



# interim

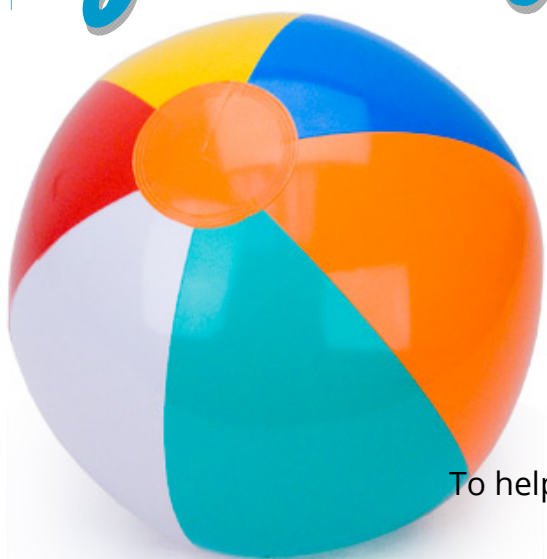
Volume 36, Issue 7

July 2018

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania



# summerpalooza!



**Saturday, August 4, 2018**

**11:45 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

12:00 noon—prayer and blessing of donations  
followed by a picnic lunch  
SSJ Administration Building and Patio

After 17 years of hosting “That’s a Wrap”  
each December, it’s time for a change!

To help our sponsored ministries during the summer months,  
Join us for our first

**Summerpalooza!**

Join us as we gather to enjoy some fun, food, renewing/beginning relationships,  
and especially, helping those who are served by our ministries.

RSVP by July 30, 2018 [associates@ssjerie.org](mailto:associates@ssjerie.org) or 814-836-4134

*Much like “That’s a Wrap,” we are asking for donated items for our ministries.*

*A list of suggested items is on page 4. Items DO NOT need to be wrapped.*

**The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Decries  
Human Rights Violations and Terrorism  
Perpetrated by the Trump Administration at the U.S. Border  
See page 2.**

## mission possible

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

As I was preparing a presentation on our Consensus Statement and Constitutions for our new associates, I came across the unpublished poem, "A Portrait of a Sister of St. Joseph" by Marius Nepper, SJ.

Father Nepper was a French historian and Jesuit priest who, in 1969, assisted a team of SSJs from the U.S. (including our Sister Leonie Shanley) in researching the primary

documents of the Sisters of St. Joseph to rediscover the original intent of our founder, Father Jean Pierre Medaille, SJ.

Their work culminated in the writing of the Consensus Statement, a document they believed articulated the original inspiration of Medaille.

As we celebrated Associates marking milestone anniversaries and witnessed five candidates make a commitment to live the

SSJ charism and the mission as Associates, the words from Father Nepper's poem came to mind: *"eyes open, ears attentive, spirit alert, sleeves rolled up for ministry without excluding the more humble, the less pleasing, the less noticeable."*

These words can be used to describe our sisters, associates and agreees. It is this spirit, which lives in each of them, that makes the **SSJ Mission Possible**.



**Marius Nepper, S.J.**

### Portrait of a Daughter of St. Joseph

Eyes open to the world  
both miserable and sinful,  
but a world worked on by the Holy Spirit;  
Eyes open and ears attentive  
to the sufferings of the world;  
Eyes open, ears attentive and spirit alert. . .  
never settled down, always in a holy  
disquietude, searching. . .  
in order to understand,  
to divine what God and the dear neighbor  
await from her today, now,  
for the body and for the soul;

Eyes open, ears attentive, spirit alert. . .  
sleeves rolled up for ministry,  
without excluding the more humble,  
the less pleasing, the less noticeable;  
Finally, in her face the reflection of a virtue  
proper to our Congregation, – continual joy  
of spirit.

This is the quiet inner glow of the Sister  
whose life in the service of Jesus Christ  
has been successful.

**Marius Nepper, S.J.**

### Federation Statement on Human Rights Violations at the Border

We join with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Sr. Theresa Maya, the President of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), and members of many faith traditions in calling for an end to the separation of children from their parents at the border where they are seeking asylum. In May 2018, the U.S. Government began prosecuting migrants who illegally crossed the United States border from Mexico. Their children are then detained separately from their parents.

