

interim

Volume 36, Issue 8

September 2018

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania



**a journey of
discernment**

September 8 & 9 Governance

Chapter will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 8, 2018 with prayer woven into a presentation to set the tone for the Chapter of Affairs. The business of the day will begin after the opening session.

Sister Mary Dacey, SSJ from Philadelphia, is our facilitator.

See page 7.

Circle of Friends Celebration Saturday, September 15 4 p.m. Liturgy 5 p.m. Picnic Dinner 6 p.m. Games & Fellowship SSJ Community Living Center 5031 West Ridge Road

Join us for outdoor mass, hot dogs on the grill, games, and arts and crafts. If you're a sister, agrégée or associate with a desire to display and sell your arts and crafts, give us a call to reserve a spot under the tent. Or if you're looking for a way to help, consider volunteering some time to help us set-up, serve or clean up. We're also grateful for willing workers. For more information or to volunteer, contact Carol Hermann at 814-836-4198, carol.hermann@ssjerie.org



Agrégee Acceptance

Join us as

**Teresa Cieslikowski
Jeanne Marie Costa
Mary Judith Janke**

pronounce a
vow of fidelity

**Saturday, September 22
10:30 a.m. Liturgy**

Dinner following
SSJ Community Living Center
Please RSVP by September 11
to 814-836-4204

**Lord,
may you be
glorified
in my life!**



We have this treasure
in jars of clay, to show
that the surpassing
power belongs to
God and not to us.
Corinthians 4:7

mission possible

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

Welcome to the brink of everything, it takes a lifetime to get here, but the stunning view of past, present and future – and the bracing breeze in your face-make it worth the trip.
~Parker Palmer

Prior to entering the congregation, I never heard the terms *charism* and *mission*. I just wanted to be like the sisters who taught me in grade school and high school. Now, 60 years later, I find myself reflecting on how those sisters influenced me and how that charism and mission became part of who I am.

Recently, the eight of us who entered together spent time at Villa Rosa to pray, reflect and

share stories of our years in religious life.

Sister Rosemary O'Brien led our prayer and used Parker Palmer's words as part of our meditation and reflection. His words capture our thoughts and feelings as we consider these past 60 years of our lives and look forward to the future. We truly are on the brink, appreciating all that has been and ready to accept what God puts before us. And, yes, the view is stunning. Of interest, the watercolor we chose as the image for our Jubilee, was painted by Sister Elizabeth Ann Niebauer and we felt it

represented that brink referenced in Palmer's words.

In addition to my group which is celebrating 60 years of religious life, several other sisters are also celebrating jubilees this year. I am grateful for them all: Sisters Jean Baptiste DiLuzio and Mary Julia Scully - 75 years; Sister Kathleen Kirsch - 70 years; Sisters Joseph Marie Fitzgerald, Mary Fromknecht, Frances Therese Matia, Elizabeth Ann Niebauer, Rosemary O'Brien, Margaret Pellerite, Naomi Wood, Marie Eileen Moyer (dec.), and Dorinda Young (dec.) - 60 years; and Sister Nancy Fischer - 50 years.



Drenched in God's Love, Elizabeth Ann Niebauer, SSJ

We invite you to celebrate the lives and ministries of

Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ
Joseph Marie Fitzgerald, SSJ
Mary Fromknecht, SSJ
Frances Therese Matia, SSJ
Elizabeth Ann Niebauer, SSJ
Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ
Margaret Pellerite, SSJ
Naomi Wood, SSJ

on the occasion of their Diamond Jubilee.

Sunday, October 7, 2018
10:30 a.m. Liturgy
followed by dinner
Community Living Center
5031 West Ridge Road

Please RSVP
to 814-836-4204
by September 25

compassion in action – erie gives sets new record

If generosity is compassion in action, then Erie just can't sit still.

In just 12 hours, 7,945

donors gave nearly \$4.5 million to 381 non-profit organizations in our area through Erie Gives.



Collectively, the Sisters of St. Joseph, the SSJ Neighborhood Network, Saint Mary's Home, St. Patrick Haven

and Erie DAWN received 592 donations (up from 560 last year) for a total of more than \$113,000.

