

# interim

Volume 37, Issue 10

October 2019

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

## The Beauty of Letting Go

*Message from leadership*

*Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go.*

Unknown

The beautiful season of fall. Autumn. It's so full of vibrant colors and wonderful smells that it is easy to forget its true nature lies in letting go of the beauty of summer. Fall reminds us that it is only in the dying and letting go that new life begins.

It's an appropriate time of year for us to explore more deeply the work of our Radical Times, Radical Response committee and the KEB consultants. As we move into the next phase of this process, we will be faced with many decisions about what we can, or should, let go of in order to move into the future.

As our congregation moves



through this process, perhaps it is also a good reminder of something we all need to do periodically in our personal lives. What can we let go of in order to more freely move into the future that God is calling us to?

*Sr. Mary*

## SSJ Neighborhood Network receives \$10,000 gift!

The new Discovery Channel series, *Undercover Billionaire* aired the final episode of its first season on Tuesday, September 24. If you haven't been following the series, it features Glenn Stearns, a self-made billionaire, who is given just 90 days in an average American town to build a million-dollar business from scratch. He assumed a different identity and was not to use any of his resources or contacts. With only

\$100 in his pocket, he sets out to recreate his rags-to-riches success and prove the American Dream is still alive.

The 8-episode show took place in Erie and during the first show, Stearns showed up to help at the SSJNN soup kitchen. The SSJNN was contacted by a man who said he lost his job and business, was starting over, and asked if he could work at the soup kitchen in exchange

**UNDERCOVER  
BILLIONAIRE**

for a meal. He served food, did dishes and mopped floors at the soup kitchen.

The series went on to show Stearns collaborating with local people to launch the new Underdog Barbeque. During the final episode, Stearns reveals his identity and rewards those who helped him along the way. This included presenting a \$10,000 gift to the SSJ Neighborhood Network.

## World day for Migrants & Refugee September 29

The theme this year from Pope Francis is "It is not just about migrants". Our Holy Father is asking us to make sure no one is excluded from society and that all are welcomed. On September 29, please take a moment to pray for those who are vulnerable that they may find the peace, safety and acceptance they seek.

## Maxim Moments

### Maxim 97

In face of opposition, let go of fear.

#### Translation:

Sometimes life is tough, but you can handle it.

Develop a courageous heart.

#### For reflection:

- God is with me at this very moment.
- I give my every fear to God and ask for trust in its stead.
- Be the one you hope to see acting for the good of Earth.

## mission possible

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

# MISSION: POSSIBLE!

*"I believe there's a calling for all of us. I know that every human being has value and purpose. The real work of our lives is to become aware. And awakened. To answer the call."*

Oprah Winfrey

Eight women are currently discerning their call to become SSJ associates. Sister Mary Fromknecht presented "Theology of Call" to these candidates during a recent formation session. In her presentation, she explained her

understanding of the term "theology of call." It is a gift of faith seeking to make a commitment to service under God's direction. Sister Mary explained that as Sisters of St. Joseph, associates and agrégées, we are called to be unifiers and reconcilers in the world. She thinks of it as being bridge builders building relationships and bringing about unity and reconciliation.

Sister Mary concluded her presentation with a passage from the Sisters of St. Joseph Constitutions which reads: We are women who affirm our mission of unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God. Our mission is rooted in the mission of Jesus Christ, the same mission which

continually unfolds in the Church.

*That all may be one, as you, Father are in me and I in you. I pray that they may be one in us.*

John 17:21

As I listened to Sister Mary's presentation, it was an opportunity for me to reflect on my own call to live the SSJ charism and mission. The words from the song, *The Summons*, came to mind: *Will you come and follow me if I but call your name...*

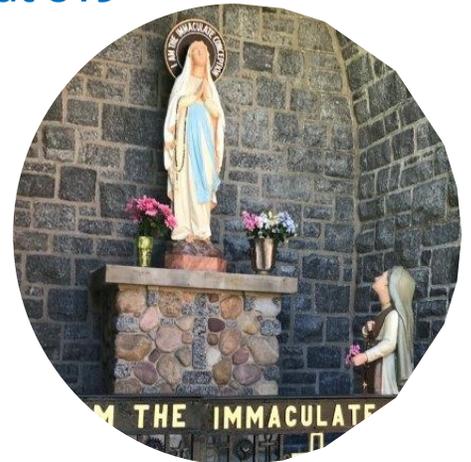
It was a reminder that I have been called to enhance God's mission in the world – to live fully the gospel message that all may be one. That's what makes the **SSJ Mission Possible**.

