference, church, and nation.
- A National Discernment on the Emerging Future of Religious Life—taking a “long loving look” at our dramatically changing demographic realities in a national conversation with one another.
- A Designated Fund for the Future of Religious Life—dedicating resources to invest in the future of vowed religious life.

Each of these initiatives engages existential questions about our lives as US women religious that interconnect in profound ways...

...As we endeavor through our Spirit journey of healing the soul sickness of racism to cut deep cosmic tendencies for transforming love and relationality in our world, we can lean on our newer and younger members and God’s promise of new life. Though fewer in number, our younger sisters are richer in racial and ethnic diversity—and many have already embarked on the anti-racism journey. The new pathways for transforming love that we carve together today will be deepened and widened as these women live deeply into religious life and minister into the future.

Decluttering at the Provincial House: A Ministry of Service

by Sister Betsy Emery

In the beginning, there was the decluttering activity, but no official name for the process! In 2005, when I came to live at the Provincial House, I helped Sister Clara Gilmartin load items into the car; there were a variety of donations for Joseph's House in Troy. I loaded and Sister Clara drove; then the people at Joseph's House would help us unload. Soon after, Sister Clara could not continue but still helped collecting the goods. At Joseph's House they were always so grateful. Sister Frances Anne Gilchrist stepped into the scene. She drove while I packed the car; she could not lift much, so I continued to pack until I later became the driver.

Joseph's House was the only place we helped in the beginning. Then other organizations began to rely on us for donations. One place was St. Germaine's Thrift Shop which used to pick up donations until they lost their space and driver.

Catholic Charities helped by taking furniture, bedding and housing items, and it's so helpful that they come to pick up the items. Sister Betsy Van Deusen picks up items for people who are establishing apartments. We are so thankful that Betsy helps us to help others! Sister Mary Ellen Putnam has also been a big help. St. Joseph Place in Schenectady has also been able to share many of our donations with those in need.

As time went on, only the Salvation Army was able to pick up donations.

However, Salvation Army now limits what they accept to clothing and come to pick up when our bin near the loading is full or overflowing. Sister Genevieve Ciszek also gives me the clothes from the In and Out Shoppe to pass on. The men on our maintenance staff are also very helpful, as are other sisters who help periodically by delivering bags of clothing to Salvation Army.

During the reconstruction for PACE, I inherited many more items to declutter! The storage of books filled up to green shelves downstairs, and Joseph's House agreed to begin accepting books, magazines, tapes, DVDs, CDs and mugs! Again, our maintenance people help with transporting loads of donations from my room on 1B to the storeroom near the dock!

Interestingly enough, "declutter" was not the original name for this ministry; I am not sure from whence it came, but I seem to be the one to claim it! However, I really enjoy helping others in any way I can, so this is a good ministry of service for me, and I had worked in a similar ministry in Utica. It is always a joy to bring the name of Jesus to my brothers and sisters in the family of God!

Anytime you have any donations for our Declutter Bin, I will share the items with the community or have them delivered to those who could use them. Thank you for this ministry which I really like and enjoy, and I will do my best to bring the goods to God's people in need!

News from the Provincial House

by Sister Francis Anne Gilchrist

The Tree Fairy has been around the PH grounds, and some of the foliage shows it! We're seeing the Courtyard flowers now only from a distance but soon when the refurbishment is complete, we'll be right out there admiring the last stages of their beauty!

As you know, we were quarantined for several days, and we were kept fully informed with COVID updates on Channel 7 each day. We have reason to be grateful that our decision makers of the past looked ahead so wisely and made necessary decisions to meet our needs.

One Friday morning during the quarantine, each of us on the A-wing received a phone call from one of the Leadership Team who simply wanted to give us energy for the day and encourage us to keep up our spirits. Isn't that above and beyond their duties?

The traditional Courtyard tomatoes are still producing end-of-the season fruit. The tomatoes developed beautifully despite all the concrete work that went into the laying of new sidewalk!

Our group of artists got into Christmas preparations a bit early this year by making quilled angels. If you have never seen this art, stop in the front of the P.H. when you can. Sister Mary Ellen Putnam has created some beautiful examples which adorn the columns there!

JOYFUL DECLUTTERING

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- p.20 From the HomeLand Committee: NYS Law Banning Free Distribution of Plastic Bags Goes into Effect October 19

GREAT NEWS!

The New York State law banning free handing out of plastic bags takes effect Monday October 19, 2020! Originally passed by the Legislature in 2019 and delayed by a COVID-related lawsuit, it is now state law.

The law will prevent the 23 billion plastic bags used yearly in NYS from contaminating our lands and waters. So if you are given a plastic bag beginning October 19, say something!

You can also report this legal violation to the Department of Environmental Conservation at 518-402-8706. More info at <https://beyondplastics.org/>.



COPING WITH THE QUARANTINE AT THE CSSJ INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

The values and discipline of religious life have allowed us to adjust our lives to the quarantine as we try to remain healthy and safe at the International Centre in LePuy.

We developed a daily routine and rhythm with plenty of time and space for praying, reading, studying language, listening to music, watching online movies and news, and maintaining the Centre.

We share meals together and each of us cooks the main meal every other day. We attend TV Mass and watch the news. The land around the Centre provides us with space to walk and enjoy nature. Our biggest event is grocery shopping at the Super U Drive-Through, which occurs every 15 days or so. Although France reopened on May 11, we've decided to remain mostly at home.

VOCATION DIRECTOR NEEDED

Sister Rose Casaleno, who has served as our province's vocation director for the past four years, is resigning due to her new ministry in Province Leadership as well as full-time chaplain at Binghamton University. Rose has served our province with energy and insight, and we are very, very grateful.

We are looking for a sister to serve in this ministry. There is a wonderful vocation team in place willing to work with you in promoting and walking with interested women. If you are interested, please contact Joan Mary Hartigan by phone (518) 783-3519 or by email at jhartigan@csjalbany.org.