Heartfelt thanks to the many donors who supported the Sisters of St. Joseph and our sponsored ministries on Erie Gives Day. And special thanks to Erie Gives sponsors -- The Erie Community Foundation, GE

Transportation, Erie Insurance, Presque Isle Downs & Casino, E.E. Austin & Son, ErieBank, Erie Times-News, Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, Little Caesars/Dickey's Barbeque, McInnes Rolled Rings and Northwest – who provided funds for the prorated match.



notes

Sisters of St. Joseph,
What a wonderful, grace-filled gathering at the "meet and greet" afternoon at Notre Dame on June 14th. Such a blessing to visit with Sisters from our past and meeting with new Sisters. God's blessing of peace and joy, Evelyn Trkula

Sisters of St. Joseph,
So wonderful visiting with everyone, especially with Sister Ann, Sister Mary D. and Sister Joyce. Kathy Saternow Higgins

Sisters of St. Joseph,
It was a wonderful lunch with all of you! Your wisdom and kindness over the years is always in our hearts and minds. Cynthia Orben

Sisters of St. Joseph,
It was so nice to be at the luncheon last Thursday and seeing Sr. Ann, Sr. Mary and Sr. Joyce. Thanks for a nice afternoon. Ginny Kocis

Sisters of St. Joseph,
You are all so kind! Thank you for my "kind" car sticker. I love it and will pray for all of you daily, Marty Saternow Gadola

Dear Sisters,
We enjoyed the time you spent with us in your beautiful home. Thank you for your kindness. Your Ridgebury neighbors,

Sisters, Associates, Agreees,
Thank you for the blessing you are and have been in my life. Your cards, visits, and other thoughtful acts help to increase the quality of my life and put a smile in my heart. Sr. Mary Ellen

Family of Joseph,
Thank you for the prayers, purchases, donations and assistance you provided to make our annual garage sale a success. We were able to raise over a third of our 2018 sponsorship money for Hekima Place girls' orphanage in Kenya. Agreees Jeanne Marie Ryan Arlene Chaney

The Take Me To Worship campaign in Erie kicked off for the third year on August 24th. Take Me To Worship yard signs and car decals are available free of charge at both Bonnell's Collision Center locations: 2570 W. 26th St., Erie, PA and 4230 Franklin Rd., Fairview, PA.



get to know ssj associates



Associate **Sue Ann Wisniewski** is Quality of Life Coordinator for our sisters who reside at the CLC. Previously, she worked at the Neighborhood Network. Sue Ann says that sometimes she is referred to as "the boss". She chuckled, and says, "I am not the boss, but I am very bossy!" This "bossy boss" plans programs and activities for the sisters such as movies, picnics, day trips, bus rides and outings for ice cream. She also hosts an annual "Tea Party," bakes with the sisters for our St. Joseph Day baskets and cookies for Christmas. During Lent, Sue Ann invites various priests to offer reflections. She lends a listening ear to the sisters who wish to share stories. "I don't consider this work," she says. "I consider it a second home. I love being here-I am so blessed."

Sue Ann became an Associate in 2011. She is a member of St. Jude the Apostle parish where she is a Eucharistic Minister. Sue Ann and her husband, Rich, have two daughters, two grandchildren, two dogs and two cats.

associates' news and happenings

Summerpalooza was a huge success and a lot of fun for all those attending. We are grateful for the wonderful turnout and tremendous response to the needs of the SSJ sponsored ministries. The many items collected are appreciated and will be used in many ways. We would like to share with you the notes received from these ministries.

The proceeds and gifts from the *Summerpalooza* have been a blessing. We received t-shirts, socks, and underwear along with other various items. Many of our guests come in with just the clothing on their backs. Fundraisers and events such as the *Summerpalooza* give us the opportunity to give these men a hand up and help them start again and many times that beginning is clothing. We received snack crackers and granola bars that we were able to pass out to our guests so they had a snack to put in their backpack for throughout the day until they returned to the Haven for dinner. The blankets we were able to give to guests who were ready to move out and needed bedding for their bed. Thank you, so much, for your efforts with the *Summerpalooza*. It is because of fundraisers and events such as these that St. James can open their doors

and offer these blessings.
Samantha Stump, Site Supervisor, St. James Haven

We are so very grateful for the generosity shown by all who were a part of *Summerpalooza*. The school supplies have already been distributed to our children heading back to school. Many items are also stored away waiting in the wings for Christmas time. It will be wonderful to have a little something for our neighbors at soup kitchen and our youth who regularly attend programs. Thanks again - we are truly touched by the overwhelming response!
Gretchen Durney, Site Director, SSJ Neighborhood Network

St. Patrick's Haven is very grateful for the awesome support and donations of coffee, tea bags, snacks and socks. These are items we use each evening as we welcome our guests into St. Patrick's Haven. Thank you for remembering the homeless men of Erie and making them feel as though they are valued.
Betsy Wiest, Site Supervisor, St. Patrick's Haven

We were able to distribute all of the items donated on the National Night out on Tuesday evening. We were one of the designated sites.

summerpalooza!

(Continued from page 4)

We were so happy to have *Summerpalooza* items as our giveaways. Many thanks to all for your support, presence, donations, and suggestions for next time!

