

interim

Volume 36, Issue 3

March 2018

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

Without saying a word . . .

Please join us
St. Joseph Day Celebration
Saturday, March 17, 2018

10:30 a.m. liturgy
Dinner immediately following

RSVP by March 12
on the SSJ community page
www.ssjerie.org
or to Sharon Will 836-4204

shhhhh



For young women ages 17-25

God calls us in many ways — let's talk about not missing any important calls.

Wed. March 14

during

National Catholic Sisters Week

5:00 p.m. dinner

followed by dessert, a fireside chat, and evening prayer.

Please RSVP by

March 9 to

s.robrien@ssjerie.org

814-836-4212

Sisters who would like to meet and welcome our guests are asked to contact Sr. Rosemary.



**NATIONAL CATHOLIC
SISTERS WEEK**

March 8-14

women who are called

Please join us for
a special National Catholic Sisters Week event
honoring three women of justice

Rita Brocke, RSM
Marlene Bertke, OSB
Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ

Sunday, March 11, 2018
2:00 p.m.

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

public is welcome



**NATIONAL CATHOLIC
SISTERS WEEK**

Hosted by:
Benedictine Sisters of Erie
Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania
Sisters of Mercy New York Pennsylvania West Community
Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie

mission possible

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Effectiveness Coordinator

Maya Angelou said, "At the end of the day, people won't remember what you said or did, they will remember how you made them feel." Her words remind me of the message we heard at our February community meeting when Sister Dolores Clerico, SSJ, spoke of the six core values of the Sisters of St. Joseph: self-emptying love, all-permeating love, zeal, contemplative heart, inclusive love and cordial charity. These core values shape our way of being and relating and draw all into one.

Sister Dolores referred to cordial charity as responding to the needs of the dear neighbor with a quality of presence that

vivifies, strengthens, expands and unites. In other words, it's not what we are doing, but how we are doing it. This resonated with me and I wonder "how present am I to those I serve?" I am more aware of how important it is to truly be present to everyone I encounter. I am also more aware of how people I encounter are present to me. Presence is defined as the state of being closely focused on the here and now, not distracted by irrelevant thoughts. By being fully present to another, we are giving of our time and really listening to what they are saying. We are not limited to what we do or see; we reach

out with all of our senses.

I am reminded of the song, *The Presence You Are* by Jan Novotka: "It's not what you do, but how you do it; it's not what you see but how you see; it's not what you say, what you know, or achieve, but it's the presence, the presence you are."

Our true ministry is that of presence – a presence that unites. It is how we live out our mission of unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God, without distinction.

This presence is what makes the **SSJ mission possible**.

CLC Lent and Holy Week Services

- ♦ **The Sundays of Lent**
March 4, 11, 18
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer with Reflections by Sisters, Agrégées, and Associates
 - ♦ **Thurs., March 8 6:00 p.m.**
Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - ♦ **Sat. March 17 10:30 a.m.**
St. Joseph's Day Liturgy
 - ♦ **Mon., March 19 8:00 a.m.**
Liturgy—Feast of Joseph
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer on the Feast of Joseph
- HOLY WEEK, 2018**
- ♦ **Sun., March 25 9:00 a.m.**
Liturgy on Palm Sunday of the Passion
6:00 p.m. Prayer around the Cross
 - ♦ **Wed., March 28 6:00 p.m.**
Tenebrae Service
 - ♦ **Thurs. March 29 6:30 p.m.**
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
 - ♦ **Fri., March 30 2:00 p.m.**
Passion of the Lord
 - ♦ **Sat., March 31 8:00 p.m.**
Easter Vigil
 - ♦ **Sun. April 1 9:00 a.m.**
Easter Sunday Liturgy

notes and correspondence

Dear Sisters, Agreee and Associates,



My family and I are most grateful for your many loving responses to us during my sister's illness and death. Your presence, Mass intentions and written notes mean so much. Each of you are a real blessing! Wishing you peace, Nancy Prenatt, SSJ

update

The dates for Sr. Ardath's visits in April and May have been changed to April 11-12 and May 16-17. Thank you.



