

interim

Volume 37, Issue 8

August 2019

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

What a beginning!

We began our leadership term with a beautiful installation liturgy and reception for family, agrégées, associates, and sisters on June 30th. Our first official day started calmly with a prayer service and reception with the administrative staff. By lunchtime, unfortunately, we had received word that Sister Naomi Wood had died. We were also awaiting the arrival of Sister Mary Julia Scully's body from the fu-

neral home after her passing the previous week. Two funerals in two days! Yet, what a privilege it was to accompany two of our own on their final journey home to God. Within a week, Sister Mary lost her balance at home, fell, and broke her wrist! While all of this seems like a great deal, we are transitioning well into this new adventure called leadership. We are able to do this because of your prayer-



ful support, which we hope will continue. We are indeed, grateful.

Sr. Mary *Naomi*
Sister Carol

and the spirit award goes to . . . SSJ & As!!!

The SSJs and As once again were the recipients of the coveted "Spirit Stick Award" from this year's Relay for Life event on June 29.

The team earned the distinction by taking first place in overall team spirit! This is quite an accomplishment considering they are up against much larger teams with vast resources.

As the winner, the SSJ & As team gets possession of the spirit stick for the year (and bragging rights!). Each year, the spirit award winners add something unique from their organization to the spirit stick before passing it on the following year.

The spirit stick will be on display in the CLC lobby for all to see.



Sisters, agrégées, and associates have participated in the annual Relay event since 2003. Each year, the SSJ & As fundraising goal is met primarily through its sales of Daffin Candy Bars throughout the community.

This year's SSJ & A team co-chairs were Sister Mary Fromknecht and SSJ Associate Linda Gier (pictured (l-r).

(Continued on page 2)

UNDERCOVER BILLIONAIRE

The new Series 'Undercover Billionaire' premieres Tuesday, August 6 at 10:00 p.m. on Discovery channel.

The show features Glenn Stearns, a self-made billionaire, who is given just 90 days in an average American town to build a million-dollar business from scratch. He is not to use any of his resources or contacts. With only \$100 in his pocket, he is determined to recreate his rags-to-riches success and prove the American Dream is still alive.

For the show's first

(Continued on page 2)



Tuesday,
August 13,
2019



mission possible

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

Belonging to a prayer group can help us connect, not only with each other but with God. This is the SSJ mission. Many of our associates, agrégées, and sisters belong to prayer groups. One such group is the Meadville Associate Prayer Group which has met continuously, each month since it began in 1985 at the suggestion of Sister Mary Regis Schrock. Initially, they held their gatherings at the sisters' convent and later started taking turns hosting the prayer group in their homes. The hosts also prepare the prayer. Most of the meetings also are accompanied by a social hour and sharing of food.

I had the opportunity to join the group for its May meeting which was held at

St. Hippolyte Parish social hall in Guys Mills, PA. Associates Chris and Dan Partin led the group in a reflective meditation of the joyful mysteries of the rosary. A delicious pot-luck lunch preceded the presentation.

In June, I joined the group at associates Jerry and Loeta Derby's home for prayer, delicious tea sandwiches, cookies, and a variety of teas. Afterward, Loeta led the group

in prayer. In August, the group will remember deceased Meadville associates at a mass being celebrated for them at St. Brigid Church.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to join in prayer with these associates. I am also grateful for all they have done throughout the past 35 years and continue to do to reach out to the dear neighbor in the Meadville area. Recently, a plaque was placed at St. James Haven to recognize the Meadville associates dedicated service to the haven for 15 years. This is what makes the **SSJ Mission Possible!**



Undercover Billionaire

(Continued from page 1)

Spirit Award

(Continued from page 1)



notes

Sisters, associates, and agrégées,

How do I say thank you for all the attention I received during my hospital stay and since arriving home?

When others were amazed that I had no pain, I responded, "I have 85 sisters and 185 others praying for me."

So, please know that I shall be forever grateful to each of you.

My love and prayers,
S. Dorothy Wilwohl

episode, Stearns is in Erie. The SSJNN was approached months ago about having Stearns and a crew (without knowing who he was or why they were filming) come and help at the soup kitchen.

Details about the show and a clip including a bit of footage of the 'undercover billionaire' serving at the SSJNN soup kitchen at St. Paul's were featured recently in the Erie Times News and GoErie.

About 30-35 or more sisters, agrégées, associates and friends came out to participate with the team. Thank you to all who lent support in so many ways, including the sisters in Marycrest who made pinwheels to honor cancer survivors or memorialize those who passed from cancer. The SSJ & A pinwheels were outstanding!



Check out
Sr. Rosemary O'Brien's
latest blog post!
Go to www.ssjerie.org



s'more!
... food for the journey



development

2019 circle of friends

Saturday, September 14

4 p.m. Liturgy, 5 p.m. Picnic, 6 p.m. Games & Fun

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Carol Hermann at 814-836-4198 or carol.hermann@ssjerie.org.