Pam Biroscak, Program Coordinator, Erie DAWN

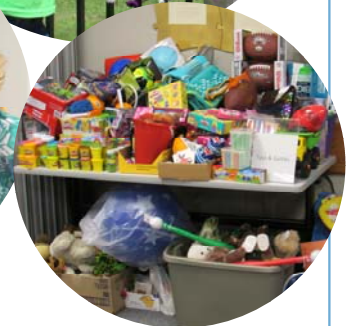
Prayer Shawls

Do you know someone who needs to be wrapped in prayer? We have many knitters and crocheters in the Prayer Shawl Ministry that

have made lovely shawls in many colors and shapes. These shawls are blessed and available to share with anyone needing prayers of comfort, prayers to celebrate and give thanks, etc. Contact the Associate Office to get a shawl for that someone special.

Circle of Friends

We hope to see many of you at



Agregee candidates prepare for vow commitment

On Friday, August 24 Sister Mary Drexler facilitated a retreat day for our Agrégée candidates. The day was comprised of three parts: walking with Jesus, walking with Mary, and walking with Joseph. Each section began with prayer followed by Scripture, input, silent reflection, sharing and closing prayer.

The candidates were encouraged to reflect on their past year of formation, their current realities, and on the vow they will be taking. The day closed with a blessing of the Candidates.

This is a good background for each of the candidates as they meet with both Sister Susan Herzing, Agrégée Director, and Sister Mary Ann White, Leadership, for their

final interviews.

Following the interviews, they will submit a letter requesting admission as an Agrégée.

The commitment will take place during Liturgy, **September 22**. Please remember **Jeanne Costa, Teresa Cieslikowski, and Judi Janke** during these coming weeks as they make these final preparations for their commitment.



On August 15, 2018, the tree presented to Sister Mary Claire during the Women Who are Called celebration last March was blessed and dedicated at the CLC. Sr. Mary Ann Stuckert and Agrégée Deb Seng wrote and presented the blessing ceremony which was attended by several sisters and members of Sister Mary Claire's family. At the end of the blessing ceremony, packets of seeds were given to those in attendance.

events, happenings and ministry news

St. Patrick's Haven is always in need of visitors one evening each month an hour at 7 p.m. If you are interested, contact Betsy at 836-4153 or betsy.wiest@ssjerie.org.

Jr.'s Last Laugh will be hosting a fundraiser to benefit **St. Patrick's Haven**



and the Upper Room on **Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 7 p.m.**

The event will feature well-known business personalities as comedians. We need to provide raffle basket for the event. Please consider donating a basket or item for this fundraiser. Donations can be dropped at Betsy Wiest's office in the Admin. Building before October 1. For more information, call Betsy at 836-4153 or betsy.wiest@ssjerie.org.

On August 3 volunteers gathered at St. Patrick's Haven to complete two projects: adding a secure portion to the storage shed and painting the storage cubicles guests use on a daily basis. Thank you to our volunteers: Chuck Donnelly, Dave Wiest and SPH guests Kenny F. and Mark O.

St. Patrick's Haven and the SSJ Neighborhood Network are participating in a fundraiser with Boscov's. For \$5, you can purchase a 25% discount pass to use on Tuesday, October 16. You can also use the pass toward lay-away items. On October 16 you can also enjoy free refreshments and register to win prizes. All of the funds from the sale of the passes go directly to the organization who sold the pass. If you are interested in purchasing passes, contact Betsy Wiest at 836-4153 or betsy.wiest@ssjerie.org to benefit St. Patrick's Haven OR Gretchen Durney at 454-7814 to benefit the SSJ Neighborhood Network

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018
ALL BOSCOV'S LOCATIONS
8AM TO 11PM

25% OFF* SHOPPING PASS

**brown bag
& basketry
September 17 & 18
4:00 - 8:30pm
Heritage Apartments
2547 West 8 Street
Ground floor**

Enter the door at the south end. Parking is next to the gym.

Cost: \$30
Please bring: bag supper, old towel, dish pan.
Please make your reservation as soon as possible.
969-1429

s.andrefeulner@ssjerie.org

CROP Hunger Walk and Campaign

September 23, 2018

1:30p.m. registration

2:00 walk begins

Presque Isle Beach #1

The Erie County CROP Walk is celebrating its 43rd year. CROP is an international effort to alleviate hunger. Over one billion people are hungry worldwide. That's one out of every seven people in the world. Each day almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes—one every five seconds. People are hungry in the United States, too. If all 36.2 million Americans faced with food insecurity stood in line at a food pantry in New York, the line would stretch to Los Angeles and back. Twice.

