



# interim

Volume 36, Issue 6

June 2018

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

## Welcome New Associates and Celebrate Milestone Associate Anniversaries

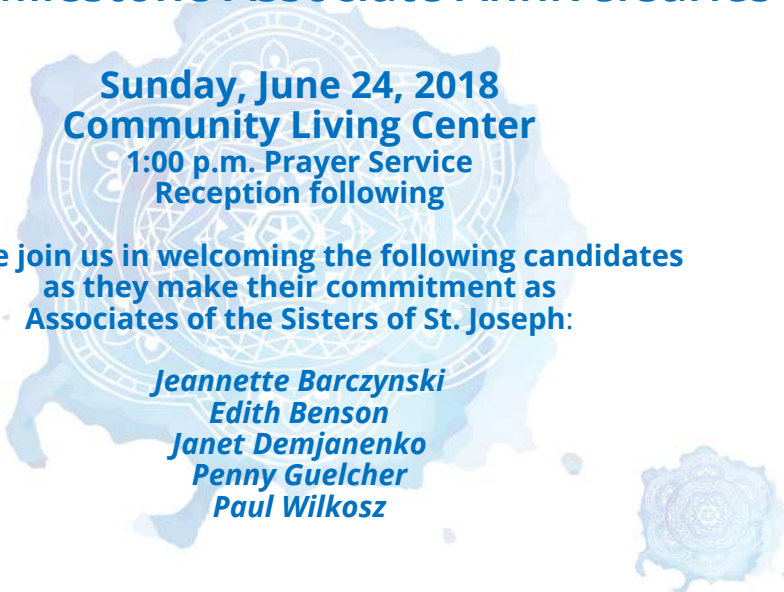
June 5  
One Table/Iftar

June 9  
Grace in the Now—  
Part 3

June 10-16  
Directed retreat

June 14  
Shenango Valley  
Lunch

June 24  
Associate welcoming  
and Anniversaries



**Sunday, June 24, 2018**  
**Community Living Center**  
1:00 p.m. Prayer Service  
Reception following

Please join us in welcoming the following candidates  
as they make their commitment as  
Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph:

*Jeannette Barczynski*  
*Edith Benson*  
*Janet Demjanenko*  
*Penny Guelcher*  
*Paul Wilkosz*

## Grace in the Now - The Gospel of Encounter Part Three: Encountering Creation

Experience the wonder and beauty of creation through  
prayer, reflection, activity, observing and appreciating.

**Saturday, June 9, 2018**  
**SSJ Community Living Center Gathering Room**  
**11 AM to 2 PM**  
**Lunch will be available**

RSVP by June 1 to Sr. Rosemary O'Brien  
836-4212 or [s.robrien@ssjerie.org](mailto:s.robrien@ssjerie.org)

Sponsored by  
SSJ Formation Team  
Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Team

ALL ARE WELCOME



## mission possible

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Effectiveness Coordinator

### *Oneness in Mission*

"We are one, all is one, and we are all one" are the words from the song, *We are One*, by Kathy Sherman, CSJ.

As sisters, agreees and associates, we all have been called to live the same SSJ charism of unity and reconciliation and the SSJ mission of uniting neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God without distinction. We have each chosen to do this by living the vowed life as a sister, by making a private vow as an agreee, or by making a commitment as an associate.

During the past year, the formation team has been trying to stress the fact that we are all one. We have encouraged sisters, associates and agreees

to attend the on-going formation sessions that are being offered and we encourage everyone's attendance at community meetings, gatherings and special events, as well as participation in prayer groups and volunteering at our sponsored ministries.

It is very important that you check Interim each month for information on upcoming events and meetings. This is our formal way of publicizing what is happening. These functions are for everyone, unless stated otherwise. Everyone is welcome!

In our continuing effort to be and act as one, we realized that our mission statement also needed to reflect this oneness

and include associates and agreees. A revised mission statement was drafted and input was invited. Serious consideration was given to each of the suggestions submitted. At the May 19 community gathering, copies of the final revision, included below, were distributed.

*The mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, its agreees and associates, is to unite all people with one another and with God by responding to the ever changing needs of the world and serving the neighbor without distinction.*

It is this oneness that makes our **SSJ Mission Possible**.

## what's happening in formation?

The response to the forum: "What's Happening in Formation?" sponsored by the SSJ Formation Team on May 5, was beyond expectation! Staff, associates, agreees and sisters shared how their lives have been transformed by formative experiences such as the formation process for agreee and associates, mission orientation for SSJ employees, CSSJ Federation committees and programs (Life Long Formation, "Spirits on Fire").

