

interim

Volume 36, Issue 4

April 2018

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

Earth Day—*Be the Change!*

Earth Day is April 22, 2018 but at the CLC, we will be celebrating Earth Month! Our theme: ***Be the Change!*** It's an appropriate time to assess what we are each doing to preserve the Earth.

For a while, we have made suggestions of how to be more "green". How are you doing? Have you reduced your carbon footprint? Do you need to renew your efforts? Watch your emails, SSJ Facebook and website for tips that can help you to ***Be the Change!***

Green Faith, Interfaith Partners for the Environment, has created a ***Be the Change*** pledge. We invite you to take the pledge, add your personal commitment to put your beliefs into action: *"I pledge to make my life a blessing for the Earth."*

The Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation (JPIC) team will recognize local Catholic educators who are teaching children about environmental issues with a special ***"Green Apple"*** award.

Once planted, a ceremony will be held to bless the tree Sister Mary Claire Kennedy received at the recent "Women Who Are Called" event.



Be the Change tips:

- Use filtered water – not bottled water.
- Switch off lights.
- Wash with cold water.
- Buy locally and support a local farmer.
- Use cloth bags when shopping.

Reminders:

April 3
Silent Peace Walk

April 5
Take Back the Site

April 9 & 10
Brown Bag & Basketry

April 12
GRACE in the Now

April 14
Agreee Candidate Session

April 20
SSJ Board Meeting

April 21-22
Overnight Retreat

April 22
Earth Day

April 26
Sustainability Presentation

April 28
OPAL meeting

April 28
SSJNN Guess that Tune Gala

12th annual Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network Guess that Tune Gala

April 28, 2018

Bayfront Convention Center
Hosts: Tim and Lisa NeCastro

Live music, dinner, theme baskets and a silent auction!
For more information and/or tickets:

814-454-7814

jsprickman@ssjnn.org
www.ssjnn.org/GALA



women who are called – honoring three women of justice

Betsy Wiest – Social Justice Coordinator

Sister Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ, was one of three sisters honored for their dedicated social activism as part of National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14. The idea to honor Sister Mary Claire, along with Marlene Bertke, OSB and Rita Brocke, RSM came from Gary Horton, longtime Erie community advocate, who approached the congregations and asked if an event could be held to honor them for their tireless devotion to social causes. The event, "Women Who are Called," was held on March 11, 2018 and included video tributes to each Sister and was emceed by Erie News Now anchor, Eva Mastromatteo. Brittany Barko, soloist, accompanied by Sr. Mary Rose Romeo, performed "Gather The Dreamers" as a reflection after Sister Mary Claire was



these women, but a reminder that we are all called to work toward continued social justice.



recognized. Sister Nancy Fischer, Erie Diocesan Vicar for Religious, spoke about the work of Catholic sisters in Erie who have fed the hungry, housed the homeless, provided medical care for the poor, comforted victims of crime and worked toward equality for all of God's children. Catholic sisters have responded with compassion born of the pain of true empathy for those around



Pictured: Top—Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ. Bottom, seated (l-r): Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ; Rita Brocke, RSM; Marlene Bertke, OSB. Standing (l-r): Pam Forsyth, Alexis Bevevino and Eva Mastromatteo, all from Lilly Broadcasting.

them. Each sister was presented with a tree as a living reminder of the work she has done and the work that continues. A fourth tree honoring the three sisters will be planted in a park near the Emmaus Soup Kitchen. Women Who Are Called was not just an event to honor

a note of thanks

My heartfelt thanks to all of you who have supported me over the years and for your kind expressions regarding yesterday's beautiful program honoring Marlene, Rita and myself. It was a wonderful expression of the commitment of each of our religious communities. My prayers and gratitude for having made all of this possible, Sister Mary Claire



Seated (l-r): Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ; Rita Brocke, RSM; Marlene Bertke, OSB. Standing (l-r) Mary Herrmann, SSJ; Mary Ann Bader, RSM and Anne Wambach, OSB. Above, clockwise from top: Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ; Brittany Barko, Mary Herrmann, SSJ; Jeanette Bussen, SSJ (left) and Betsy Wiest (right) with Sr. Mary Claire.

special thanks

It takes a lot of hands to bake the bread, polish the apples, assemble and deliver St. Joseph Day baskets. Heartfelt thanks to all who made this year's St. Joseph Day so special for 112 dear neighbors.

Bread Bakers:

Sr. Marjorie Adams, Tina Branton, Janet Demjanenko, Sr. Mary Thomas Downing, SueAnn Wisniewski and the Sisters in Marycrest, Teresa Cieslikowski, Nancy Donnelly,

Ann Flick, Mary Fuhrman, Sr. Michele Healy, Linda Kuhn, Jean Heintzel, Uta Maria Smith, Betsy Williams and her grandchildren – Jasper and Chris, Marge Wojtkielewicz, Mary Ann Zarnick and Jane Zawacki.