The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network receives a donation from this campaign which is used to feed the hungry. Please consider being a sponsor through a monetary donation and/or be a walker. There is a one mile walk for those not desiring to walk the 6 mile walk. Rocking chairs are also available.

Please contact Sister Phyllis Hilbert at 454-7814 or phillbert@ssjnn.org or Sister Millicent Zimmer at 836-4243 if you can help.

LITTLE ITALY FARMERS MARKET
331 West 18th Street
FRESH • HEALTHY • LOCAL

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June 25 — September 24
3:00 — 6:00 p.m.

Featuring produce grown to the highest Union Farm by Little Italy Farms

at or near:
Big Hawk Farms, Old Path Farms, Elvin's Agromarkets, Hearty's Lane, Hildesheim, Joseph's Market Garden, Miller Farm, Monaghan Valley Farms, Post Appleby, & the Erie School District Gardens.

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FRESH • HEALTHY • LOCAL

Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network
814-424-7814 • www.SSJNN.org

SSJ Neighborhood Network's Annual
CELEBRITY BARTENDING EVENT
Friday, September 14th, 2018
5:30-9:30 PM
La Nuova Aurora Club, 1518 Walnut Street

Free admission
Gift baskets
Games of chance
All tips to be donated to benefit SSJNN

Let us raise some for the Home Based on the lower courts

Food available for purchase from Betsy's Restaurant
There, some of proceeds for purchase

SSJ Neighborhood Network
620 W. 8th St. • Erie, PA 16515
814-424-7814

SSJNN Celebrity Bartending Event

Friday,
September 14,
2018
5:30—9:30 p.m.
La Nuova
Aurora Club
1518 Walnut St.



upcoming chapter of affairs and elections

We will officially open our Chapter of Affairs and Elections during the weekend of September 8 & 9, 2018, beginning Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. Sister Mary Dacy, SSJ, of Philadelphia, will be our facilitator throughout this process.

We will make every effort to keep you informed throughout the upcoming year. We will utilize this space in Interim for sharing chapter information in addition to a special chapter page in the LOGIN area of the ssj website www.ssjerie.org.



Included on this page is a prayer we will use throughout the year. Please feel free to clip it and pray with us.

In preparation for the September weekend, we encourage you to read and review several articles about communal discernment, the process we will use. The articles can be found on the Chapter page of the website.

chapter dates — mark your calendars

September 8 & 9, 2018	Governance
November 10 & 11, 2018	Mission & Charism
February 9 & 10, 2019	Membership
March 9 & 10, 2019	Resources
April 6 & 7, 2019	Elections*
May 4 & 5, 2019	Elections*

*sisters only



Chapter of Affairs and Elections Journey of Discernment

God of grace and glory,
 you are the giver of
 all good and perfect gifts.
 As we seek to know
 and do your will,
 open our ears to listen,
 our eyes to see,
 our hearts to love,
 our minds to learn,
 our lips to speak,
 our hands to serve.
 You have walked with us
 in the wilderness,
 sheltered us in the storms,
 and fed us in our
 hunger and thirst for righteousness.
 Guide us on this
journey of discernment,
 that your will would be
 made clear to us,
 that your grace would abound,
 that your glory would be revealed;
 in your holy name we pray.
 AMEN

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

5031 West Ridge Road
Erie, PA 16506-1249
Phone: 814-836-4100
Fax: 814-836-4278
E-mail: publicrelations@ssjerie.org



WWW.
SSJERIE
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our response to the grand jury report

We weep and grieve for the victims of sexual abuse that occurred within the Catholic Church, especially in the Diocese of Erie. We are saddened and angry about the cruel, abusive behavior that took place and we join with the U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in expressing outrage at the findings of the Pennsylvania Statewide Investigating Grand

Jury Report.

This is a painful time for all, most especially those who have been victimized by sexual predators within the faith community. As a church and a Diocese, we are all hurting because of these actions and further, the actions and inactions that allowed them to continue for so long.

We are grateful for Bishop Persico's cooperation with the Grand Jury and his continued

efforts to be transparent and forthcoming with respect to any alleged incidents. We appreciate his promise of full transparency in the Diocese's handling of sexual abuse cases and we support calls for the Church to hold abusers accountable and to deconstruct the culture of abuse that allowed these horrific crimes to occur.

Pray with us

Sunday, September 16

6:00 p.m.

CLC chapel

Bishop Persico has asked that all churches be open to the faithful from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturday, Sept. 15, the day when the Catholic Church venerates Our Mother of Sorrows, so that people may make private visits in prayerful response to the crisis of sexual abuse.

Because our Circle of Friends celebration is on that day, we invite you to a special prayer service in response to the Bishop's request on **Sunday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel at the Community Living Center.**