

interim

Volume 37, Issue 1

January 2019

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month!

January 11

Human Trafficking Awareness Day and Wear Blue Day



Human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry which enslaves 40.3 million victims worldwide. In addition to sex trafficking, the U.S. Department of Labor has identified 136 goods from 74 countries that are made or harvested by children who are often forced into labor. These include electronics, clothes, toys, coffee, and various fruits, to name a few.

Show your support for victims on January

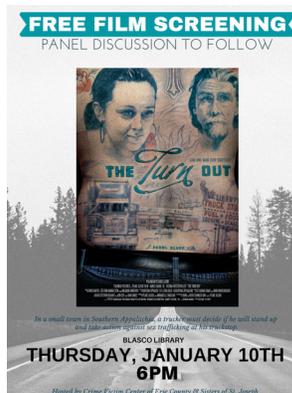
11th, Human Trafficking Awareness Day, by participating in Wear Blue Day. When you do, tell everyone you meet why you are wearing blue.

In the first legal case against two human trafficking defendants in Erie, both defendants have pled guilty. One was sentenced to 14 years and the other awaits sentencing in April. It happens here too, so let's show support for the victims and wear blue on January 11th!

If you know someone who needs help, please call 814-455-9414 or 888-373-7888.

turning out for human trafficking

The SSJ Justice/Peace office and the Crime Victim Center of Erie are sponsoring a special showing of the film *The Turn Out*, a fictionalized story of human trafficking at a truck stop. A panel discussion will follow the film. The film was produced by Dr. Pearl Gluck who wrote the screenplay after numerous interviews with trafficking survivors.



The Turn Out
Thursday, January 10
6 p.m.
Blasco Library

Facts and Figures from the National Human Trafficking Hotline (2017)

- 7,255 victims of sex trafficking
- 1,979 victims of labor trafficking
- 542 victims of sex and labor trafficking
- 838 victims where form of trafficking was unspecified.
- 2,144 survivors reached out for help.

Types of trafficking reported:

- Sex Trafficking: Escort services (1,572), Residential (508), Outdoor Solicitation (329)
- Labor Trafficking: Domestic (242), Agriculture (134), Peddling & Begging (109)
- Sex and Labor Trafficking: Illicit Massage Businesses (774), Bar/Strip Club (194), Illicit Activities (104)

Source:
polarisproject.org



For news and dates regarding Chapter, see page 5.

mission possible

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

As we begin 2019, I would like to share with you the following poem from the book, *Fresh Bread*, by Joyce Rupp.

welcoming a New Year

a new year stands on my doorstep
ready to enter my life's journey

something in me welcomes this visitor:
the hope of bountiful blessings
the joy of a new beginning
the freshness of unclaimed surprises

something in me rebuffs this visitor:
the swiftness of the coming
the boldness of the entrance
the challenge of a year's good-bye.

something in me fears this visitor:
the unnamed events of future days
the wisdom needed to walk love well
the demands of giving away and growing

a new year stands on my doorstep
with fragile caution I move
to open the door for its
entrance.

my heart leaps with surprise,
joy jumps in my eyes,
for there beside this
brand new year
stands my God
with outstretched hand!
he smiles and gently asks of me
can we walk this year together?

and I, so overwhelmed with goodness,
can barely whisper my reply:
welcome in!

Wishing you a happy and blessed New Year... and together,
in 2019, let us make the **SSJ Mission Possible!**



sweet smell of gingerbread!

Debbie Salamon coordinated a gingerbread house centerpiece project with our sisters in Marycrest.



Liturgy of Thanksgiving and sharing the pie! Sunday, January 13 9 a.m. Liturgy followed by Continental Breakfast

Please mark your calendar and join us when we celebrate our Liturgy of Thanksgiving, followed by Continental breakfast and the distribution of funds to area food pantries, soup kitchens and other organizations.



