

interim

Volume 37, Issue 2

February 2019

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

SSJ Associate Retreat

Our Attitude of Gratitude through the Beatitudes: *Living the love of God and neighbor, without distinction*

Saturday, March 2, 2019

8:45 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

All are welcome—sisters, agreees and associates!

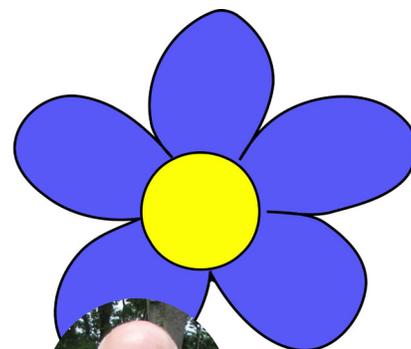
**CLC Gathering Room and Chapel
Lunch and refreshments provided**

Facilitators:

Associates Deacon John and Tammie Mang
Bring a small notebook or journal, Bible, Maxim Book (if you have one)

Retreat cost: \$10 for associates and agreees

RSVP: on the SSJ Community page www.ssjerie.org or call 814-836-4134 by February 22, 2019



St. Pat's
Haven
**URGENT
NEED**
See page 7


chapter
2018-19

see page 5

directory changes

Associates:

Kathy Anysz's email
kanysz44@gmail.com.

Steve and Linda Kuhn
phone number
814-923-3916

Sandy Greggs
2424 Salinger Court
Apt. 107
Wilmington, NC 28412

Sisters:

S. Mary Ellen Dwyer
phone 836-4111 (not
4101 as printed)

S. Mary Carol Hoke
Remove work phone
number

Ministry:
Samantha Stump
St. James Haven
814-282-7798

thirty years of thanks and giving

On Sunday, January 13, we hosted a special liturgy and breakfast in gratitude for all those who helped to make the 30th annual SSJ Thanksgiving dinner possible. The 2018 dinner, a collaborative effort with Gannon University, was the 30th annual dinner.

More than 100 volunteers prepared, served and/or delivered more than 800 meals to persons who were alone or in need on the holiday. Additionally, more than 700 donors supported our efforts with financial gifts to the

Thanksgiving appeal, as well as with food donations.

This year's appeal surpassed \$61,600 in donations, making it a new record. Funds in excess of the cost of the dinner are shared with area social service agencies including shelters and food banks that provide resources throughout the year. Funds were distributed to these groups during the liturgy and breakfast event. Thirty seven

agencies received donations.

Two special monetary gifts established to recognize the Thanksgiving Dinner hosts were also given. The "Peter Lyons' Thanksgiving Giving Back" \$500 gift which honors Lyons for his role in starting the dinner with Sister Theresa Marie Bohren, SSJ, 30 years ago at his restaurant, the Marketplace Grill, was presented to the SSJ Neighborhood

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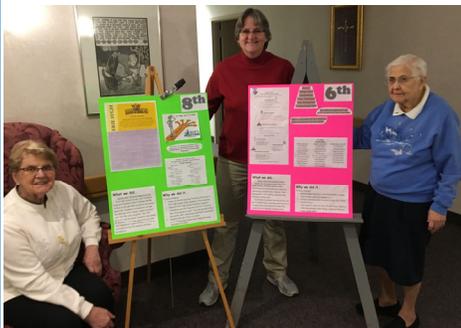
mission possible

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

SSJ Neighborhood Network East—keepin' the mission alive!

The SSJNN west and east are reaching out to the youth in their area with a variety of unique programs.

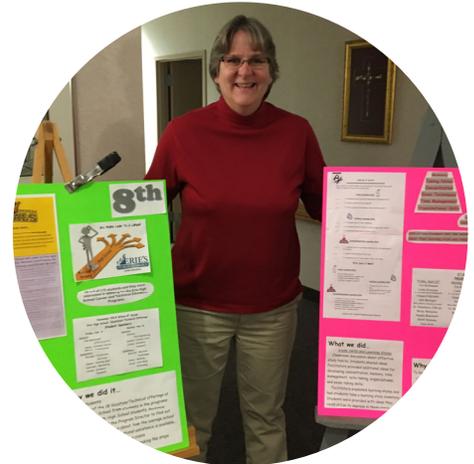
Recognizing that there is a significant percentage of neighborhood youth with limited understanding of future career and work opportunities, Colleen Burbules, program director of the SSJNN east developed and implemented a career awareness program at McKinley Elementary and Wilson Middle schools, both within the SSJNN east service area.