## Recently restored Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto at 819

The Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto at the 819 Motherhouse was built in 1912 and blessed in June of 1912 by Bishop John Fitzmaurice. The stones used for the building of the Grotto were left over from those used to build the new St. Patrick Church. The Cauley brothers, who were priests, donated the stones to the Sisters of St. Joseph for the grotto.

In 1912, Patrick Lee, a stonecutter, was requested by the Sisters of St. Joseph to build the grotto on the grounds at 819.

In 2019, Michael DeSantis, a former Professor of the Fine Arts at Gannon University, offered to restore the grotto and he completed it in the summer of 2019.



## Many Thanks!

We thank the sisters, agrégées, associates, and friends for their support of this year's CROP walk. Your contributions were \$591.00. Total contribution submitted as the Sisters of St. Joseph team was \$2,596.23. Your financial donation and prayers will help feed the hungry both globally and locally. God bless you.

*Pictured, (l-r): Sisters Rosemary O'Brien, Millicent Zimmer, Mary Helen Forney and Phyllis Hilbert*



# development



## Circle of Friends

It was a celebration of unity – one hope, one people, one love.

More than 300 sisters, agrégées, associates and friends attended this year's Circle of Friends – including 43 Gannon University students and coaches who helped with everything from the liturgy to dinner

service and cleanup.

Thanks to all who shared the day with us and to everyone who donated shoelaces and hair ties (hundreds upon hundreds of them) for immigrants served by Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas.

And as always, a special

thanks to Father Jerry Simmons for celebrating Mass, to Sister Mary Rose Romeo and all the musicians who led us in worship, and to all of the sisters, agrégées, associates, employees and volunteers who planned, parked, greeted, grilled, set-up, served and cleaned up.

## countdown to thanksgiving

It may be hard to believe, but we're just weeks away from the Thanksgiving Dinner at Gannon University.

Very soon, we'll send thousands of invitations to area food banks, social service agencies, soup kitchens and parishes. As always, the dinner is open to anyone in need of a meal or companionship on Thanksgiving Day.

Again this year, the doors will open to guests at 11 a.m. and serving will end at 12:30 p.m. For those who are unable to attend, meals will be available by delivery on Thanksgiving morning.

Donations to the Thanksgiving Dinner Fund are used for the costs associated with the Thanksgiving Dinner. Gifts received above and beyond our expenses will be distributed in January to area food banks, soup kitchens and social service agencies.

### calling all volunteers

Once again, we're looking for volunteers to help with the Thanksgiving Dinner. Because our volunteers and the Gannon/Metz crew have proven to be so efficient, we've been able to reduce the number of volunteer positions needed... but we still need a

good-sized group. If you're interested and able to help on Thanksgiving Day, please call or email Carol Hermann at 814-836-4198 or [carol.hermann@ssjerie.org](mailto:carol.hermann@ssjerie.org) and we can't forget the pies...

Thanksgiving Dinner isn't complete without a slice of pie. We estimate that we will need at least 100 pies. So, if you are able to donate a pie, please let us know by contacting Carol Hermann at 814-836-4198 or [carol.hermann@ssjerie.org](mailto:carol.hermann@ssjerie.org)



## get to know



### Anne Freitas

Anne Freitas has been on the faculty of Kent State University for 24 years. She presently is an Assistant Professor of Nursing - teaching courses in pediatrics, obstetrics and medical surgical nursing. She belongs to a number of professional organizations. Anne is currently a national nursing accreditation visitor and frequently acts as team chair for these visits. Anne has six Godchildren ranging from ages 3 to 42. She is very involved with the associate group from Sharon, PA. She makes many trips from Warren Ohio where she lives to visit her parents, family and friends in Cheektowaga, NY. She has traveled the world and found a Catholic Church everywhere, even in China.