OH-PENN Archivists

The spirit was strong in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, at the 2006 ACWR conference – strong enough to lead to the creation of the OH-PENN Archivists that fall. Prior to the Fort Mitchell conference, in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, region, there was a stirring of interest in establishing a regional group and this initiative picked up steam after the ACWR conference. Upon returning from Fort Mitchell, Sister Sandra DiNardis, CDP, invited archivists of religious communities from Eastern Ohio/Western Pennsylvania to gather for an initial meeting at the Providence Villa in Gibsonia, PA. Thus, the OH-PENN Archivists group was born.

For the past twelve years, the OH-PENN Archivists group has met in the spring and the fall, with the meeting location

rotating among the different archives. Topics covered in recent years have included disaster preparedness, public outreach, and records retention. At this past April meeting, the agenda focused on the effective use of social media and the recent research

by historian Shannen Dee Williams on the history of black relations in congregations of women religious. The members find the semi-annual meetings a way to connect to discuss trends in the profession. Kathleen Washy, kwashy@stjoseph-baden.org



Front row, L to R:

Judith Ann Criner, OSB; Elizabeth Matz, OSB; Virginia Marie Klonowski, CSSF; Louise Grundish, SC; Marie Timmons, SSJ

Back row, L to R:

Lisa Gibbon; Joanne Gardner, HM; Dennis Wodzinski; Casey Bower; Kathleen Washy

get to know ssj associates



Elizabeth Williams

Elizabeth (Betsy) Williams became an associate in 2015. A late in life convert to Catholicism, she is an active member of St. Julia's parish where she serves as a lector, Eucharistic minister and belongs to the Rosary Society.

After receiving her nursing degree and BSN, she worked in med-surg, psych, long-term care and hospice for 47 years. In addition, she served in the military as an Army nurse.

Betsy volunteers as a receptionist at the SSJ Neighborhood Network and in Marycrest where she is faithful to her Friday lunch dates with the sisters. She also helps the aides with set up and clean up in the dining room.

For several years, Betsy has been a faithful and dedicated caregiver to her husband. She also enjoys being with her children and grandchildren and she most recently helped the grandkids bake and deliver Christmas cookies to neighbors.

Being an associate has made Betsy more in tune to listening to God and responding to the needs of the dear neighbor.

associates' news and happenings

Prayer for the New Year

God of this new year, we are walking into mystery. We face the future, not knowing what the days and months will bring to us or how we will respond. Be love in us as we journey. May we welcome all who come our way. Deepen our faith to see all of life through your eyes. Fill us with hope and an abiding trust that you dwell in us amidst all our joys and sorrows. Thank you for the treasure of our faith life. Thank you for the gift of being able to rise each day with the assurance of your walking through the day with us. God of this new year, we praise you, AMEN.
From *May I Have This Dance?* by Joyce Rupp)

Congratulations to Associate Rosemarie Graham

who received her Master of Arts in Communication Studies during a graduate commencement ceremony at Edinboro University in December. Rosi also had the honor of giving the student address during the program. Best wishes, Rosi, as you continue in your studies and professional career. We are proud of you and your accomplishments!

Thanks guys!

By now, you have received and hopefully read the winter issue of *Journeys*. Thanks to all the male associates who helped in any way to provide information for the article, *The Men of SSJ*. I

am grateful for all "the guys" who participated in the online survey and shared with us their ideas and personal reflections. We received a nice compliment from **Sister Patty Johnson**, President of the U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph. She liked the article and expressed interest in our survey questions.

Thank you, **Stephanie Hall**, for the wonderful work you do publishing each issue of *Journeys*.

Help! Help! Help!

We need your help! If you have some interesting news or if you hear something newsworthy about another associate, whether it is a milestone celebration, an award or recognition, or a ministry accomplishment, let us know so we can include it here in this column. This will help us all get to know each other better and build our SSJ associate community. Send email to associates@ssjerie.org





chapter of affairs and elections

Chapter chairpersons

Sister Mary Drexler

814-824-5557 or
814-464-3307

Sister Moira Sullivan

814-452-6580 or
814-460-8671

Important chapter dates

February 9 & 10, 2019	Membership
March 9 & 10, 2019	Resources
April 6 & 7, 2019	Elections*
May 4 & 5, 2019	Elections*

chapter info at www.ssjerie.org

Be sure to regularly check the special chapter page in the LOGIN area of the ssj website www.ssjerie.org.