Basket Assembly:

Sr. Marjorie Adams, Sr. Lucille DeStefano, Sr. Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, Sr. Michele Healy, Sr. Maria Onuffer and Sr. Millicent Zimmer.

Basket Delivery:

Sr. Claudia Dombrowski, Sr. Mary Drexler, Sr. Michele Healy, Sr. Susan Herzing, Sr. Mary Herrmann, Sr. Veronica Mittal, Sr. Rosemary O'Brien, Sr. Jude Marie Talerico, Sr. Mary Ann White, Sr. Millicent Zimmer, Nancy and Chuck Donnelly, Linda Gier, Kendra Flatley, Stephanie Hall and Betsy Wiest.

With gratitude,
Dotty Hanna and Carol Hermann

National Catholic Sisters Week at Gannon University

Once again this year, during National Catholic Sisters Week, we were present in Waldron Center at Gannon University. Sisters Mary Ann White and Rosemary O'Brien, along with SSJ Agregee Betsy Wiest and Celene

Kalivoda (Gannon Professor) greeted students, faculty and staff during a lunch hour during the week. Forty-six students entered to win a basket of goodies provided by the Mission Office. This was the

third year the Sisters of St. Joseph collaborated with the Dahlkemper School of Business to develop student awareness of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

thank you Dick's Sporting Goods

We need to thank and support those who take action to stop gun violence in our country. Dick's Sporting Goods is one of the first corporations to take action following the shooting in Parkland, FL. Please consider signing a letter

to Edward Stack, Chairman and CEO, Dick's Sporting Goods, which reads:

"Thank you to Edward Stack, Chairman and CEO of Dick's Sporting Goods, for deciding to stop selling assault rifles



and to limit gun sales to those 21 years of age and older. You've put our safety ahead of your profits. "

If you would like to sign the petition, click here to add your name:

<https://bit.ly/2Gf84uW>

house of welcome

We have exciting news to share with you about a dream that is about to come true!

At the beginning of July, 2018 we will be opening the long dreamed of House of Welcome in the former Saint Paul's Rectory on Walnut Street between 16th and 17th Streets. We will have a core group of 2-3 sisters residing at the house. Initially, they will be Sisters Clare Marie Beichner and Susan Herzing.

The mission is to be a presence in the neighborhood, to provide a place for discernment, prayer, and reflection, opportunities to learn about the SSJ Mission and Ministry, and to eventually offer hospitality to women who are discerning their future (not necessarily to the religious life). An application process will be developed and further details will be forthcoming. We are

having a house naming contest. You are invited to submit a name to Sister Mary Ann White at s.mawwhite@ssjerie.org by April 30, 2018. You may also put your name, phone and suggested name on a slip of paper in S. Mary Ann's mailbox. A \$25.00 Bruster's gift card will be given to the winner.

associates' news and happenings

◆ Please join **OPAL (Ohio Pennsylvania Associate Leadership)** for a day of sharing, networking, and prayer as we gather to explore the important topic of associate formation for the future. We will gather at **8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 28, for a day-long workshop "Creating the Future in the Now: Formation of Associate Candidates."** The workshop will be held at Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center, Villa Maria PA. Registration forms are available in the Associate Office. Cost of the workshop is covered by Associates. Transportation is available if needed (contact Nancy Donnelly). **OPAL** is committed to the support and enrichment of current and emerging leaders in Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. SSJ Associates are

active members of this new regional organization. Workshops and conferences supporting associate needs and visions are scheduled bi-annually.

◆ **The over-night retreat "Sabbath" is fast approaching (April 21-22, 2018). Reservations are due April 6th.** All are welcome to pray, reflect, relax, and enjoy a spiritual get-away during the Easter season to help us refresh and re-energize! Funds are available if needed to help you attend this retreat. We can also arrange transportation for those interested in car-pooling. Give yourself a treat and join us April 21-22. Contact the Associate Office for more information.

◆ Congratulations to associate **Lorna Waddell** who is celebrating her **90th birthday.**

The official date is March 9, however, this special occasion for a remarkable woman is being celebrated many times throughout the year with family and friends. May God continue to bless Lorna.



◆ Associate candidates **Jeannette Barczynski, Edith Benson, Janet Demjanenko, Penny Guelcher, and Paul Wilkosz** are gearing up for the Associate Welcoming on June 24. These candidates have attended formation sessions and will make their retreat in early June

(Continued on page 7)

Sisters, Agreeges and Associates are welcome! ***The Sabbath*** **with Ricarda Vincent, SSJ**

Register online on the ssj community page at www.ssjerie.org
OR complete this form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Check if transportation is needed

Send this form and check payable to:
SSJ Associates
5031 West Ridge Road
Erie, PA 16506

Reservations due April 6th, 2018

All are welcome — Sisters, Associates, Agreeges, friends, family, etc.
Scholarships/financial assistance is available for Associates and Agreeges.

