

interim

Volume 37, Issue 5

May 2019

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

chapter of elections

We are pleased to share with you the culmination of our Chapter of Elections. It is with deep gratitude and joyful anticipation of what our future holds that we announce the results of our Chapter of Elections:

SSJ Leadership 2019-2023

Mary Drexler, SSJ, *President*
Phyllis McCracken, SSJ
Carol Morehouse, SSJ

Councilors-at-Large

Claudia Dombrowski, SSJ
Nancy Fischer, SSJ

Leadership
Installation
June 30,
2019

Eucharistic Ministers and Pastoral Care Help Needed

If you are interested in volunteering to distribute communion to patients at Saint Vincent Hospital, or, if you might be interested in a part-time paid position in pastoral care, please contact Sr. Carol Morehouse at 814-452-5116.

Monday,
June 3
6:00 p.m.
Community
Living Center



From 2015-2017, the U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph, through a grant from the Conrad Hilton Foundation, underwent an extensive

organizational audit in an effort to position the Federation to best serve its members and the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph into the future. A thorough review of the audit findings have led to many changes in the Federation. One of those changes is an effort to diversify membership in the Federation and expand membership to include agrégées, associates and lay partners. This will be the topic of a presentation by Patty

Johnson, CSJ, Executive Director of the Sisters of St. Joseph U.S. Federation, which will be presented here at the CLC on June 3. Patty is travelling throughout the U.S. to share this presentation with all U.S. Congregations of Sisters of St. Joseph. Her presentation in Erie is scheduled for Monday, June 3, at 6:00 PM at the Community Living Center. Please plan to join us! Your presence and voice are important.

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mission possible

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

a Good Friday pilgrimage and the SSJ mission



Associate Stephanie Hall, who many know is also our Director of Public Relations and Communications, embarked on a spiritual journey during Holy Week. Stephanie, who has been making personal retreats in the desert of New Mexico for a few years, recently learned about a Holy Week pilgrimage to El Santuario de

Chimayo in the town of Chimayo, NM, about 30 miles north of Santa Fe. Upon learning about this



pilgrimage, Stephanie knew immediately that she would someday do it. Then she was struck with the realization that someday may never come, so why not now? She reached out to a friend in South Carolina and the two decided to make it happen.

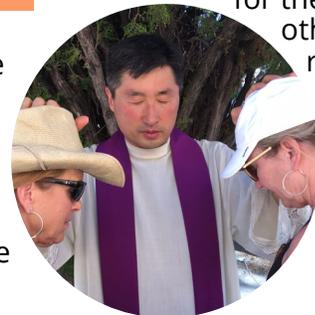
I never heard of Chimayo or the santuario and was interested in learning more. El Santuario de Chimayo is a small church located in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and is known for the story of its

Life is a journey and you choose to live as a pilgrim or as a tourist.

founding and as a pilgrimage site since the early 1800s. The chapel is built on the site where a wooden crucifix was discovered by Don Bernardo Abeyta in 1810. The crucifix now hangs on an altar in the chapel. The sanctuary became



designated as a national historic landmark in 1970. The pilgrimage to Chimayo attracts hundreds of thousands each year, most during Holy Week, and especially on Good Friday. For the pilgrims, it is a time to reflect on blessings received, to seek forgiveness and healing



for themselves and others, and to remember the sacrifices Jesus made for us. Many pilgrims are attracted to

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meet student volunteers at the SSJ Neighborhood Network

Meet two college students who have been helping out at the SSJ Neighborhood Network:

Angela Bucci is

a Junior at Allegheny and has been interning with SSJNN since January. She has been working on tasks related to the teen garden worker program, gala and Little Italy Farmers Market. She is from



Long Island, NY and is studying English and Environmental Studies. If you are attending the gala, please say hello to Angie!

Ariana Purcell is a Junior at Penn State Behrend and chose SSJNN for her PR Project in Dr. Karrie Bowen's Communications course. She has been working on marketing tasks for the Little Italy Farmers Market. She is from Houston, TX and is studying Communications. Stay tuned for some neat video

interviews Ari completed of some of our farmers and garden volunteers talking about the market, our gardens and teens!

They have enjoyed learning about and having a hand in our mission and we are grateful to have had both of them!



