

interim

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

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September 2023

A Journey Into Hope

Sr. Carol Morehouse and I had the privilege of attending the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) Assembly in Dallas, Texas, earlier this month. This was my first experience with some 800 Sisters gathered to hear messages from keynote speakers around the theme "Drawn by Sacred Mystery: A Journey into Hope." I would describe the gathering as energizing, hope-filled, enriching, and engaging. LCWR president Sr. Rebecca Ann Gemma's talk on hope spoke to my heart. Hope is the door that opens unto the future. Pope Francis said, "Hope begins with YOU, but when there is an US, there is a revolution. DO NOT FEAR TO HOPE." (Her presentation and others are available at LCWR.org. The music, worship, and prayer added greatly to the richness of our time together.

At the closing banquet, the members honored Sr. Donna Markham, O.P., for the outstanding work that she has done serving the poor and the needy through Catholic

Charities, USA. I was especially touched by her story about calling her friend, Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ, to plan ways to get vaccinated Sisters to help those most in need in areas of great distress. Sr. Donna and Sr. Carol were able to get more than 300 vaccinated Sisters over the age of 75 to go to the border and assist in whatever way they could. It was reminiscent of how Deb Seng, Betsy Wiest and Patrice Swick (Erie Diocese) volunteered at the border back in 2019. Remember the shoelaces????

After the assembly ended, Sr. Carol and I stayed on to see some of the sights. We toured the sixth floor JFK Museum, a short walk from our hotel. It brought back memories from that time in our history. We also traveled to McKinney, Texas, to visit my former neighbor, Vivaan. We talked, laughed and enjoyed each

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Charism/Mission Directional Statement

Conscious of the Holy Spirit's presence, we commit to live more fully the Gospel message; to further develop wholesome relationships among and beyond ourselves; to move beyond our comfort zones; to live the charism so that others may experience the love of God at this moment in our history.

Governance/Leadership Directional Statement

Conscious of the Holy Spirit's presence and believing that governance is an expression of our mission, we commit to exploring and creating a governance model which may include Sisters, Associates, and Agrégées. We commit to sharing responsibility, and communicating with trust, compassion, and acceptance.



Welcome!

Associates Welcoming Ceremony
Sunday, September 10, 2023
9:00 a.m. Liturgy

*Though the RSVP deadline has passed,
all are welcome to join us for the Liturgy.*

Candidates to be welcomed are:
Nancy Fetzner-Brown
Kathy Higgins
Suzanne Newman
Cass Shimek

MISSION: POSSIBLE!

Helping the Dear Neighbor

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

The SSJ charism/mission directional statement reads: *"Conscious of the Holy Spirit's presence, we commit to live more fully the Gospel message: to further develop wholesome relationships among and beyond ourselves; to move beyond our comfort zones; to live the charism so that others may experience the love of God at this moment in our history."*

Last month, I reflected on this directional statement in my article and I shared how difficult it is for me to go beyond my comfort zone since I am not a

risk taker. As I continued to think about this, it occurred to me that I have another issue with going beyond my comfort zone.

I was homebound for the last two weeks with pneumonia. I wasn't able to do many everyday tasks or chores such as getting the mail, grocery shopping, caring for my sister's needs, etc. I needed to rely on others. This made me realize how much of a control freak I am and how difficult it is for me to accept the kindness of others. I shared this with a

friend who helped me realize how much easier it is for me to reach out and do for others, and how difficult to be the one on the receiving end, letting others do for me.

I am very grateful to the friends and neighbors who did reach out to me with their kind acts, and those who ran errands for me. To paraphrase our neighbor, Valerie Carlson, who went shopping for us, "that's what neighbors are for, to help one another." Reaching out to the dear neighbor is what makes the **SSJ Mission Possible!**

Retreat Opportunities

- **Enter the Chaos: Engage the Differences to Make a Difference** is a reflective four-day process grounded in the transformative power of contemplation with Vernice Solimar, PhD, and Nancy Sylvester, IHM, from September 21, 2023 to September 24, 2023. [Click here to read more and register.](#)

- **Weekend Individually Directed Retreat Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center** October 13 to October 15, 2023. Prayerful reflection, often with Sacred Scripture, in an environment of complete silence is the usual setting for this process. There is no preset pattern for a directed retreat. The director and

the retreatant try to be sensitive and responsive to where the retreatant is in his or her journey with God. [Read more/register by clicking here.](#)

- **Awaken the Spirit** A new individual virtual retreat with Dan Schutte, composer of beloved hymns "Here I Am, Lord," "City of God" and "You Are Near." Make your retreat during September, October or November. *"Much of this retreat will resonate with our SSJ charism, mission and community. It is a great retreat experience you won't want to miss."* [Click here](#) to listen to conversation with Dan Schutte and SSJ Agrégée Charlene Kellerman. [More information/registration.](#)

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other, playing games and walking to his school in 106-degree weather. After lunch of pizza and ice cream (my favorite kind), we prepared for our return trip. It was quite a remarkable adventure!