Comments from the many who attended the forum reflect the energy and zeal of the speakers.

"It is encouraging to know good things are happening ....formation now seems to have a different face...." (Sr. Joseph Marie)

"It was a refreshing and invigorating experience...I found myself renewing my commitment and considering new opportunities to deepen my relationship with God." (Carol Dorr, Associate)

"It was spiritually enriching to hear the diverse and profound sharings. "You may not like someone, but you must love them" is a great way to enhance our call to the Charism. (Hal and Char Sheldon, Associates)

"I was impressed and touched by the whole presentation! Most hopeful and of the Spirit." (Sr. Michele Healy)

"We heard from our dedicated speakers their passion and love for our charism, mission and ministries." (Sr. Maria Onuffer)

"Action. Movement. Excitement. Energy. Everyone." (Charlene Kellerman, Agreee)

"I knew nothing about Linda Kuhn's involvement in the CSSJ Federation Life Long Formation Committee—very uplifting to hear from her and everyone on the panel." (Sr. Mary Thomas Downing)

"Hearing from the wide range of participants, it is evident that the SSJ Mission and Ministries will continue for many years to come." (Tammy Van Buren, Agreee)

## SSJ Mission & Ministries Foundation Awards 2018 Grants

Four grants – totaling nearly \$120,000 – were awarded to sponsored ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph at the May 19th Community Day.

Calls for grant applications were sent in January, with grant applications reviewed and approved by the SSJ Mission & Ministries Foundation Board in April.

The Foundation was established in 2015 to both raise and grant funds to support the Sisters, their sponsored

ministries and, eventually, other like-minded organizations.

Specifically, the 2018 grant dollars will be used to support Erie DAWN's "Housing and Hope" project; the Neighborhood Network's "Career Education Awareness" program at McKinley

Elementary and Woodrow Wilson Middle School; operating support and fencing at St. Patrick's Haven; and operating support and a new driveway at St. James Haven.



*(from left to right – Samantha Stump, site supervisor at St. James Haven; Betsy Wiest, site supervisor at St. Patrick's Haven; Sister Phyllis Hilbert, from the SSJ Neighborhood Network; and Maureen Dunn, executive director at Erie DAWN.)*

## let's do lunch – in Shenango Valley

Last October, we loaded up the van and traveled to Ridgway for a casual luncheon with friends and family in the area.

On Thursday, June 14, we will hit the road again for a gathering in Shenango Valley.

Several sisters from the valley are already signed up to attend, but all are welcome – sisters, agrégées and associates, alike – especially those who have served in the

area.

RSVP by June 6 by calling 814-836-4198 or by emailing [carol.hermann@ssjerie.org](mailto:carol.hermann@ssjerie.org).

## notes and correspondence

The SSJ Neighborhood Network would like to sincerely thank all of the Sisters, Agregees, Associates and CLC Staff who volunteered or contributed toward our 12th Annual Guess That Tune Gala. The evening was a great success and we are so very grateful!

Gretchen Gallagher Durney  
Sisters of St. Joseph  
Neighborhood Network

Sisters, associates, agregees,  
Thank you for all the phone calls, good wishes, cards and visits after my surgery. Thank you especially for all the prayers. I am sure I am doing so very well because heaven was stormed on my behalf.  
God bless,  
Arlene Chaney

Dear Sisters agregees and associates,

My sincere thanks for your messages of condolence that I received on the passing of Sister Joachim. My heart is at peace now that Joachim is at peace in the hands of God and with our family. I deeply appreciate your kindness and concern.

Gratefully,  
Sister Maria Onuffer

## Circle of Friends – Save the Date

Saturday, September 15, 2018

4 p.m. Liturgy 5 p.m. Picnic & Games

## associates' news and happenings

This is a year for changes. After 17 years of holding the "That's a Wrap" event each December, it has been decided to try something different and help our sponsored ministries during the summer. Thus — we will celebrate our first

**Summerpalooza** on August 4. More information will be sent next month! Our sponsored ministries have requested the following items which will be collected in conjunction with a picnic lunch that will be part of the **Summerpalooza**. Items requested include: footballs, basketballs, soccer balls, action figures, Nerf toys, PJ masks, board games, craft kits, Play-Doh kits, fashion and baby dolls, doll accessories, stuffed animals, Shopkins, My Little

Pony, dress-up clothes (princess, nurse, doctor), jewelry, fingernail polish and make-up, beach towels, flip flops, jump ropes, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, sand pails and shovels, pj bottoms (men M-3XL), t-shirts (men's M-3XL), socks (men's white crew), men's underwear (M-XL), snacks, coffee, bath towel sets, sheets (twin and queen), blankets, pots and pans, pillows and pillowcases, sleeping bags, crock pots, electric skillets, and school supplies: notebooks, pencils, pens, pencil cases, folders, glue sticks, crayons, and backpacks.