You will receive a packet of information prior to the retreat.

If you would like an extra night or two for personal retreat time, please contact Matt at **VMESC at 724-964-8886.**

Pick one of these options:

Private Room

\$90 per person
Cost of retreat with private room

Double Occupancy

\$65 per person
Cost of retreat with double occupancy
Roommate's name:

If left blank, you will be paired with some one

- Twin beds
- Queen bed



NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

Our ssjerie website included information about National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14. It included an opportunity for visitors to our website to give a "Shout out" to a Sister or sisters during this celebration. Following are comments that have been made on the website to date.

I would like to recognize Sister Jean Baptiste DiLuzio. Sister is a very beautiful and religious woman. Her faith in God leads her through each day as she carries out His mission.

shout outs!

Sister Jean is also blessed with a listening ear and a caring heart. Her door is always open welcoming all. Sister has listened and guided me through my years in the religious community as well as in my adult life after I left the community. Thank you Sister and God bless you.
Anna

I would like to recognize Sister Susan Herzing. Susan has been an inspiration to the entire Mikula family. When she

was at St. Joseph parish she helped us to grow spiritually as a family. She shared her love of the Lord with grace and humor, and we will never forget her bubbly laugh. She encouraged me to become an Associate of the SSJ. Even though I live 300 miles away now, I still feel her presence and her influence in my spiritual life. Thank you Susan, we love you.
Diana Mikula

march for our lives

Erie was one of 624 locations worldwide that hosted a March for our Lives event on March 24 in support of the national march in Washington, DC. More than 300 people attended the local march, including (pictured l-r): Sister Marianne Stuckert, Agregee Deb Seng, ___ and Agregees Cindy Brown and

Betsy Wiest. Young people nationwide are working to change current gun laws including increased background checks, waiting periods and a ban on assault weapons designed for warfare.



silent peace walk

Betsy Wiest - Social Justice Coordinator

On March 5, 20 sisters participated in a Silent Peace Walk at the CLC. Silent Peace Walks promote inner peace, the foundation for constructive justice and peace action. Agregee Betsy Wiest, social justice coordinator, outlined the path to follow during the walk. Sisters were asked to focus their prayers on the "Dreamers" -- undocumented individuals who were brought to this country as children and currently have no clear path toward citizenship. They were protected from deportation under the Deferred Act for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) which ended on March 5. Their status is now in limbo as they

await court rulings. DACA recipients are contributors to our economy, veterans in our military, academic standouts in our universities and leaders in our parishes and communities. If deportation occurs, many would be forced to go to a country where they don't know anyone or the language. In many cases, they would be separated from their families in the U.S. Prayers are needed for Congress to approve a timely and permanent path toward

citizenship. After the walk concluded, all prayed for immigrant justice. The next Silent Peace Walk will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 from 6-6:30 p.m. in the CLC Gathering Room. We will be walking with an awareness of the violence that is occurring in our world.



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events, happenings and ministry news

Dear SSJ Associates,
Our heartfelt thanks to those who donate desserts for the **soup kitchen** on the second Monday of each month. These make the meal extra special and are so appreciated.
-SSJNN & Neighbors

A volunteer is needed who would be willing to help develop **puppet shows** with a trained puppeteer for block parties in the east side neighborhood of SSJNN. Contact Margarita at 454-7814, ext. 302, if interested.

Volunteers are needed who are interested in **repairing bikes** as part of programming in the east side neighborhood of SSJNN. Contact Margarita at 454-7814, ext. 302, if interested.
Caring adults are needed to work one-on-one with teens in the **community gardens** of the west side neighborhood of SSJNN. Saturdays, bi-weekly beginning in April. Contact Gretchen at 454-7814, ext. 210, if interested.

Associate Sue Shannon is leading an effort to collect gift cards and monetary donations to assemble on a tree for the **12th Annual Guess That Tune Gala**, which will be held April 28. Donations can be dropped off to receptionists at the CLC front desk or at SSJNN, 425 W. 18 Street by March 30.

SSJNN is looking for used board games in good condition, to use for summer programming. They can be dropped off to either location – 425 W. 18th St. or 436 E. 26th St.



A prayer vigil for Amanda Schmitt (Grazioli) *a victim of violence*

Thursday, April 5, 2018
5:15 p.m.
5843 Forest Crossing
*(Whispering Woods
subdivision, off Grubb Rd.)*



visitors needed at St. Patrick's Haven

We are in need of people to visit with the men who stay at St. Patrick's Haven. Typically, visitors sign up for one evening a month to go to St. Patrick's Haven and visit for an hour or two in the evening. If you are interested, contact Betsy Wiest at 836-4153 or betsy.wiest@ssjerie.org

brown bag & basketry

April 9 & 10, 2018
4:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Heritage Apartments
2547 West 8 Street

It is located on the ground level of the Heritage Apartment Building. Enter the door at the END (south/away from lake) of the building. DO NOT enter the main door for the Heritage Apartments. Parking is next to the gym building
Cost: \$30
Please bring: bag supper, old towel, dish pan.