Sr. Mary

BLUE MASS

To honor the work of all public safety personnel
Wednesday, September 6, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.
Blessed Sacrament Church

Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, Bishop of Erie, presider
Assisted by Rev. Philip Pinczewski, Catholic Chaplain, Erie Fire Dept.
Rev. Jason Glover, Catholic Chaplain, Erie Police Dept.



Many gathered to celebrate Mother Agnes Spencer, SSJ, and her legacy on August 20, 2023.



MOTHER AGNES SPENCER, SSJ, LEGACY SOCIETY EVENT



TAKE BACK THE SITE

Prayer vigil at the site of the July 22, 2023, shooting which led to the death of

JAQUAN JAMOND "J HOOD" BURROWS

Please join us in prayer

Thursday, September 7, 2023 5:15 p.m. at 913 Ash Street, Erie, PA

Benedictine Sisters of Erie and Oblates Sisters of St. Joseph, Agrégées, and Associates
Sisters of Mercy and Associates



LITTLE ITALY FARMERS MARKET

331 West 18th Street

Final Days!
Sept. 4, 11, 18 and 25
3-6 p.m.



ONLINE

SAVE THE DATE

White Supremacy and American Christianity

A Consistent Ethic of Hate Threatens Our Democracy

Saturday October 21, 2023
12:00 PM Eastern / 9:00 AM Pacific



Fr. Bryan Massingale, Fordham University, and Dr. Robert P. Jones, Public Religion Research Institute, join NETWORK's Joan Neal for a third conversation about White Supremacy's impact on democracy and religion.



Robert P. Jones



Fr. Bryan Massingale



Joan F. Neal

Associates' News and Happenings

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, *Associate Director*

Prayers

Please pray for the repose of the souls of James Heubel, brother of **Mitzi Bannister**, who died on August 18, and Kevin Collman, brother of **Nancy Donnelly**, who died on August 21. May Eternal Light Shine upon them O Lord! Remember Mitzi and Nancy and their families in your prayers at this most difficult time. Also remember in prayer **Peggy Zeigler, Ann Flick** and all the Associates, Sisters, Agrégées and their family members who are dealing with health problems.

SSJNN Needs Your Help!

In the last issue of Interim, we asked that you donate desserts to the SSJNN for their Monday suppers. However, since then we received word that they do not need desserts in September but they need drinks – Gatorade, juices (large bottles and/or individual sizes) and bottled water. Please drop these off at the Neighborhood Network on West 18th Street and attach Jenn Kennedy's name on it. Thanks for your help!

What's Happening in Your Corner of the World?

On August 21, **Nancy Donnelly and Linda Kuhn** as well as **Sister Millicent** traveled to Meadville to meet with the Meadville Associates for lunch (see photo). Many thanks to **Kay Hotchkiss** who made all the arrangements. We regret that Kay was not able to be there herself. Everyone had an enjoyable time. I am sorry that I had to miss this gathering. Hopefully, there will be another gathering in Meadville before the snow flies.

Happy birthday to Meadville associate, **Gerald Derby**, who will be celebrating his 90th birthday on September 2.

Many Thanks

...for all the birthday cards, emails, and phone calls I received as I celebrated my birthday...I'm not saying which one!



Pictured (l-r): Linda Kuhn, Charlotte Sheldon, Ruth Mercier, Hal Sheldon, Shirley Byers, Nancy Donnelly, Sr. Millicent Zimmer, and Joan McCain.

...to **Sr. Ricarda, Sr. Linda, Margaret Chrymko, Cass Shimek, Vickie Pangratz, and Stephanie Hall** for all they did to help make the three Summer Events a success.

...to **Nancy Donnelly, Cass Shimek, Sr. Ricarda, and Sr. Susan** for hosting the Information Session for me while I was down with pneumonia last week.
...to all the Associates who joined the Program Committee and the Outreach Committee
...to **Nancy Donnelly and Linda Kuhn** for coordinating the Prayer Groups.

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COME ON BACK

Please join Associates, Sisters and Agrégées as we come together to get reacquainted.

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023

Gathering Room

Coffee: 9:30 a.m., Prayer: 10:00 a.m.