Delegates' Statement

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and our mutual trust in one another, we commit to make decisions by praying, being informed, listening and speaking our truth in a non-judgmental manner. Collegiality and Subsidiarity will continue to be the congregational decision making process. We accept our responsibility to support and carry out all decisions.

Direction Statements for Mission and ministry

Recognizing the presence of God in one another, we commit ourselves to a spirit of living that embraces active listening, unconditional love and respect, affirmation and acceptance of the dear neighbor.

As a congregation of the great love of God, we will enhance our SSJ mission effectiveness program for our partners in mission while continuing to participate in Federation programs that develop a deeper sense of mission and charism.

notes



Sisters and Associates who recently wrapped all of the presents for this event. Again, thank-you, and we wish you all a blessed holiday season!

From the SSJ
Neighborhood Network

On behalf of our neighbors we extend gratitude to the many sisters, agrégées and associates who donated gifts this summer. They made the holiday special for two hundred neighbors at our Christmas soup kitchen meal at St. Paul Church on December 17th. Also a thank-you to volunteers from SSJNN, along with



Dear Sisters, Agrégées and Associates,

The family of Theresa Fedorko is grateful for your presence, prayers, cards, and support during the time of our unexpected loss.

Theresa is at peace and with so many of her family members. Last summer she told a nephew that she had a full life and was ready to go to her heavenly reward. Her death was quick and peaceful. We have much for which to be grateful.

Sister Rose Anne Fedorko
Sister Susan Herzing

events, happenings and ministry news

Medaille D'Or Award

Robert Cox, Leo Brugger, Mary Herrmann, SSJ and Kathleen Macrino were honored with the Saint Mary's Home of Erie Medaille D'Or Award at the 2018 Saint Mary's Home of Erie Board and Friends Christmas Dinner. This prestigious award is given to individuals who live the

mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph -*unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God; exemplify the loving to care*

mission of Saint Mary's Home of Erie; have worked and/or volunteered in the senior services field and/or provided meritorious services to Saint Mary's.

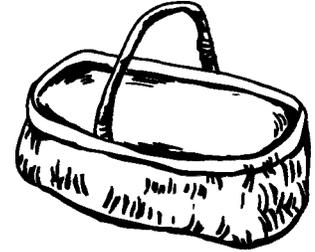


Mary Herrmann, SSJ, President of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Saint Mary's board member (left) with Phyllis McCracken, SSJ, Saint Mary's President/CEO.



St. Patrick's Haven is always in need of coffee, canisters of creamer and sugar and hot chocolate packets—especially now that the cold weather is here. **St. Patrick's Haven** is always in need of visitors one evening each month an hour at 7 p.m. Please contact Betsy Wiest at 836-4153 if you are able to make a donation or would like to volunteer.

St. Patrick's Haven is going green. If you have extra forks and spoons you no longer need, please consider donating them to St. Patrick's Haven. Contact Betsy Wiest at 836-4153 if you are able to make a donation.



brown bag & basketry

Our first basket for this year will be a Cat's Head basket and we will decorate it with a new weave called Lazy Hearts.

DATE: **February 18 & 19 3:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

PLACE: 2547 West 8th St
Ground floor of
Heritage Apts., south
door

COST: \$30

MATERIALS: Bag supper, comfortable clothes, old towel, dishpan.

If you want to see the lazy hearts decoration, go on line to 'Bases to Weave', check on videos and you can see how to do them. YouTube has them also.

To make a reservation:

s.andrefeulner@ssjerie.org
or **898-1429 work**
836-4139 home.



SSJ Neighborhood Network Quilt Raffle

A beautiful quilt handmade by SSJ Associates Gina Adams and Brenda Desser will be raffled on May 4, 2019 at the 13th annual Guess That Tune Gala. Quilt dimensions 88' x 103'. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Call 454-7814 for more information.

where's the justice?

new direction toward the homeless

The employees at New Directions Healthcare sponsored a door decorating contest, ugly sweater day, festive dress day and wear your Pajamas to work day. Everyone who participated made a donation for St. Patrick's Haven – even the clients! Thank you New Directions for your continued support for St. Patrick's Haven.



educating students about homelessness...