The program received a ministry support grant from the SSJ Mission and Ministries Foundation this year. In previous years, funding support came from United Way and the Erie Community Foundation.

Colleen recently shared details of this and other successful programs, including an initiative for the younger children to develop self awareness and self esteem.

Colleen facilitates approximately seven sessions each year in every classroom at McKinley Elementary School. She also developed a program for 6-8 grade students at Wilson Middle School which includes identifying character traits, study skills, learning styles, work habits, resume writing, career opportunities, a career day



with guest speakers and a career program in conjunction with the Tech Ed Program at Erie High School. These programs have been highly successful.

Thank you Colleen for the informative presentation and the work you are doing. We are blessed to have you and Margarita Dangel at SSJNN east making the **SSJ Mission Possible**.

MLK Day of Service

On January 21, 2019 students and teachers from Penn State Behrend came to the eastside office of the SSJ Neighborhood Network to assist with the bike program. Only one of the students had experience with bike repair but all were enthusiastic about helping. Their task for the day was shining wheels for bikes that are given to youth and adults in the SSJNN neighborhood. Everyone understood that a "shining" gift was much more pleasing to the

eye than a "rusty" one. They worked hard to achieve the greatest shine and enjoyed wonderful conversations among themselves. "I met thoughtful, committed, interested university students and felt enriched in many ways at the end of the service project," said Margarita Dangel, Neighborhood Manager.



Looking to help with St. Joseph Day?

On Tuesday, March 19, the Sisters will deliver St. Joseph Day baskets to dear friends and neighbors who have shown special kindnesses to the congregation and others throughout the year. As is tradition, home-baked breads will be included in the gift baskets.

If you're handy in the kitchen and would like to lend a hand with this year's St. Joseph Day baskets, please consider baking a mini-loaf or two. Favorites include banana, pumpkin, cinnamon, lemon and cranberry. If you'd like to donate bread this year, please

contact Carol Hermann at carol.hermann@ssjerie.com or call 836-4198. Breads need to be delivered to the SSJ Administration Building by noon Thursday, March 14.

thirty years of thanks and giving

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Network. In addition, the Gannon University/Metz Culinary Management Thanksgiving Giving Back \$500 gift was awarded to L'Arche. "The Thanksgiving Dinner project is in keeping with our mission of unity of neighbor with

neighbor and neighbor with God," said Mary Herrmann, SSJ. "To be able to share these gifts with other agencies that serve the lonely and less fortunate throughout the year is a great way of extending the spirit of giving."

Pictured: Dr. Keith Taylor (RIGHT), President of Gannon University, presents the Gannon University/Metz Culinary Management Thanksgiving Giving back Award to Vicki Washek of [L'Arche](#).)



notes



Dear Sr. Mary Herrmann and Betsy,
Thank you so much

for your generous donation to the St. James Food Pantry. Your donation will enable us to help our families and people that call for emergency food. Your kindness is sincerely appreciated.

Gratefully,
St. James Food Pantry

Dear Sr. Mary Herrmann,
Sr. Mary Claire Kennedy and Betsy,

We are so blessed to receive this most generous gift from the 30th Annual Thanksgiving Fund. We now serve over 75 families (200 men, women and children) every two weeks year round. This gift enables us to buy dairy, meat, produce and also

shampoo, soaps and laundry detergent (items not covered under the SNAP program). We purchase 1,700 pounds of food every two weeks from Second Harvest. Our focus continues to be adequate nutrition for the 75 children we serve, as they are our most vulnerable population. Our volunteers thank you for your healing prayer and charitable ministries in the Erie community.

Blessings,
Annette Wittmann, Director
Saint George Food Pantry

Dear Sister Mary Herrmann, Betsy Wiest and community,
On behalf of the Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry and all the volunteers, I want to thank you for your generous contribution this year. Thank you for thinking of us and

giving so generously to our food pantry.