**Presentation: Jenn Kennedy,
Donor Relations and Volunteer Coordinator
SSJ Neighborhood Network
Social: 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

[Click here to RSVP by September 9.](#) or call 814-866-3316 or email mchrymko@hotmail.com

If you would like to help, the SSJNN is in need of diapers, 3-in-1 body wash, shampoo and conditioner, and 12-ounce bottles of Gatorade.

Associates News & Happenings

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Prayer Groups

This is the final call if you wish to join a prayer group. **Nancy**

Donnelly has been organizing the groups which will begin meeting soon. Contact me at 814- 823-1182 or s.amcappello@ssjerie.org OR Nancy at cdonnelly5@roadrunner.com. We encourage out-of-town

Associates or those who are not able to attend in person, to join the ZOOM prayer group that **Linda Kuhn** is coordinating. You can reach her at stevenandlindakuhn@gmail.com.

Request for Prayers, Cards and Well-wishes

Prayers and well-wishes are requested for Agrégée Cindy Brown who is currently in Pittsburgh's Shadyside Hospital for testing to determine the next steps in her cancer treatment. [Click here to send an e-card to Cindy](#). The hospital will print and deliver e-cards to her. She will be there for a few days, hopefully discharged on Monday. After that, cards can be sent to her at: **2543 West 8th Street, Apt. 108, Erie, PA 16505**



A Caring Bridge page has been set up if you are interested in keeping up-to-date on Cindy's health journey. Updates will be posted there and you can leave comments and well-wishes for Cindy. If you have not used Caring Bridge, you will need to register with an email and create a password.

[Click here for Cindy's Caring Bridge page.](#)

CARING  BRIDGE.

Happy 105th Birthday, Sr. Rachael!



Sr. Mary Rachael McGuire turned 105 years old on August 24th. A celebration was held at the Community Living Center and the local media showed up. [Click here to check out the Erie News Now story.](#)

So Many Thanks!

The Erie community has once again blessed St. Patrick's Haven during Erie Gives Day. We received **\$28,997 from 177 donors**. We couldn't be more grateful for the unwavering support. Thank you Erie!

We want to thank and honor our donors and contributors who helped us to re-open on July 19, and for those who provide continued support on a weekly or monthly basis.

Thank you to all the amazingly generous people who have donated to St. Patrick's Haven. Each donation is packed with faith and love, filling our guests' souls.

Our work is still far from done, and you can help. We are in need of the following items:



- Dishwasher soap (pods or liquid)
- Men's briefs or boxer briefs (Sizes: M, L, XL, 2X, 3X)
- Men's winter boots: Sizes 9, 10, 11, 13
- Men's hooded waterproof windbreakers: sizes L, 2x, 3x, 4x
- Winter gloves



25% OFF SHOPPING PASS

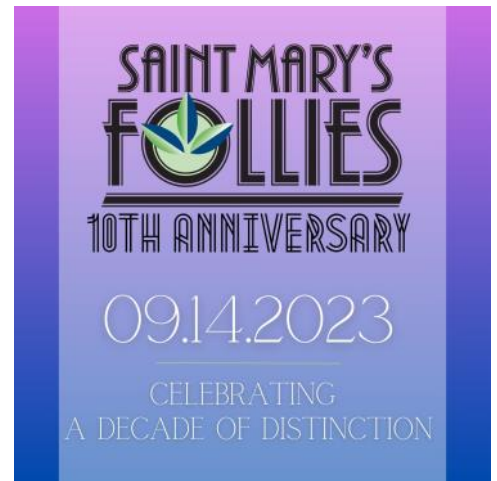
Donate \$5 to St. Patrick's Haven and get a 25% off shopping pass that can be used almost anywhere in the store. You also get a chance to win a \$100 Boscov's shopping spree.

Shopping day:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 2023 8 a.m.—11 p.m.
Contact Shelby Folga at 814-836-4153 to get your pass.

Saint Mary's Follies

The 10th annual Saint Mary's Follies will be held on Sept. 14 at the Bayfront Convention Center. Join Saint Mary's Home of Erie and chair couple Drs. Chris & Caitlin Clark as we celebrate a Decade of Distinction and honor **Mary Jane Koenig, Richard and Diane Quien**, and the late **William DeWitt** as the 2023 Ageless Remarkable Erieites. Cocktails at 5 p.m. followed by dinner, musical entertainment, and an inspiring award ceremony. All proceeds benefit the mission of Saint Mary's Home of Erie. Tickets are \$110 per person or \$800 for a table of 8. Call (814) 836-4394 or visit stmaryshome.org for more information.