"My faith is very important to me as it has gotten me through many difficult times and is a source of strength and encouragement," says Anne.

She became an associate in 2005. Sister Stephanie and Associate Patricia Terwilliger were her sponsors.

## associates' news and happenings

### All Are Welcome!

All associates and agrégées are welcome to attend **Sister Ardath's** presentations which she gives each month for the Sisters at the CLC. Sister Ardath is a sister of the Humility of Mary from Villa Maria, PA. Her next presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, **October 23, 2019**. The topic will be on the spirituality of Eucharist. Sister Ardath gives the same presentation twice, once at - 3:30 p.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. at the CLC. We encourage you to attend which ever session is most convenient for you.

### Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to all associates who are celebrating birthdays in October, especially **Elaine Clyburn, Stephen Kuhn and Elaine Mozdy** who are celebrating milestone birthdays this month.

### Prayer Shawls

The prayer shawl ministry will meet on **Wednesday October 9, 2019 from 1:00 -2:00 p.m.** in the Florida Room at the CLC. If you knit or crochet and would like to join the group, please feel free to come. If you know of others who knit or crochet, please extend the invitation.

### Men Only

Eight of our associate men joined **SSJ Associate Deacon John Mang** for a morning of reflection on the Eucharist. The overall response from those attending was positive and they wish to continue meeting periodically throughout the year. We will meet with John to

set a date for the next morning of reflection. It was suggested that men other than our associates be asked to join us for the next presentation.

### Just a reminder

Associates received a letter regarding the *Radical Times, Radical Response* process that the congregation is undergoing. The KEB consultants of Springfield, Illinois will speak to the sisters Sept 28-19. Associates and agrégées are invited to attend a conversation with the *Radical Times, Radical Response* committee on Thursday, **October 24, 2019 from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.** at the CLC. We encourage you to attend this session. Please RSVP to 836-4204 or email [Jennifer.Woodard@ssjerie.org](mailto:Jennifer.Woodard@ssjerie.org)

### Suggested reading

Consider reading *Dead Man Walking*, by Helen Prejean, CSJ. Years ago, I did, and also heard (her) speak at Gannon auditorium. It touched me deeply, her mission and book. My late husband, Vedder White, Esq., was public defender of Erie County. He truly showed the same mission of speaking up for the indigent and was strongly against the death penalty. Not only do we have no right to kill, but many suffer long incarcerations and executions who later were found innocent. Sister Helen's new book, *River of Fire*, is now another testament to respect humanity and life itself. Peace blessings  
Mary Ann White  
SSJ Associate

## Sister Sightings!

Several Sisters were spotted at the SSJNN celebrity bartending event in September. It was a great evening of fun and friendship. Sisters Phyllis McCracken and Carol Morehouse even took a turn behind the bar serving up beverages!

Special thanks to the sisters, agrégées and associates who volunteered or attended the SSJNN Annual Celebrity Bartending Event at the La Nuova Aurora!



## SAVE THE DATE!

### *In God's Perfect Time*

#### **An Advent Retreat with Dan Schutte**

*Composer of the songs of our faith including Here I am, Lord, City of God, Sing a New Song and many more*



**Saturday, December 14, 2019**  
**9 a.m. to 12 noon with lunch following**  
**Our Lady of Mercy Church**

*Join us as Dan weaves stories, prayer, music and reflection to invite all into the spirituality of the Advent season.*

On Sunday, December 15 at 3 p.m., Dan Schutte will perform a concert at Our Lady of Mercy Church that will be free and open to the public. More info on both events coming soon!

Questions/Information:

Brandon Vogt at [music@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:music@ourladyofmercychurch.org) or 814-899-5342 or Charlene Kellerman at [ckellerman28@gmail.com](mailto:ckellerman28@gmail.com) or call 814-860-4045



## A note of thanks

Dear SSJ community,  
 Thank you for your prayers for Tim and our family. We also appreciate your presence during his celebration of life. Please also thank whoever made the delicious potato salad. We would LOVE the recipe.