Another change will be noted with the **Associate Welcoming**

on June 24. While welcoming new associates, we also will honor those long-time associates celebrating anniversary years. Plan on coming to celebrate the old and new and renew friendships with associates, sisters, and agrégées. The invitation for this event is included on the front cover of this issue of Interim.

Congratulations to Associate **Elaine Clyburn** for being honored as **Volunteer of the Year at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN**. Elaine spreads the SSJ charism and mission wherever she is. Nice job, Elaine!

## while in LePuy . . .

Betsy Wiest, Social Justice Coordinator, recently had the opportunity to go "home" to the

SSJ International Center in Le Puy-en-Velay, France. While there, she visited the kitchen

where six women began changing the world for their dear neighbors in 1650.

Also while at the Center, Betsy placed one of our "Be Kind" magnets on the car used by the Center's administrators, Sr. Eluiza de Andrade and Olga Bonfiglio, SSJA.



## the One Table Iftar

An Iftar is the evening dinner that Muslims share to break the fast each night during the holy month of Ramadan. Benjamin Aysan and the very hospitable people of the Turkish Cultural Center have been sharing these meals with people throughout Erie for the past couple of years.

One Table's next meeting will be at the Turkish Cultural Center

June 5 at 8 p.m. The meal is served at sundown. There will be time to chat and a short presentation about Ramadan and a great feast!

**June 5, 2018 - 8:20 p.m.**  
**Turkish Cultural Center**  
**3024 State St., Erie, PA**



## SSJs recognized for service at Saint Mary's



Three sisters were recognized recently for milestone anniversaries of ministry at Saint Mary's Home of Erie.

Pictured with Sister Mary Herrmann are, (l-r) Sister Phyllis who is celebrating 35 years of service; Sister Mary Herrmann, SSJ, who was in attendance at the dinner; Sister Joseph Marie Fitzgerald who is celebrating 15 years of service; and Sister Nancy Prenatt who is also celebrating 15 years of service. Congratulations!

## May Crowning in Marycrest

Sister Betty Ruza as May Queen is pictured here crowning the Blessed Mother Mary on May 25th. Barb McGaughey, RN served as Sister Betty's attendant.



## events, happenings and ministry news

### We have a name! introducing . . .

#### SSJ House of Blessing

Our long dreamed-of house of welcome is officially named: **SSJ House of Blessing**. This ministry will be located in the former Saint Paul's Rectory on Walnut Street between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets. 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). Sisters Clare Marie Beichner and Susan Herzing will reside there. An application process will be developed and further details will be forthcoming.

### St. Patrick's Haven - Are you called to a ministry of presence?

We are in need of people to offer a ministry of presence by visiting the men who stay at St. Patrick's Haven. With our new building, we have more capacity and we welcome more visitors. Visitors are asked to commit to one evening each month to visit with the men for an hour or two beginning at 7 p.m. In this ministry, you will talk, laugh and share stories with our guests. Please pray and ask God if this is a ministry in which you are called to serve the dear neighbor.

We are also continually in need of individually wrapped snacks as we provide a snack to our guests each evening.

If you are interested in becoming a visitor or would like to make a snack donation, please contact Betsy Wiest at 836-4153 or [betsy.wiest@ssjerie.org](mailto:betsy.wiest@ssjerie.org)

### Garage sale for a cause

Six years ago, agreees Arlene Chaney and Jeanne Marie Ryan met Kate Fletcher and began their sponsorship of Hekima Place near Nairobi, Kenya. Widowed at 65, Kate felt God calling her to do something 'more.' She searched out a need, rolled up her sleeves, stepped into the unknown in love (sound like SSJ charism?) and founded Hekima Place to house and educate Kenyan girls. They currently care for 90 girls - infant through university age.

Despite the dangers of being Christian and educated in Africa, Kate and the girls are determined to change the treatment of girls/women and expand their opportunities.

You can help Arlene and Jeanne with their sponsorship of university student, Ann Njambi, by supporting their garage sale.