Looking for loaves



On Monday, March 19, the Sisters will deliver St. Joseph Day baskets – including home-baked breads – to dear neighbors who have shown special kindnesses to the Congregation and others throughout the year. Several Sisters and Associates

have generously offered to bake bread, but we're still about 40 loaves short of the number needed. So, if you're handy in the kitchen, please consider baking a mini-loaf or two. Favorites include banana,

pumpkin, cinnamon, lemon and cranberry. If you'd like to donate bread, please contact Carol Hermann at carol.hermann@ssjerie.com or call 836-4198.

Women's Day of Peace Campaign

March 8th is International Women's Day. Join women around the world who are thanking Pope Francis for his commitment to nonviolence and just peace. You are invited to send him a thank-you message

on a postcard. The postcard is available in four languages: [English](#), [français](#), [español](#), and [italiano](#). Just click on the language you prefer to fill out your postcard.



Grace in the Now — The Gospel of Encounter

The term "Culture of Encounter," a signature phrase of Pope Francis, reflects his belief that "All real living is meeting."

The SSJ Formation team is offering a 4-part series of presentations this Spring—opportunities for us to deepen and refresh the quality of our **Encounters with God, Self, Community and Creation.**

First session:

**Encountering God -
Who is God for us at the
present moment?
How has our relationship
with God changed/
evolved?**

**Wed., March 7, 2018
6:00 - 7:00 PM
Gathering Room
Sr. Mary Ann White,
Facilitator**

Save the dates for future sessions —

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

**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.**



directory changes

Associate Joy Shered
cell # 814-450-4882

associates' news and happenings

- ◇ The true ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph is that of presence – a presence that unites. We would like to form a **Care and Concern Group** whose members will reach out and be present to our associates, sisters, and agrégées by sending cards, making phone calls, or making visits as needed. You don't necessarily have to leave your home to be part of this outreach! We hope you will consider joining us in this ministry. Please call the Associate Office (814-836-4134) by March 16, 2018 if you wish to be part of the Care and Concern group. Once we have the names of those interested in joining this group, we will contact you with further information.
- ◇ It was great to see so many at our annual retreat recently. **Sister Sylvia Burnett, OSBM facilitated our experience of "Who Do You Say I Am"** as we explored and strengthened our relationship with God. May the oil of God continue to light our lights as we share our gifts of love and compassion in the world.
- ◇ The annual **overnight retreat is planned for April 21-22, 2018** at Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center (Villa Maria, PA). Sister Ricarda Vincent will guide us as we explore the "Sabbath" in our lives. See details and registration form in this Interim. Reservations are due April 6 so we can complete our arrangements. This spiritual get-away during the Easter season will help us refresh and re-energize!
- ◇ **Associate recommitment forms** are due March 7, 2018. Have you completed yours and sent it to us? Call the Associate Office if we can help get this done.
- ◇ **St. Joseph Day Celebration** Invitation can be found on the cover of this issue of Interim. Be sure to make your reservation to join with the community as we make our recommitment and celebrate this special day.

Sisters, Agregees 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

Overnight Retreat
Saturday, April 21 10:00 a.m.
until Sunday, April 22 at noon
Villa Maria Education
& Spirituality Center
2067 Evergreen Road
Villa Maria, PA 16155

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,
Agrégees, friends, family, etc.
Scholarships/financial assistance is available for Associates and Agrégees.

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

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

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



NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

shout outs!

Our ssjerie website includes information about National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14. It includes 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.