Betsy Wiest recently spent the afternoon at St. Gregory's School in North East, Pa speaking with students about homelessness. The students discussed topics such as the migrant caravan and immigration, what homelessness looks like, and how they can help. St. Gregory's will be collecting needed items for St. Patrick's Haven for Men in Erie, PA.

making Christmas brighter

Betsy Wiest recently spent a Saturday morning talking with the youth (ages 5-11) at St. Mark's Episcopal Church about homelessness. After the conversation, volunteers helped the kids fill 26 Christmas blessing bags which were given to the men at St. Patrick's Haven on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

beyond the gates

St. Patrick's Haven is collaborating with Mercyhurst University's Beyond the Gates class in which sophomore and juniors perform 12 service hours and write three papers on their experience. During the fall 2018 semester, 11 men from Mercyhurst visited with the men at St. Patrick's Haven. In one of the reflection papers, a student wrote: "I view the homeless now as more as individuals that have a life story instead of just as a faceless statistic that I've never had encountered before, but the person encounter made a huge change." [sic] The lessons learned in this collaboration will hopefully leave the students changed and create a desire to continue to serve the "dear neighbor" as they move forward with their lives.

thanksgiving update

When meals are delivered to those unable to attend the annual Thanksgiving dinner, the recipient also receives a card letting them know the Sisters of St. Joseph may be able to help should they need additional support. One of the dinner recipients recently contacted Betsy Wiest, Social Justice Coordinator, and said she needed three blankets (one for her and one for each of her sons). The blankets, along with hats, scarves, gloves and socks, were delivered to the woman who was so grateful, not only for the Thanksgiving dinner she received, but for the kindness of the Sisters of St. Joseph.



helping St. Pat's Haven

During Advent, the 7th and 8th grade students at Our Lady of Peace collected much needed items for St. Patrick's Haven – socks, snacks, coffee supplies and hooded sweatshirts. The students presented the items to St. Patrick's Haven at their annual Advent service on December 20th.

homeless memorial day

On the longest night of the year, we remember those who have died without a permanent place to live or whose lives were shortened by being homeless. A service of remembrance in honor of those who died while homeless was held on December 21st in Erie, PA. by the statue of the "Homeless Jesus". The ceremony was conducted by Dr. Grace.



Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

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2018—The year we make a difference

It's January again – the time when we all make New Year's resolutions. The word resolution means to solve a problem or commit to a new behavior. In 2019, let's work together to help make our world a better place. Commit to doing one small thing everyday. Stay focused. Don't give up after a few weeks. By working together, we can help one another to make differences in the world around us. Here are a few things to consider as your resolution for the New Year:

- **Get involved.** Educate yourself about local representatives and issues that matter to you. Vote on election day. Who we elect truly matters – use your voice.
- **Live responsibly.** Do you know where your food comes from and where your garbage goes? Are you recycling, composting, reusing? Support local

markets. Use reusable bags, metal straws and alternatives to plastic wrap.

- **Volunteer.** We have been blessed beyond measure in our country. Find a cause that speaks to your heart and spend time getting to know the people in your area who are working to help that cause. Small actions can make a big difference.
- **Be happy.** Find something every day that makes you smile and pass that smile to everyone you meet. Bring happiness into your family, your work, your volunteer efforts, every encounter. Before you know it, the world will be a brighter place because you chose happiness over sadness.
- **Pray every day.** God wants to hear from you but He also wants you to listen to Him.

Don't work God into your day; plan your day around God. Make Him central to your life, listen to where He leads you and then follow His advice!

Pope Francis' New Year Resolutions:

1. Don't gossip.
2. Finish your meals.
3. Make time for others.
4. Choose the 'more humble' purchase.
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh'.
6. Stop judging others.
7. Befriend those who disagree.
8. Make commitments, such as marriage.
9. Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord'.
10. Be happy.

May 2019 be the year your resolutions change the world!