13TH ANNUAL
Guess That Tune
GALA
 TO BENEFIT THE SISTERS OF
 ST. JOSEPH NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK
MAY 4, 2019
at the Bayfront Convention Center

For
 tickets,
 call
 454-7814

- 5:00PM** COCKTAILS AND LIVE MUSIC WITH THE GEM CITY JAZZ ENSEMBLE
- 6:00PM** DINNER AND REMARKS
 KENTUCKY DERBY POST TIME 6:25PM
- 8:00PM** GUESS THAT TUNE COMPETITION
 THEME BASKETS AND SILENT AUCTION

Purchase individual tickets or tables of 8 for corporate sponsorship or your competition team

Tickets are limited!— Reserve by April 20, 2019

Business or festive attire suggested for this Derby edition of our annual event!



Spring
 into Erie....DAWN!

Thursday, May 9th, 2019

🌻 5:00 - 8:00 pm 🌻

Bel-Aire by Wyndham

SILENT & LIVE AUCTION, MUSIC & MORE • \$50 PER PERSON

FOR MORE INFO: CALL 453-5921

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ERIEDAWN.ORG

get to know ssj associates



Ted and Mary Wright

by SSJ Associate Carol Dorr

Spring has sprung! I feel a renewed sense of ambition and wanted to know what other associates are doing to spread the charism. I was blessed to speak with Mary Wright. Mary and her husband, Ted, became associates in 2008. Sr. Mary Alice Reed was their mentor. Mary and Ted moved to Beaverton, OR in 2016 to live near their children. They are active members of their parish and involved in numerous activities including coffee and donuts after mass, food pantry distributions, and the Faith Cafe (a nondenominational Sunday meal free to anyone). They enjoy working with Kindergarten students, providing extra encouragement to build a great reading foundation. They have made a conscious choice to devote part of each day to serving the dear neighbor. They model their Golden years after the sisters, and have found it to be the most rewarding season of their lives. Mary's words challenged me to find new ways to deepen my relationships with God and the dear neighbor.

Isn't that an awesome way to embrace the new spring season?

associates' news and happenings

Happy May Birthdays

Carol Hermann
Rebecca Flynn
Mary Ann Jankowski
Marlene Lyda
Joanne Sprickman
Arlene Barlekoff
Thomas Hoffman
Mary Ellen Brown
Rosmari Graham
Irene Danko
Jodi Andres
Debra Hamilton

Associate candidates, **Susan Colvin, Frances Skobieranda and Linda Winters** are nearing the completion of their formation and will make their retreat in May in preparation for their commitment in June. Please remember these candidates and their mentors in your prayers and plan to join them **June 23, 2019** for their Welcoming Prayer Service and Celebration. During this celebration, we will also recognize all the associates celebrating milestone anniversaries.

Come and See, an information session for anyone interested in knowing more about associates or who wish to become an associate will be held on **May 29, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the CLC Gathering Room**. If you know anyone who may be interested, please invite them or let the Associate Office know their contact information and we will send them an invitation.

Maxim moments

In the 17th century, Father Medaille wrote the Maxims of Perfection or fundamental rules of conduct that a person seeking a life with God could follow and they still have a message for us today. We offer the following Maxim this month for your personal reflection:

Maxim 47: Be free enough to let others shine. Embrace the humble tasks.

Contemporary translation: Let someone else be the star! It won't kill you.

For reflection: I freely draw attention to the gifts and talents of others.

I renew my best desires. I don't want to be greater than; I want to be part of.

Small tasks like recycling and shorter showers are acts of humility.

directory changes

Please remove these associates' email addresses:

Sandra Clark:

sanjerclark@yahoo.com

Mary Grace DeGeorge:

mgdegeorge@yahoo.com

Pilgrimage

(Continued from page 2)

the shrine by testimonies about the miraculous effects of the dirt found within the chapel of the Christ of Esquilpulas. Within the sanctuary is a pit which contains the "holy dirt" and marks the place where the crucifix was found. The pilgrimage is said to be the largest Catholic pilgrimage in the United States. Some call it the "Lourdes of North America."

Stephanie was moved by the depth of the pilgrims' faith and devotion. She found the encounters with other pilgrims and many spiritual blessings she received to be very special. It was a profound experience, she says, and she is still "processing" everything.

I was fascinated by what I learned as well as by the stories Stephanie shared. She talked about the people and her conversations and experiences with them along the way. It didn't come as a surprise to me that Stephanie took along several of our BE KIND magnets and shared them with pilgrims who extended kindness to her along the way. One man from a church group who prayed with Stephanie and her friend was especially delighted to receive a magnet. He is known to friends as "Kind John." It occurred to me that even way out in the desert of New Mexico, Stephanie, as an SSJ associate, was extending our mission and reaching out to the dear neighbor. This makes the **SSJ Mission Possible**.