Love,  
 Clare Farrell and family

## This just in!

We just received word that the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania will be recognized as **Outstanding Philanthropic Organization of the Year** by the NWPA Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals at a luncheon on National Philanthropy Day on November 15.




## Saint Mary's Home of Erie

### A Double Dose of Congratulations!

Congratulations to the 2019 Ageless Remarkable Erieites who were honored recently at the Saint Mary's Follies. Pictured, left to right: Honorees **Corrine Egan, Bettie Vincent and Marilyn Reiser with Allen Bonace, Saint Mary's President/CEO.**

Saint Mary's Home of Erie was also recognized recently at the **Commitment to Erie** awards for being named as **Workplace of the Year!**

## events, happenings and ministry news

### brown bag & basketry

This month we will make a solid -bottom Shaker basket. It is a medium sized basket with a solid handle.

**October 7 & 8**

**3:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

Ground floor of Heritage Apts. on the former Villa campus, 2547 West 8th Street. Specific instructions will be provided when you register.

COST: \$30

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

To make a reservation:

**s.andrefeulner@ssjerie.org**

**or 836-4139 or 969-1429**

### St. Patrick's Haven— can you spare an hour?

The visiting team at St. Patrick's Haven commit to spending one evening a month for an hour at 7 p.m. talking with our guests. Can you spare an hour and join our team? We have a large need for more people to help with this important ministry. Please contact Betsy Wiest at 836-4153 for more information.

### Last Chance! Little Italy Farmer's Market Monday, September 30 3-6 p.m. 331 West 18th St.

Mayor Schember will be on hand and there will be live music, children's activities and more. Meet SSJNN's teen gardeners and savor some local produce of the season!



### AHN Saint Vincent Emergency Department/OR Suites; AHN Cancer Institute at Saint Vincent Ribbon Cuttings Set for October

Dr. Chris Clark recently announced that construction is wrapping up for the two major building projects on the Saint Vincent Hospital campus – the new Saint Vincent Emergency Department/OR Suites facility and the AHN Cancer Institute at Saint Vincent. Both facilities are expected to open this fall.

### Volunteer Opportunities at Saint Vincent Hospital

Contact Jodi Andres  
Phone: 814-452-5646

[Jodi.Andres@ahn.org](mailto:Jodi.Andres@ahn.org)

Or apply online at  
<https://www.ahn.org/volunteer-application>



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Strength of the past. Hope for tomorrow.

Save the date  
October 18-20, 2019

A Catholic Leadership  
Conference  
*Women of the Church*  
Saint Mary's College  
Notre Dame, Indiana

[womenofthechurch.org](http://womenofthechurch.org)

### Directed prayer weekend

**November 1-3, 2019**

**Villa Rosa  
McKean, PA**

Cost: \$100

Includes: private room, meals, director.

For more information:

Theresa Ann Walkiewicz

814/833-9717

Reservations due by  
October 18, 2019

### 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 Wednesday, 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](mailto:betsy.wiest@ssjerie.org) to benefit St. Patrick's Haven OR Lora Caldwell at 454-7814 or 897-6901 to benefit the SSJ Neighborhood Network.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019  
ALL BOSCOV'S LOCATIONS  
8AM TO 11PM

**25% OFF\***  
**SHOPPING PASS**

This pass entitles you to 25% off your purchases and cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts and promotions.  
Present this pass at time of purchase to receive your 25% discount.  
Valid October 16, 2019 only.

Plus Free Refreshments and Register To Win Prizes,  
including four \$500 Shopping Sprees  
(Plus forty seven \$100 Shopping Sprees, one for each Boscov's Store location)

Shopping Passes: \$5 each.  
Available from your favorite non-profit.  
Entire donation benefits the local  
non-profit organization from which  
you purchased this pass.