Prayers and blessings,
Michael Scalise

Dear Sisters of St. Joseph,

I would like to thank you for your generous donation of money to the Mount Carmel and St. Luke's Food Pantry. We really appreciate your continued support. We are very grateful for the constant gift of money and assistance we receive from you. We are currently serving 90 families. They constantly thank us for all our hard work and the support we receive from our Parishes. Without your help, we would not be able to assist them in their time of need. Your donation helps me purchase food from Second Harvest or food that I may buy at the grocery store.

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get to know ssj associates



Mother and Daughter— Geraldine Gallagher and Gretchen Durney

Geraldine Gallagher and her daughter, Gretchen Durney, were welcomed as associates in 2014. Geraldine's mentor was Sister Geraldine Olin while Associate Renee Caldwell was Gretchen's.

Geraldine is a member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish where she is a lector, member of the prayer ministry and facilitator of a small faith sharing community. She is the mother of four children. She is retired from Behrend College and is the full time caregiver for her husband, Joseph. In her free time, she enjoys reading, baking and gardening.

Gretchen is the youngest of four children. She is married to David Durney and she is a member of St. Patrick's Parish. After graduating from Mercyhurst Prep School, she served one year with AmeriCorps NCCC in California. She has "worn many hats" at the SSJNN West and presently is the Neighborhood Manager (site director). She enjoys cooking, music, the outdoors, time with family and friends and her Irish Setter, Rowdy.

associates' news and happenings

Associate recommitment forms will be mailed/or emailed soon. We are blessed with so many faithful, dedicated associates who live the Sisters of St. Joseph mission and strive to fully live the gift of the charism. Your presence at home, parish, work, or wherever you go in the community and what you do is your gift to the dear neighbor and to each of us. We are grateful for you – and who you are! Look for your recommitment form and please return it by March 2, 2019.

March 2, 2019 is also the date for the **Annual Retreat**. Information is on this page – be sure to make your reservation so we can make plans for set-up, handouts, and lunch. Everyone is welcome to attend and prayerfully re-energize as we prepare to celebrate St. Joseph Day! Bring your recommitment form with you if you haven't already sent it in.

Some associates have asked about **Prayer Groups** and expressed an interest in being

part of one. There are several groups that meet at various times and on various dates. You may want to join one of these groups or if there is enough interest, we can start a new group. For more information, please call (814-836-4134).

Save-the-Date – Upcoming Events

March 2 – Annual Retreat

March 16 – St. Joseph Day Celebration

June 23 – New Associate Welcoming and Associate Anniversary Celebrations

July 27 – Summerpalooza

September 21-22 – Overnight retreat

Help! Help! Help!

We are still in need of associates to help with gathering and writing news and for creative ideas for the associates' news and happenings page of the Interim. If you can volunteer to be of some help please let us know at associates@ssjerie.org. or call 836-4134. We need all the help we can get!

being kind in Dublin!

I am attaching the proof that we are being kind in Dublin. With all good wishes,
Sister Patricia Lenihan, RSC

**Religious Sisters of Charity
Committed to Care of the Earth
and the Abolition of Trafficking
in Persons**



Be Kind magnets are still available. Go to www.ssjerie.org



chapter of affairs and elections

Chapter chairpersons

Sister Mary Drexler

814-824-5557 or
814-464-3307

Sister Moira Sullivan

814-452-6580 or
814-460-8671

Important chapter dates

February 9 & 10, 2019	Membership
March 9 & 10, 2019	Resources
April 6 & 7, 2019	Elections*
May 4 & 5, 2019	Elections*

chapter info at www.ssjerie.org

Be sure to regularly check the special chapter page in the LOGIN area of the ssj website www.ssjerie.org.

Delegates' Statement

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and our mutual trust in one another, we commit to make decisions by praying, being informed, listening and speaking our truth in a non-judgmental manner. Collegiality and Subsidiarity will continue to be the congregational decision making process. We accept our responsibility to support and carry out all decisions.

Direction Statements for Mission and ministry

Recognizing the presence of God in one another, we commit ourselves to a spirit of living that embraces active listening, unconditional love and respect, affirmation and acceptance of the dear neighbor.