Please make your reservation as soon as possible.
836-4139 or
923-4681 (office) or
s.andrefeulner@ssjerie.org

scenes from st. joseph day

photo credit: Ann Flick

“A SALUTE TO THE DRUM MAJOR”

Commemorating the Life & Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



"I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to love somebody. Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. (Amen) Say that I was a drum major for peace. (Yes) I was a drum major for righteousness."

(From "The Drum Major Instinct" delivered at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA 2-4-1968)

COMMUNITY FORUM

Theme: In Search of the "Beloved Community" – A Prophet's Call
 Filmed Highlights of Dr. King and Panel Discussion

Panelists Include:

- Marcus Atkinson
- Gwendolyn Cooley
- Johnny Johnson
- Katie White
- Corey Cook
- Greg Baker
- Celestine Davis

Plus Local Students Reading Excerpts of Dr. King's Work
 Dramatization of Dr. King's "If I had sneezed..." Cheryl Horton-Jong & Carla Hughes

Wednesday, April 4th, 2018 - 5:15 pm – 7:15 pm
 Erie County Blasco Library, 160 East Front Street, H.O.Hirt Auditorium

Event is Free and Open to the Public

Sponsored by: Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County and Helping You...Helping Me

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS OF ERIE
 A youth outreach program of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Penn State Behrend.

Artistic Director:
Dr. Gabrielle Dietrich

Saturday, April 7, 2018
3:00 PM

YOU WILL BE FOUND

Mount St. Benedict Monastery
 6101 East Lake Road
 Erie, PA 16511

FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Grace in the Now — The Gospel of Encounter

Session 2
Encountering Self
Thurs., April 12
6 - 7:00 p.m.
CLC Chapel

Session 3
Encountering Community
ONE TABLE
Wed., May 16
6-7 p.m.

Session 4
Encountering Creation
Various activities
Sat., June 9
10 a.m.—3 p.m.

Sustainability Lifestyle and Costa Rica T.R.A.V.E.L (Transforming Residents Abroad Via Engaged Learning)

A Gannon University student will be at the CLC to speak about Sustainability Lifestyle and Costa Rica T.R.A.V.E.L

Speaker: Julia McGregor – Coordinator of the Gannon Sustainability Group and the Costa Rica T.R.A.V.E.L Group

When: Thurs., April 26, 2018
Where: CLC Gathering Room
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Associate news

(Continued from page 4)

in preparation for their commitment. Remember these candidates and their mentors **Linda Gier, Mary Fuhrman, Jane Zawacki, Sister Jude Marie Talerico, and Sister Claudia Dombrowski** in your prayers and plan to join them **June 24 at 1 p.m.** for their Welcoming Prayer Service and Celebration



**April showers
 bring May
 flowers!**

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

SESTA passes senate on March 21, 2018 – the work continues...

The internet has become the new street corner for the marketing, buying and selling of sex and sex trafficking. According to Polaris, some popular commercial websites may be facilitating trafficking through their business practices. The National Human Trafficking Hotline 1 (888) 373-7888, which is operated by Polaris, received approximately 2,000 reports of sex trafficking through online advertisements. The United States Senate, the tech community and anti-trafficking groups worked together to find a solution.

The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA), a bipartisan bill that targets websites that knowingly facilitate trafficking was recently passed in the Senate. SESTA provides a long overdue update to the Communications Decency Act (CDA) and will hold websites

like Backpage accountable when they knowingly facilitate sex trafficking. SESTA also allows victims of sex trafficking to seek civil remedy against the websites that facilitated their victimization.

While this is a victory against human trafficking, there is still much work to be done. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) expired in September 2017. The TVPA was originally passed in 2000 and has been reauthorized four times since. The TVPA provides the legal foundation in the United States to combat human trafficking and it authorizes the federal funds needed to provide and support domestic and international anti-trafficking programs to support victims and survivors. Please call your Representative through the US Capitol

Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Tell your Representative to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) as soon as possible.

A sample script is: "Hello, my name is [name]. I live in (name of city and zip code). I'm a constituent and person of faith. I'm calling to ask you to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act which expired in September 2017. This Act provides the legal foundation to combat human trafficking and the federal funds needed to do so. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act will also exempt restitution for trafficking survivors from federal taxes, bolster efforts to keep goods made from forced labor from entering the United States and increase the support for the US Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. Please reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act as soon as possible and protect the thousands of victims of human trafficking."