## where's the justice?

### Human Trafficking Coalition —Erie

We have been working with Erie DAWN and Mercyhurst University Ridge School of Intelligence to start an Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition here in Erie. **Coalition Force – Erie** will gather professionals from community organizations, law enforcement, universities among others who are interested in combating human trafficking locally. The coalition will be based at Mercyhurst University where its first meeting was held in September. The university will make available its anti-human trafficking cell which researches and collects data on human trafficking. The coalition's mission is to bring together community organizations to develop a plan to combat the problem. Sister Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ, who in 2005 was instrumental in beginning local efforts to educate our community about human trafficking and working to stop it was on hand for the meeting.



### Take Back the Site Vigil

A Take Back the Site Vigil, coordinated by the Sisters of St. Joseph, was held for Edward Bishop on August 29 at East 6th and Wallace Streets. A large number of Edward's family members, friends and community members prayed to reclaim the site from violence. Edward's mother remarked

that she felt this community support will help her begin to process the tragic loss of Edward. This was the 124<sup>th</sup> vigil since they began 10 years ago.

### Catholic Day of Action

On September 4, Catholics all over the country participated in the second Catholic Day of Action for Immigrant Children. This is part of the "Stop the Inhumanity" campaign designed to increase pressure on the U.S. government to end child detention. Several Sisters of St. Joseph from communities around the country participated in the Action Event in Newark, New Jersey. In Erie, a vigil was held outside the local office of the Governor to pray for the seven children who have died while in U.S. custody. Prayer cards containing the photo and name of each child were distributed to those in attendance who then prayed for these children and all children currently in detention. A third Catholic Day of Action is being planned at the border in El Paso, Texas on October 12.



### Church Women United recognize JPC

Church Women United hosted the 2019 Human Rights Day on August 24. The theme for the day was: The Time is Now! United to Serve: Human Trafficking Awareness. The

Sisters of St. Joseph JPC Team was presented with the 2019 Human Rights Award for its involvement with Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELCA) to bring awareness of the human trafficking crisis in Erie and beyond. Betsy Wiest, Social Justice Coordinator, accepted this award on behalf of the congregation.

## Save the Date!

100th Anniversary of the Suffragettes  
Prayer Service  
Thursday, November 21, 2019  
7:00 PM  
CLC Chapel

100 YEARS STRONG  
LEAGUE of  
WOMEN VOTERS®  
**LWV**  
1920 – 2020  
ERIE COUNTY  
CELEBRATES

## Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

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## Take Action During the Season of Creation

During the Season of Creation 2019, Sept. 1—Oct. 4, the U.S. Catholic community is calling for national and international climate action. If we fail to act, scientists predict that the climate crisis will result in increased flooding, droughts, heat waves, less biodiversity, and a rise in sea levels.

Our most vulnerable neighbors—the poor, the elderly and children—in the U.S. and around the world, will be the first and most affected by these changes. But the impact of climate change on our health, food supply, water, and economic well being will touch everyone.

The time is now to act toward solutions. The Earth is our home. Pope Francis has called on governments around the world to take drastic measures to combat our climate emergency. We must insist that

legislators in the United States join in the national and global actions to address the climate crisis.

On June 1, 2017, the United States withdrew from the Paris Agreement, an international treaty signed in 2016 by the U.S. and 193 other nations to address climate change. As a result, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops responded by saying, “The (USCCB) along with Pope Francis and the entire Catholic Church, have consistently upheld the Paris Agreement as an important international mechanism to promote environmental stewardship and encourage climate change mitigation. The decision not to honor the U.S. commitment to the Paris Agreement is deeply troubling.”

On June 5, 2019, the International Climate Accountability Act (S.1743) was

introduced in the Senate which would call upon our government to develop and submit a plan for the U.S. to meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement and prohibit the funding of efforts toward our nation’s withdrawal from it. This bipartisan bill was cosponsored by 46 Senators. Please call your Senators today at **(202) 224-3121** and ask them to support S.1743. The time to work toward solutions to the climate crisis is now—please call today!

### TAKE ACTION!

Please call your  
Senators today!  
**(202) 224-3121**  
Ask them to  
support S.1743.