As a congregation of the great love of God, we will enhance our SSJ mission effectiveness program for our partners in mission while continuing to participate in Federation programs that develop a deeper sense of mission and charism.

notes

(Continued from page 3)

Thank you for your continued help. May God bless you.
Sincerely,
Amy VanDamia
Coordinator, Mount Carmel and St. Luke Food Pantry

Dear Sisters of St. Joseph Mission & Ministries Foundation,
Greetings and Happy New Year! We are in for a cold spell now, so keep warm. Thank you for the generous gift to help us in Catholic Rural Ministry. It's hard to express in words how much we appreciate that you remember our ministry each year at this time. We love

living in this area, meeting many wonderful people and having opportunities to help those in need. Our ministry is varied between helping families in need and working with youth and adults as they ask us to give them faith enrichment. Your money goes to the work of outreach and giving assistance.

Joining you at Mass, brunch and hearing updates on so many good things being done in Erie and beyond gives us all more hope and joy. Thank you. Once again, thank you and God bless you for all you do, not only for our ministry but for the many ways you reach out to "dear neighbors" everywhere.

Sincerely,
Sister Marian Wehler, OSB
Co-Director, Catholic Rural Ministry of Oil City Deanery

Dear Sisters of St. Joseph,
Thank you for your check. This will benefit our Saint Ann's food bank.

We have 75 families, and every month we have two or three more. The rewarding part is to see small children – 4 or 5 years old – smile when they ask if they can have a pack of cookies.
God bless,
Pat Devore
Coordinator, Saint Ann's Food Pantry

On behalf of myself, Mrs. Patricia

events, happenings and ministry news

News from the SSJNN!



For further information and tickets, please call 454-7814 or e-mail jsprickman@ssjnn.org

SSJ Neighborhood Network Quilt Raffle

A beautiful quilt handmade by SSJ Associates Gina Adams and Brenda Desser will be raffled on May 4, 2019 at the 13th annual Guess That Tune Gala. Quilt dimensions 88' x 103'. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Call 454-7814 for more information.



Nursing/Marycrest is in need of blue bags. Please drop them off at the CLC!



For the homeless, Christmas can be a very sad time filled with loneliness and hopelessness. This year, guests at St. James Haven experienced a true family Christmas. Three Meadville area families provided gifts for the guests at the Haven which included boots, hiking shoes, long sleeved shirts, jeans, thermoses, backpacks filled with fun stuff, flash lights, gift cards, hygiene products, bandanas, and candy. Smiles lit their faces. Another couple showed up with quiche and juice and spent time with the Haven guests who stayed the entire day at the Haven. Christmas Day, which could have been desolate and lonely, was one of hope and promise.



Save the Date!

Alec Chien, an award-winning pianist from Hong Kong, will perform in concert as a fundraiser for St. James Haven.

**Saturday, April 13, 2019
3:00 p.m.
Allegheny College
Ford Chapel
Meadville, PA**

Tickets are \$10 each and will be on sale soon. Limited seating. Call 814-282-7798.

brown bag & basketry

Our first basket for this year will be a Cat's Head basket and we will decorate it with a new weave called Lazy Hearts.

DATE: **February 18 & 19
3:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

PLACE: 2547 West 8th St
Ground floor of
Heritage Apts., south
door

COST: \$30

MATERIALS: Bag supper, comfortable clothes, old towel, dishpan.

If you want to see the lazy hearts decoration, go on line to Baskets to Weave, check on videos and you can see how to do them. YouTube has them also.

To make a reservation:

**s.andrefeulner@ssjerie.org
or 836-4139.**



Take Back the Site Vigil for Jeffrey Miller

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019
429 Chestnut Street, Erie, PA
The vigil will begin at 5:15 p.m.
and will last about 15
minutes. Please join us as we
reclaim this place where
violence occurred.**

where's the justice?

Springhill employees helping the homeless

In December, employees of Springhill Senior Living paid to wear jeans to work on Fridays and collected \$530 for St. Patrick's Haven. Our thanks for the continued support of the mission of St. Patrick's Haven!

Insurance professionals help St. Patrick's Haven

The Insurance Professionals of NW PA once again invited Betsy Wiest, to speak about homelessness in Erie and St. Patrick's Haven. After the presentation, members of the group donated coffee supplies and snacks for St. Patrick's Haven. Thank you to the IPNWPA for your continued support for St. Patrick's Haven!