Leadership

(Continued from page 1)

The next and final step in this process will be the affirmation which will take place on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019. Although the results are technically unofficial until that date, we expect that it is unlikely anything will change. As such, in anticipation of final affirmation, we will begin a transition process immediately. Installation will take place on June 30, 2019 and new leadership will officially assume responsibilities beginning July 1, 2019.

Thank you all for your prayers and support during this important part of our history.

a webinar
**Volunteer Programs
 and Discernment Houses**
Tuesday, May 21, 2019
2:00 – 3:00 P.M.
SSJ Community Living Center

Many religious communities have established volunteer programs to enable persons to assist in their mission, including residential volunteer programs, in which volunteers live with other volunteers or with a religious community in the course of the program. Some communities establish discernment houses where individuals may live for a year or two, often in the early years after college. Both these projects have many positive aspects and provide a great service to volunteers and discerners as well as to the communities that host them and the broader community of faith. Learn more.

Open to sisters, agrégée, and associates
 To register, please contact Jenn Woodard (836-4204 or jennifer.woodard@ssjerie.org)

For more information, contact Sr. Rosemary O'Brien.



biggest losers

Congratulations to SSJ Executive Assistant, Jennifer Woodard, Sister Mary Helen Forney, and Sister Catherine Manning who were the first, second and third place winners, respectively, for the Battle of the Bulge weight loss contest that took place over a two month time period at the CLC. Twenty three participants started the program, and 10 completed it with a combined weight loss total of 53 pounds. Congratulations to all !!!

events, happenings and ministry news

Ready. Set. Spring Vendor Event

The Spring Vendor event on March 30 at Active Aging Center in support of St. James Haven, was a complete success! Vendors galore, including Avon, Tupperware, Color Street, Paparazzi, Herbalife, RevitalU, Barista Coffee, Forbes Home Grown, and many more crafters and jewelry makers were present. The community enjoyed homemade cookies and punch while they browsed and shopped. Rose Hilliard (SJH board chair) and Raymond Gerhart (SJH manager) were present to share the St. James Haven mission. \$500.00 was raised in support of the mission and it's safe to say that this vendor event will become an annual event in support of St. James Haven.



Allegheny College Students Service Saturday

On Saturday, April 13, Allegheny students made their way to St. James Haven to offer their services for a "spring cleaning" day. Walls, baseboards, floors, mattresses, and bedframes were cleaned. Students also raked and bagged leaves to get ready for spring. They spruced up the interior and exterior of the Haven. SJH board member Mike Higham was present to oversee the three-hour project. Allegheny students were impressed with the operation of the Haven and asked if there would be further opportunities to serve at St. James Haven.

St. Patrick's Haven is the biggest winner

Thank you to the members of the McDowell High School



Wellness Committee for their recent donation to St. Patrick's Haven as a result of their "Biggest Loser"

weight loss competition. The competition helped teachers and staff at McDowell improve their health and the winners were awarded prizes. However, the "Biggest Winner" in the "Biggest Loser" competition was St. Patrick's Haven.

ServErie at St. Patrick's Haven

St. Patrick's Haven was the recipient of services by the ServErie community on 4/6/19 when volunteers installed chair rails in the sitting and TV rooms at the Haven. The new chair rails will protect the walls from



damage from the chairs currently placed against the walls.

Are you being called to a ministry of presence?

Each night St. Patrick's Haven opens its doors to 24 homeless men. A dedicated group of volunteers visit with the men

each evening for about an hour to provide a ministry of presence and support. It lets our guests know they are valued children of God. If you are interested in joining this important ministry, call Betsy Wiest at 814-836-4153.



Be kind always

One of the SSJNN youth, Sarah Gurung, entered and won a kindness poster contest held by LECOM's Safe



LECOM's Safe Kids Erie.