#### Sale Dates and Times

**June 8-10**

**June 15-17**

**June 22-23**

**8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**

**3309 Asbury Road  
in Millcreek**

### Customer Appreciation Day!

**When: Saturday June 2, 2018**

**Time: 11am - 3pm**

**Where: Gordon Food Service  
6740 Peach Street  
Erie, PA 16509**

Stop by to enjoy grilled sausages and chips. During this event, GFS will be accepting donations to Erie DAWN. Please stop by to support GFS as they support Erie DAWN.



#### Sister Lucille

**DeStefano** invited the bell ringers from St. Mary's East to perform for the sisters in Marycrest on May 23rd. Treats were provided for all after their performance.

### directory changes

Sister Andre has a new cell phone number of 814-969-1429

## human trafficking presentation

Betsy Wiest, SSJ Social Justice Coordinator, and Carol Finotti of the Crime Victim Center of Erie, PA gave a presentation on human trafficking to the women of the Zonta Club of Corry, PA on April 25, 2018. Zonta members serve the community by assisting local organizations and also funding a scholarship program. Betsy and Carol's presentation focused on local and national facts about trafficking, the current partnership with the Erie

Metropolitan Transit Authority installing placards in Erie buses with human trafficking information and who to contact should they suspect trafficking activity. Spreading awareness of human trafficking is a way to help people say something if they see something. For more information on human trafficking, visit [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org).



## take back the site

On April 30, 2018, more than 40 people gathered at 934 East 8th Street to reclaim the site where the murders of Dorothy Gilkey and Tanesha Harkless occurred on March 24th. Family and friends spoke of the great love both women had for Jesus and for their families. The family of

both women remarked that the vigil gave them a sense of closure because they knew they were truly standing on holy ground. Take Back the Site Vigils are a way for the community to come together to not only reclaim a site for non-violence but also a way to

bring the family, friends and the community together to pray, remember their loved ones and to bring a message of peace. We pray that this will be the last Take Back the Site Vigil and our neighborhoods, our city and our community will live in peace.

## JPIC lakes region coordinators

Betsy Wiest attended a meeting with the SSJ Social Justice Coordinators from the Lakes District in Rochester, New York on May 20-23rd. The coordinators discussed what initiatives each community is addressing and action steps

they are initiating. It was also a time to renew friendships and share resources.



## Grace in the Now—The Gospel of Encounter



“Encountering Community,” sponsored by the SSJ Formation Team and JPIC, on Wed., May 16, at the CLC, was a Pentecost moment. The

Gathering Room was filled with genuine hospitality and energy....as 70 people from diverse faiths and cultures, including 35 Sisters, Associates and Agreee, welcomed each other around one very large table. The “Charter for Compassion” provided the framework for sharing,

facilitated by Rabbi Emily Losben-Ostrov. The evening concluded with a blessing and celebration of gratitude for Rabbi Emily's contributions to Erie and One Table as she prepares to move to a new location and temple at the end of June.

## Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

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## A Sustainable Lifestyle – One Student's Passion

Julia McGregor, a Gannon senior is passionate about Gannon's Transforming Residents Abroad Via Engaged Learning (TRAVEL) program and living a sustainable lifestyle. Julia recently shared her passion for a sustainable lifestyle at the CLC where she talked about the TRAVEL program's upcoming trip to Costa Rica, a world leader in sustainability. Costa Ricans produce 93% of their electricity from renewable resources and are working toward becoming the first carbon-neutral country by 2021. It is the #1 ecotourism destination in the world and protects the natural environment by creating social and economic benefits. Julia also talked about living a sustainable lifestyle and shared some sobering facts and suggestions (right).

- 97% of plastic ever made still exists
- Plastic accounts for 90% of all ocean trash
- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (off the California coast) is a floating mass of plastic twice the size of Texas.
- Plastic in this area outnumbers sea life six to one!
- 1 million sea birds and 100,000 marine mammals being killed each year due to plastic ingestion.
- 40% of the food in the United States is never eaten; yet 1 in 8 Americans struggle to put food on the table.
- Americans send 10.5 million tons of clothing to landfills each year with only 15% being recycled or donated.

Some simple suggestions:

- reuse shopping bags and food containers
- swap/share clothes
- donate used clothing
- make homemade chap stick!

*Combine and melt over double boiler: 3 tbsp. beeswax, 2 tbsp. shea butter, 2 tbsp. coconut oil. Add 15-20 drops essential oils after removing from heat. Spoon into jars and put in fridge if necessary.*