Agrégeée Gathering

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrated the gifts the Magi brought to the Christ child and the SSJ Agrégeées gathered for Mass and brunch on the feast. It was a time to gather as a group, share stories and reflect on the gifts each has brought to the SSJ community as well as the gift community has been for them. Involvement of the Agrégeées spans from chairing/serving on committees, volunteering at sponsored ministries and the CLC, to attending the wakes and funerals of the Sisters. The SSJ community offers support and prayers through sharing retreat offerings, evenings of reflection, prayer groups, to remembrance at daily Mass. Both groups are "richer" for sharing life together. If you are interested in learning more about Agrégeées, please contact Sister Susan Herzing at 836-4066 or s.sherzing@ssjerie.org.

who is my neighbor?

Betsy Wiest and Nancy Pierce, principal of St. Gregory's School, recently presented a talk to the faculty titled, *Who Is My Neighbor?* The faculty was encouraged to continue to widen the net and identify neighbor as not just those in their daily lives but everyone and everything in which they come in contact — even on a global level. They planned how to help their students reach out, make their voices heard and help those in their local, country and worldwide communities.

Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King

"Tomorrow is today. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there "is" such a thing as being too late. There is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sister Rosemary O'Brien attended the 9th Annual Dr. King Awards Dinner which celebrated Dr. King and his wife Coretta as well as the women of our community who influence, change and impact lives.

Diane Edwards, Executive Director of Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County and Joyce A. Savocchio were among the award recipients, of diverse ages and backgrounds, who were recognized.

"I was inspired by the dynamic guest speaker from Chicago, Tanikia (Nikki) Carpenter, and the award recipients who are making a difference in the Erie area," said Sr. Rosemary.

"Thank you to all the

women who are working to influence, change and impact lives. You are the inspirational energy that is helping to move our community forward," stated Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County Executive.

News from St. Pat's Haven

St. Patrick's Haven is always in need of coffee, canisters of creamer and sugar and hot chocolate packets—especially now that the cold weather is here.

Visitors are needed one evening each month for an hour at 7 p.m. Please contact Betsy Wiest at 836-4153 if you are able to make a donation or would like to volunteer.

St. Patrick's Haven is going green. If you have extra forks and spoons you no longer need, please consider donating them to St. Patrick's Haven.



CRITICAL NEED

St. Patrick's Haven has a **CRITICAL NEED** for men's winter hats, scarves, heavy gloves and thermal underwear. If you are able to donate, please bring your items to Betsy Wiest in the Administration Building or call 836-4153. Thank you!

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



Connecting with God ✦ Connecting with You

WWW.
SSJERIE
.ORG

right to life for unborn babies

The Erie community gathered on January 12, 2019 at the 41st annual Pro-Life Breakfast to support the right of all babies to be born. The Sisters of St. Joseph sponsored a table at the event. On hand were, Sisters Martha Howick, Millicent Zimmer, Mary Helen Forney, Agrégée Betsy Wiest, Associate Joan Fels, SSJ Associates Tina and Steve Branton, and their daughter, Kristen, SSJ receptionist, Haven Dinges and a new friend who joined the table, John Guyton.

The speaker for the event was Obianuju Ekeocha, author of *Target Africa: Ideological Neocolonialism in the Twenty-First*

Century and noted anti-abortion speaker. "Uju", who comes from the Igbo tribe in Nigeria, gave a passionate presentation on the sanctity of life. She brought a global view of anti-abortion and spoke about the importance and power of voting. In 2018, "Uju" indicated that 40 million babies were aborted worldwide with roughly 1 million of those babies aborted in the United States. She said, "Laws come and go but universal truths remain that life begins at



conception, without exception". She founded Culture of Life Africa, an organization dedicated to the promotion and defense of the African values of the sanctity of life, beauty of marriage, blessings of motherhood and dignity of family life. Uju spoke passionately about African pro-life values where it is still normal practice to welcome every child with open arms, value family ties above material things and hold the elderly in high esteem. Maybe it is the "third world" that needs to teach and we who need to learn.