My sister, Mary Rose Romeo, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania order on 9/8/1965. For over 50 years she has dedicated her lifework through teaching and music in her community. She continues on with her work through many maladies. I am proud to be a brother to such a dedicated sister. May she carry on her duties for many more years.
Carmen A Romeo, MD

It is very hard to single out just one sister who had an impact on my life because there were so many, both at St. Bernard's and Villa Maria. But I'd like to praise the late Sister Virginia Ann Gardner. What she taught me in high school English for 4 years, as well as how to write features for our award-winning school paper, still resonates with me today. When I was at Villa, our freshman English teacher complimented the Bradford girls. We basically had the same lessons in high school because of V.A. (our pet nickname for her). So college was a breeze. And today I regularly have opinion letters to the editor published in our city newspaper (part of the Gannett News Service). I credit Sr. V.A. with teaching me the skills of good news journalism. In her final illness we regularly had long

phone conversations about Parkinson's Disease because my husband, a gifted and beloved school administrator, was having similar symptoms. Sister had come to our home in Rochester one summer and he really liked her. He died a few months before she did. I treasure her beautiful autobiography – "Let It Be."
Ms. Mary Martha Ryan

My "shoutout" is for Sister Marilyn Zimmerman, who made the biggest difference in my short time as a Sister of St. Joseph in the Erie Diocese. To me, she was a model of Jean Pierre Medaille's vision for our community. She was our assistant to Sister Eunice, our postulant mistress, and believe me, she had all she could do to rein in our "crowd" of twenty-five in 1964! Only one remains: Sister Joyce Lowrey!

Sister Marilyn showed me that even sisters could relax, and have fun when she accompanied me on my first visit home in 1967! She was more relaxed than I was with my family, and encouraged me to enjoy my time home, to remove my under sleeves and guimpe, and relax!

After four years, I realized I could not continue this path, but did keep in touch with Sister Marilyn. I was so proud that she founded the first Home for Women, and studied Spiritual Direction as well. I was able to go back and had a guided retreat with her years later...she never changed, but was finally able to develop and share her gifts in ways our founder envisioned so long ago. She continues in my thoughts and many prayers,

and I wanted to share how much her gentle, spiritual presence has meant in my life... Love-Light to you, my friend!
Kate Neubeck

A HUGE shoutout to Sister Phyllis Hilbert (our "Auntie Phyl")!! An amazing woman who gave her life to God, her generosity to the people of Erie and Tanzania, her presence and gardening skills to the Neighborhood Network, her patience, wisdom and teaching abilities to many children and adults over the years, her beautiful smile and love of life to everyone. She has always been our inspiration and we are very proud of her!

May God bless all the sisters around the world with peace!
Laura and Steve Brown

I wanted to recognize Sister Marie Kebort. She taught Sunday school to my children at St Patrick's Church, and they always looked forward to seeing her each week. She was so kind to them and all the children. We dearly miss seeing her at St. Patrick's and my children continue to ask if she is coming back. We hope she is doing well!
The Bradleys- Kate, Jack, Kathleen & Ryan

To all of the Sisters who worked with the Gannon University DPT students over the past years—thank you for your time, energy, and participation. You have made a significant impact on so many students with your wisdom and resiliency. Each time we left one of our sessions with you, we carried your sense of community with us.
Julie Hartmann

news and happenings



Join our event Hosts Tim & Lisa NeCastro and enjoy a friendly competition of guessing songs and giving support to the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network.

Live music, dinner, theme baskets and a silent auction are all part of an evening you won't want to miss!

For updated information, check our website at www.ssjnn.org/GALA. For tickets or to reserve your table, call or email:

814-454-7814
jsprickman@ssjnn.org

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.



Saint Mary's is proud to announce its Advanced Accreditation in Quality Assurance and Performance. Providigm's QAPI Accreditation is based on standards for excellence in continuously improving quality of care and life for nursing facility residents. Centers are evaluated on a quarterly basis.