We agree with Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI, President of the LCWR when she states, "as women of faith, as Catholic sisters, we strongly oppose the Trump administration's decision to forcibly separate parents from their children in an effort to punish families seeking safety in the United States. Mothers and fathers are taking tremendous risks to bring their children to safety. These are families fleeing violence and death in their home countries. They have every right to ask for protection

in the United States and the Trump administration is legally and morally obligated to give them a fair chance to seek asylum. It is impossible to imagine the fear of a child being ripped from the arms of her mother or the pain of a father watching a stranger take his son. It is cruel and inhumane, and it must stop. Our faith demands it and our national values require it. We are better than this." The president of the USCCB, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, declared, "our government has the discretion

*(Continued on page 7)*

## 2018 circle of friends—mark your calendar

Join us for the 16th Annual Circle of Friends – Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018.

As always, we'll start the celebration with an outdoor Mass, followed by a delicious picnic supper, fellowship and games – including the Rain

Gutter Regatta for children under 12.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Carol Hermann at 814-836-4198 or [carol.hermann@ssjerie.org](mailto:carol.hermann@ssjerie.org).

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018**

**Sisters of St. Joseph**

**Community Living Center  
5031 West Ridge Road, Erie,  
Pennsylvania**

**4 p.m. Liturgy**

**5 p.m. Picnic Dinner**

**6 p.m. Rain Gutter Regatta,  
Games and Fun**

## erie gives day 2018—what's it all about?



August 14, 2018 marks the 8th Erie Gives Day, which was started in 2011 in honor of the Erie Community Foundation's 75th

Anniversary.

During this event that runs for 12 hours between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on August 8, the Erie Community Foundation will match a percentage of each donation made to the Sisters of St. Joseph through the [Erie Gives website](#).

### **The Details:**

**Day and Time:** August 14, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST.

**Gift Amount:** The minimum gift is \$25. There is no limit to the amount of money you may give.

**Credit Cards:** Only Visa, MasterCard and Discover will be accepted.

**Prorated Match:** The Erie Community Foundation will enhance each donor's gift by providing a prorated match to each gift made to a nonprofit.

**Your Receipt:** You will receive an email receipt of your gift; please

retain it for tax purposes. Unless you choose to remain anonymous, your donor information will be sent to the appropriate organizations.

### **When the Nonprofits receive your donation:**

The organizations will receive your donation plus The Erie Community Foundation's prorated match later in August at the Erie Gives check distribution day.

## Grace in the Now - A Celebration of Creation

The final presentation of the "Grace in the Now – The Gospel of Encounter" series, sponsored by the SSJ Formation Team and JPIC, was held on Sat., June 9, from 11 am – 2 pm at the Community Living Center.

About 30 Sisters, Agregees and Associates celebrated the creative, informative, hands-on experience...of "Encountering God in Creation."

Through various forms of prayer, walking the labyrinth,

planting and gardening, sharing a picnic meal, and meandering the CLC campus in golf carts, participants appreciated and enjoyed the beauty of God's creation.

## Clare Marie Beichner, SSJ, honored as Religious of the Year

The Serra Club of Erie recently recognized Clare Marie Beichner, SSJ, as the Religious of the Year at its annual banquet held in the Yehl ballroom at Gannon University. Other honorees included Deacon

Denis Coan, Deacon of the Year; Bishop Lawrence Persico, Priest of the year; and the late James Spiece, Layperson of the Year.



## get to know ssj associates

*Each month, this new column will introduce you to one of the ssj associates as a way to get better acquainted with each other.*



### Meet Mary Ann Zarnick

Mary Ann Zarnick just celebrated 35 years as an associate. A former Sister of St. Joseph, Mary Ann feels a closeness to the congregation. She values the spirit and spirituality of the SSJs, looks to the sisters for spiritual direction and nourishment which led to her becoming an associate. Mary Ann lives the SSJ mission through her role as mother to two adult children and the work she does with the L'Arche community. For her, it is a continual living the mission of unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God without distinction.

*We are blessed to have Mary Ann as an associate.*

## associates' news and happenings

Congratulations and welcome to five new ssj associates who made their commitment on June 24. We also congratulate all the associates celebrating milestone anniversaries as associates. It was great to see so many associates, especially Karen Grove and her husband, Hal, who traveled from Spring Mills, PA to attend the prayer service and celebration. Many thanks to Sister Mary Rose Romeo for the beautiful prayer service, to associates Kathy Anysz, Gary Flick and Pat Marshall—the musicians who shared their talents, to SSJ associate Fr. Dennis Martin for his words of wisdom, and to Sheila Mack and the CLC kitchen staff for preparing a delicious lunch.