Sarah lives in Little Italy and attends SSJNN programs. She is a student at

Mother

Theresa Academy and she is very artistic and exhibits kindness regularly. She is pictured here at the award ceremony

with SSJ Associate, Judge Stephanie Domitrovich and Erie County Executive, Kathy Dahlkemper. Sarah also donned a robe and took a seat on the bench! Hmmm...foreshadowing?



where's the justice?

blessing the land for a better future

The Urban Erie Community Development Corporation, under the direction of Gary Horton, conducted a blessing of the Land at Savocchio Opportunity Park on April 4th. The UECD has long-range plans for the land including a community solar farm, small business incubator, job training and a health and wellness center. During the ceremony, representatives from the three religious communities blessed the land by sprinkling it with holy water and singing This is Holy Ground.



assigned a country for their students to research. On Summit Day, students were able to "travel" to each country in the Passport Activity by visiting the table displays.

Information on the tables helped students to fill out their "passports" and earn flag stamps. As students completed their passports, they joined discussion groups with Sr. Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ and Agrégée Deb Seng. We live on the world's largest supply of fresh water so students attended a session which talked about how precious water is for others in the world. During this presentation, students took turns carrying gallons of water around the room to experience not having water readily available. Speakers, Niken Astari-Carpenter and Dr. Anjali Sahay spoke with the students about poverty in Indonesia and India. During this presentation, students were given a cut-out of a water droplet where they wrote their wish for the world and how they can help make this happen. Droplets were

then placed on banners to be taken back to their schools. The day ended with a liturgy in which Fr. Mike DeMartinis blessed the banners and commissioned the students to start using what they had learned to make a change in the world.

Join the Wave of Change

JPIC sponsored the film, *A Plastic Ocean*, recently at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.

Attendees were challenged to make a pledge to reduce their plastic footprint. Popular pledges were to use metal straws, refuse plastic straws, use reusable grocery bags, convert to a bamboo toothbrush and try to limit their use of plastic. Send your plastic footprint reduction ideas to socialjustice@ssjerie.org and watch future Interims for more ideas.



Erie Catholic School 6th Graders participate in a Global Poverty Summit

Betsy Wiest, JPIC Coordinator, worked with Kim Lytle, Patrice Swick and Heidi Arnold of the Erie Diocese on a Global Poverty Project for area 6th grade students in the Erie Catholic Schools. Students attended a Global Poverty Summit at Our Lady of Mount Carmel recently. During the Summit Day, students participated in several learning activities including a discussion about the recent service project they completed where they packed food for people in Burkina Faso, West Africa. Each school was



assigned a country for their students to research. On Summit Day, students were able to "travel" to each country in the Passport Activity by visiting the table displays. Information on the tables helped students to fill out their "passports" and earn flag stamps. As students completed their passports, they joined discussion groups with Sr. Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ and Agrégée Deb Seng. We live on the world's largest supply of fresh water so students attended a session which talked about how precious water is for others in the world. During this presentation, students took turns carrying gallons of water around the room to experience not having water readily available. Speakers, Niken Astari-Carpenter and Dr. Anjali Sahay spoke with the students about poverty in Indonesia and India. During this presentation, students were given a cut-out of a water droplet where they wrote their wish for the world and how they can help make this happen. Droplets were



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WWW.
SSJERIE
.ORG

SSJs welcome refugees at the U.S. - Mexico border

Rubin Garcia has provided shelter for migrants in El Paso, Texas for more than 40 years. With the recent influx of migrants, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection services estimates nearly 150,000 migrants will require shelter along the U.S. - Mexico border by early fall. Ruben estimated that 400-700+ refugees per day are being sent to Annunciation House to be sheltered until their immigration status can be determined.

Through the CSSJ Federation and the LCWR, Annunciation House has issued a plea for volunteers to help provide hospitality to the refugees. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania are answering the call. In May, Agrégées Deb Seng and Betsy Wiest will travel to El Paso to lend a hand at Annunciation House for two weeks. Because

neither of them speak Spanish, they will assist in preparing for refugee arrivals each day.

The vast majority of the refugees left their homes to escape violence and poverty. Extortion and threats of violence are pervasive. Credible protection in many areas is non-existent. They come primarily from Central American countries as well as Mexico and Brazil. Refugees are literally walking away from their homes, their jobs and their way of life, with only what they can carry in their arms – most often their children. They walk in search of finding a safe place for

their families to live. As the Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities fill, other organizations are being asked to assist in providing housing. A majority of families arriving at the border have relatives and friends in the U.S. who can sponsor them.

Annunciation House oversees multiple hospitality houses for refugees in need of both short and long term hospitality.

Rubin Garcia recently signed the lease for an empty warehouse with 125,000 square feet which he is working to convert in order to handle the increasing number of refugees.