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. Each evening, a visitor comes to the Haven to talk, laugh and share stories with our guests. It is a ministry of presence that lets our guests know there are people in our community who care about them and that they are valued. 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 would be interested in being one of the visitors at St. Patrick's Haven, please contact Betsy Wiest at 836-4153 or betsy.wiest@ssjerie.org for more information on how your presence can make a difference in the life of one of our "dear neighbors".

brown bag & basketry

"Three Rod Wale" basket
March 12 & 13
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

silent peace walk



A Silent Peace Walk will be held at the SSJ CLC in the Gathering Room on Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7 p.m. The focus for this walk will be in support of the "Dreamers" – individuals who were brought to this country as children and are seeking a path toward citizenship.

Haiti project reminder

We are participating in the annual Lenten Haiti calendar project. Calendars can be found at www.ssjerie.org and also on the table in the CLC library.

Donations for Haiti Lenten Project can be made [online](#), in the CLC lobby or sent to:
Sisters of St. Joseph
Haiti Project
5031 West Ridge Road
Erie, PA 16056

24 HOURS for the LORD

MARCH 9-10, 2018

Please join the **DIOCESE OF ERIE** and **ST. PETER CATHEDRAL**, Erie, in celebrating *24 Hours for the Lord*. Encounter Jesus Christ anew in the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration.

This is an extraordinary opportunity to pray for clergy and consecrated religious in our diocese, as well as for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and at the same time experience Jesus' mercy by taking advantage of the Sacrament of Confession. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed and confessions will be available throughout this 24-hour period.

EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY — MARCH 9

- 5:15 p.m. Mass with Bishop Persico as Celebrant/Homilist
- Following 5:15 p.m. Mass, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer
- 10:00 p.m. Night Prayer

SATURDAY — MARCH 10

- 3:00 a.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 6:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 8:00 a.m. Mass with Bishop Persico
- 12:00 p.m. Rosary
- 3:30 p.m. Benediction
- 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Please take time out of your busy schedule to stop and visit with Jesus and receive His love and forgiveness.



The Crawford County Associates met for a Memorial Liturgy remembering Associates and Sisters who have passed in the last year on February 2, 2018. They then enjoyed lunch and meeting the new St. James Haven Site Supervisor, Samantha Stump. Pictured are: Hal and Char Sheldon, Ruth and Paul Mercier, Jerry Derby, Kay Hotchkiss, Loeta Derby, and Samantha Stump. Standing: Lorna Waddell, Rosemary Oehmler, Joan McCain, and Carl Hotchkiss.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

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WWW.
SSJERIE
.ORG

Gerrymandering – A real problem in Pennsylvania by Betsy Wiest

On January 17, the SSJ Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Committee hosted a presentation on gerrymandering. Professor Donald Goldstein, a retired professor of Economics from Allegheny College, spoke on how gerrymandering has affected the outcomes of elections in Pennsylvania and the efforts underway to assure that all redistricting power is given to an independent commission with no political ties.

Gerrymandering is the dividing of a state, county, etc. into election districts so as to give one political party a majority in many districts while concentrating the voting strength of the other party into as few districts as possible. Dr. Goldstein spoke about the various methods of

gerrymandering. The “Packing” method concentrates voters of one party in as few districts as possible to reduce their influence in the remaining districts. “Cracking” splits a group and spreads its members among several districts where they become an irrelevant minority. Both of these methods will give advantage to one party. The “Sweetheart” method, also known as the partisan handshake, appears to be the fairest.

An effort is underway by [Fair Districts PA](http://FairDistrictsPA.com) to encourage lawmakers to change how state legislative districts and congressional districts are drawn. Fair Districts PA is a nonpartisan, citizen-led, statewide coalition working to create a process for

redistricting that is transparent, impartial and fair. It has joined thousands of citizens from across the state in asking legislators to pass a constitutional amendment that would reform the redistricting process by the end of the current legislative session in June. To sign the petition encouraging our legislators to enact bills to establish an independent commission to draw up Pennsylvania’s congressional and state legislative district maps, please go to www.ssjerie.org.