### Summerpalooza 2018 Ministry Requests

footballs, basketballs, soccer balls, action figures, Nerf toys PJ masks, board games, craft kits, Play Doh Kits, fashion dolls, baby dolls, doll accessories, stuffed animals, Shopkins or My Little Pony, dress-up clothes (ex.: princess, nurse, doctor, etc.), jewelry, fingernail polish or make-up, beach towels, flip-flops, jump ropes, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, sand pails and shovels, back-to-school supplies (notebooks, pencils, pens, pencil cases, folders, glue sticks, crayons), PJ bottoms (M-3XL), T-shirts (M-3XL), socks (white crew), underwear (M-XLg), snacks, coffee, t-shirts, bath towel sets, sheets (twin and queen), blankets, pots and pans, pillows and pillowcases, sleeping bags, crock pots, electric skillets

## Welcome New Associates



Left—right: Edith Benson, Jeanette Barczynski, Paul Wilkosz, Penny Guelcher and Janet Demjanenko.

## shenango valley reunion

More than 90 guests from throughout Shenango Valley joined 20 sisters and staff on June 14 for a reunion at the Church of Notre Dame in Hermitage, PA. And what a reunion it was – bringing family, old friends, former students, associates and current partners in ministry together for lunch and great conversation.

Thanks to all who attended and to the planning committee, which included the following Sisters: Srs. Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, Ann Donohue, Mary Drexler, Michele Healy, Margaret Pellerite and Mary Ann White. Special thanks to Fr. Richard Allen and the staff at Notre Dame Parish for the

warm welcome, hard work and use of the parish all-purpose room.

So far, reunions have been held in Ridgway and Shenango Valley. Our next stops will be Bradford and Meadville. Stay tuned for more information.



## events, happenings and ministry news

### Saint Mary's East and Asbury Ridge Awarded CARF-CCAC Accreditation



CARF-CCAC announced that Saint Mary's East and Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge have been awarded a five-year term of accreditation. These are the first CARF-CCAC accreditations awarded to Saint Mary's Home of Erie.

An organization with a five-year term of accreditation has voluntarily put itself through a rigorous peer review process and demonstrated that it is committed to conforming to CARF-CCAC standards. A CARF-CCAC accredited organization is commended on its quest for quality programs and services.

*"I am very proud of our employees for achieving CARF Accreditation at both facilities."* said Sister Phyllis McCracken, SSJ, President/CEO, Saint Mary's Home of Erie. *"Saint Mary's has a long history of seeking quality in our resident programs and services through our mission of 'loving to care.'"*

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body that promotes the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of

services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. An organization receiving accreditation has voluntarily undergone a rigorous peer review process and demonstrated to a team of on-site surveyors that it is committed to conforming to CARF-CCAC's accreditation conditions and standards.

### St. Patrick's Haven updates and needs

If you don't use the complimentary shampoo, conditioner, lotion and soap in hotel rooms, please consider donating these items to St. Patrick's Haven which is often in need of individual sized personal care items.

We welcome people interested in serving in a ministry of presence by visiting the men at St. Patrick's Haven. With our new building, our capacity increased and we can accommodate more visitors. You are asked to commit to one evening each month to visit 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 to which you are called.

We are always in need of individually wrapped snacks, as well.

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

### a note of thanks from Erie DAWN

*Meet Julie. Julie has been living in Bethany House since December 2017. Having a safe, stable home has allowed for Julie to have her children with her and focus on finding a living wage job. We are excited to share that Julie recently secured a position with a local non-profit that will now provide her with the opportunity to move on to permanent housing and be in an environment that will allow her to grow. This would not have been possible without your support of Bethany House as well as the grant funds that you awarded us.*



Erie DAWN is grateful to The Sisters of St Joseph Mission and Ministries Foundation for awarding us funds to continue our work that supports your Mission of "reaching out to the ever changing needs of the world, serve the neighbor without distinction as we work toward uniting neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God". Erie DAWN has been committed to provide housing and hope to hundreds of families for over 23 years.