*Sisters of St. Joseph
Neighborhood Network's*

CELEBRITY BARTENDING FUNDRAISER

Friday September 22nd
5:30-10pm
Nuova Aurora Club
1518 Walnut Street
Erie, PA 16502



Sound Off for St. James Haven

Saturday, September 16th
2 p.m. – 6 p.m. at St. James Haven
779 North Main Street, Meadville, PA

Please join us for a fun filled day listening to live worship music from our very own local churches. This outdoor event is located at St. James Haven (779 North Main Street) and will feature delicious food trucks parked on North Main between North and Randolph Streets, a basket auction, an opportunity to hear testimonials from volunteers and prior guests. [Click here for more information.](#)

Featured food trucks:

Marty's Nacho Mama's
 Waffle Miracle
 205 Ferenheit
 Ron's Lemondae
 Mac with Toppings

Featured churches:

Lake Church
 First Christian
 Oasis Church
 Seventh Day
 Calvary Baptist
 Allison Mattis/Kim Adsit performing

ssj community September Birthdays



- 1 A. Barb Jones
- 2 S. Margaret Frank
 S. Dorothy Wilwohl
 A. Gerald Derby
 A. Benjamin Villa
- 3 A. Mary Ann White
 A. Patricia Mayer
- 4 A. Fr. Ray Selker, OFM
 A. Mary Dennis
- 6 A. Patricia DeVore
- 8 S. Claudia Dombrowski
 A. Valarie Carlson
- 11 S. Josephine DePetro
- 12 Agr. Arlene Chaney
- 13 S. Stephanie Wagner
- 15 S. Bernadine Gehringer
 A. Betty Jo (BJ) Chitester
 A. Lynn Jones
- 16 A. Gary Flick
 A. Mary Ann Larimer
- 17 S. Maria Onuffer
- 20 S. Elizabeth Ann
 Niebauer
- 21 A. Mary Fuhrman
- 23 A. Rosie Schaaf
- 24 A. Mary Grace Lewis
- 28 A. Uta Smith
- 30 A. Tom Hudson



SSJ Neighborhood Network News

The SSJNN has two new staff members: and helping to revitalize Erie's neighborhoods.

Jennifer Kennedy, Donor Relations & Volunteer Coordinator, and Patrice Swick, Neighborhood Engagement Specialist. They are familiar Erie faces who are bringing new energy to the SSJNN following their years-long dedication to service and community advocacy work. We welcome them and are grateful for their passion and love of serving our neighbors



Jennifer Kennedy (l) and Patrice Swick

- SSJNN is requesting donations of drinks and non-perishable snacks for our teen garden workers. Donations can be dropped off at 425 W 18th Street.
- We want to send a big THANK YOU to all Sisters, Agrégées and Associates who have visited the Farmer's Market, greeted the teen workers, or prayerfully or otherwise given support! We hope to see you for our final market days on September 4, 11, 18 and 25, 3-6pm 331 W 18th Street.

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
.ORG



We're Doing Our Part, With Everyone's Help

The Sisters of St. Joseph have made reducing their carbon footprint a priority for many years. In our efforts to do more and network with other like-minded groups, we became a founding partner in Erie 2030. The Erie 2030 District includes 19 Property Partners with 128 buildings totaling 7.8 million square feet. The goal of the district is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the environment by 50-65% by 2030, and reach zero carbon emissions by 2040.

Each month, the property owners record data on energy consumption. Last week, the District's 2022 data was shared. There was an overall 41.4% reduction in carbon emissions, a 16.6% energy reduction which translates to 33,000 metric tons

of carbon dioxide emission avoided. This reduction equates to a \$3 million annual utility cost savings.

We will continue to look for ways to reduce our carbon footprint through education, energy efficient purchases, and maintenance.

What can you do to help? Each year, from September 1st to October 4th, the Christian family unites to celebrate the "Season of Creation." It is a time of prayer and action to protect our common home. This year's theme is "Let Justice and Peace Flow." Each week, we will email a calendar. It will have a daily SSJ maxim to pray with, and an action step to take toward protecting our common home. Sister Alessandra Smerilli, Secretary of the

by Deb Seng, SSJ Social Justice Coordinator

Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development said, "This Season of Creation will be an opportunity to pray, reflect, and act together as the People of God for our common home. Like tributaries joining forces to become a mighty river, the ecumenical family will come together on a synodal path of care for our common home through peace and justice."

If each of us does our part, and unites in prayer, practical advocacy, and sustainable actions, we will reach our goal by 2030 and beyond. Leaving a livable Earth for future generations.