The Erie DAWN program is as relevant today as it was when it was first established in 1995. It is with deep humility that we work hard to carry on the legacy and vision of Sr. Phyllis Hilbert and all the founders of Erie DAWN.

## silent peace walk for opioid addiction

A Silent Peace Walk was held on May 31, 2018 beginning in the chapel at the CLC. The focus of the walk was to pray for healing and peace for those who are

battling opioid addiction and also for their families. Addiction impacts not only the addict but brings tension and unimaginable stress levels to

their families and friends as well. After the walk, the participants said a prayer to Venerable Matt Talbot who is the patron saint of sobriety.

## exploring the inner-outer universe

Agregees Deb Seng and Betsy Wiest recently attended the seminar "A Hunger for Wholeness: Exploring the Inner-Outer Universe" at St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN. The keynote speak for the event was Dr. Ilia Delio, OSF. Also presenting at the seminar were Dr. Heidi Russell and Dr. John Haught. Sr. Ilia explored the

interior freedom humans possess and how this affects our relationship to God's Trinitarian life. She emphasized the interdependence of all of God's creations, both animate and inanimate, on the universe. Sr. Ilia talked about how humans continue to evolve and what this may look like for humans,

our earth and our universe in the future. Dr. Haught and Dr. Russell addressed God's love acting in a world of dynamic change.



## justice, peace, integrity of creation—join us!

The Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Team has had a busy year! The team sponsored presentations on human trafficking and gerrymandering; worked with the Crime Victim Center to develop human trafficking placards for EMTA buses to expand awareness; presented our first "Green Apple" awards to area teachers; organized Take Back the Site Vigils;

prayed for various social issues during our Silent Peace Walks; honored three women of justice; developed action plans on current social justice issues and kept our community updated on many justice topics.

If you desire a world in which all are one, where we all care for the "dear neighbor" and live in peace and

harmony with the Earth, please consider joining our team.

We meet monthly to talk about and plan ways to bring awareness and action to current issues. Please contact Betsy Wiest at 836-4153 or [betsy.wiest@ssjerie.org](mailto:betsy.wiest@ssjerie.org) for more information on how you can make a difference!

## planting sister mary claire's tree

At the *Women Who Are Called* event in March, Sister Mary Claire Kennedy was presented with a tree to honor her lifelong work in social justice. The tree was planted

at the CLC to the east of the building. A blessing ceremony will take place near the tree on Sunday, July 22 after the 9:00 a.m. liturgy. All are welcome to attend!



## Federation Statement

*(Continued from page 2)*

in our laws to ensure that young children are not separated from their parents and exposed to irreparable harm and trauma. Families are the foundational

element of our society and they must be able to stay together." During his remarks June 13, 2018, at the USCCB General Assembly gathering in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, DiNardo added, "Separating

babies from their mothers is not the answer and is immoral."

We call on Congress and the office of the Presidency of the United States of America to stop this deplorable practice immediately.

## 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

## Family Separation at the Mexican Border

Our nation is facing a crisis of conscience. Over the past few weeks, children have been separated from their family members at the U.S. border. The separation of families is a moral issue which violates the core values of love, mercy and justice. Many families crossing the border are fleeing domestic violence and other abuses, and have willingly turned themselves in to authorities to ask for asylum. More than 2,300 immigrant children were separated from their parents after

Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced a zero-tolerance policy for border crossings. If families crossed illegally, instead of at a point of entry, they faced criminal prosecution and their children could be placed in the custody of the Office of Refugee and Resettlement.

Sara Ramey, Executive Director of the Migrant Center for Human Rights indicated, "There is a statute that penalizes illegal entry, however, there's also asylum law that gives people the right to seek protection in this country. The right to asylum trumps the illegal entry statute."

A recent executive order is meant to stop the separation of families. This order, however, will incarcerate families for long periods of

time. It is also not clear when separated families would be reunited.

Now is the time to contact your Congresspersons and urge them to support policies that protect and unite immigrant and refugee families. Urge them to continue to work toward policies that will allow Dreamers a path toward citizenship. You can reach your Congressperson by calling the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121.

Approximately 80 people attended a prayer vigil organized by Erie citizens Hannah Tatar and Matthew Ochalek on 6/21/18 in Erie to pray for those families who have been separated at the border.

"Amen, I say to you. Whatever you did for one of the least sisters and brothers of mine, you did for me". Matthew 25:40.