**what's
this all
about?**

August 13, 2019 marks the 9th 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 13, the Erie Community Foundation will match a percentage of your donation to the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Erie Gives day — the details

Day and Time: August 13, 2019 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.

Checks: For the first time, Erie Gives will accept donations by check. Gifts by check must be made out to The Erie Community Foundation, received by August 12 and accompanied by a "check donation form" (available on the Erie Community Foundation website).

Credit Cards: As always, 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.

For more information or to make an online gift on Erie Gives Day, visit www.eriegives.org.

discover the benefits of giving wisely

Did you know there are creative ways to support the Sisters of St. Joseph Mission & Ministries Foundation and benefit you and your loved ones at the same time? Such giving techniques are called "planned gifts," because, with thoughtful planning, you create win-win solutions for you and the SSJ Mission & Ministries Foundation.

Retirement Accounts: A Wise Charitable Gift You can make a significant gift to the SSJ Mission & Ministries Foundation with retirement plan assets without

adverse effects to your lifetime finances.

Stocks and Investment Accounts: You've Planned for the Future You receive an income tax deduction for the fair market value of the securities on the date of transfer, no matter what you originally paid for them.

Name the SSJ Mission & Ministries Foundation in Your Will Make us part of your family. A gift through your will

or estate is the easiest gift you can make today. We can provide valuable information about any of these creative giving techniques.

Act now to take the steps you need to be a good steward of the resources you intend to leave behind.

For information, visit ssjerie.plannedgiving.org/ or contact:
Dotty Hanna
814-836-4202
dhanna@ssjerie.org

get to know ssj associates



Patty George

Associate Patty George and her late husband, Bob, became associates in 1992 at the invitation of Sister Mary Paula Zaleski and Sister Stephanie Wagner. Patty has known the Sisters of St. Joseph since her days at St. Patrick's grade school. Today, she belongs to Blessed Sacrament Parish where she helped establish the parish food pantry. She serves as a Eucharistic minister, sacristan, counts the collections and serves on the hospitality committee. Patty belongs to the St. Mark's Seminary Auxiliary, and she volunteers at the SSJNN soup kitchen. What brings her the most joy is when she is caring for others. In becoming the co-director, Patty looks forward to inviting others to become associates and joining in the mission of reaching out to the dear neighbor.

associates' news and happenings

Welcome New SSJ Associates

Co-Director! We are pleased to announce that longtime SSJ Associate **Patty George** has accepted the position of SSJ Associate Co-Director. (Read more about Patty in the Get to Know Associates column.) Patty will be working part-time in the Associates office with Sr. Ann Marie. She will begin on August 5.

Summerpalooza!

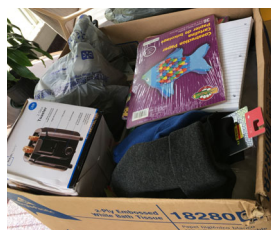
Many thanks to all who joined us for Summerpalooza Saturday! A good time was had by all! We are grateful for the abundance of items and monetary donations that were given to SSJNN, Erie Dawn, St. James Haven and St. Patrick's Haven.



Many thanks

We received the following note from Nancy Donnelly in gratitude for the monetary gift we gave her upon her retirement.
Dear Sister Ann Marie and Associates,

Thank you for the generous and thoughtful gift as I retire. I have been blessed these past years in so many ways and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be co-director. I am grateful for all the new experiences, but, most of all for the wonderful people I have gotten to know and work with. I will remember you all fondly. Blessings, Nancy Donnelly



New Candidates

If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming an associate, please invite them to call the associate office at 836-4134 or email samcappello@ssjerie.org. Candidate sessions will begin in September.

MEN ONLY! SAVE THE DATE!

Associate Deacon John Mang will facilitate a mini retreat for all male associates on Saturday morning September 14th in the Gathering Room at the CLC. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. You will be receiving more information regarding the retreat in the very near future.

NPM 42nd Annual Convention

In mid-July **Associate Brandon Vogt** along with **Brittany Barko**, joined composer Curtis

Stephan in offering a presentation at the National Association of Pastoral Musicians Convention in Raleigh, NC. Our SSJ music friends used their experience and training as a Pastoral Director of Liturgy and Music and Music Therapist respectively to offer a session entitled The Power of Music in Healing Both Body and Soul.

AmeriMasala

The SSJNN neighborhood comes out in great numbers to participate in AmeriMasala! Neighbors from the eastside participated in the AmeriMasala festival on July 13 at Perry Square. AmeriMasala wants to create unity amongst race, gender, ethnicity, age and class. Thirty youth and adults from the SSJNN neighborhood comprised the core of the Giant Puppet Parade and more than 20 family members and friends came to watch! We were accompanied by Robin VanLear from the Cleveland Art Museum, the Batala women's drumming band from New York City, and the 12/8 Path Band from Buffalo. One of the participants, a mother who, with her family carried the dragon and big bird, said, "I had a blast." Despite the heat and waiting time, it was a blast for all of us to create enjoyment as we walked through a crowd of people.



events, happenings and ministry news



St. Patrick's Haven— can you spare an hour?

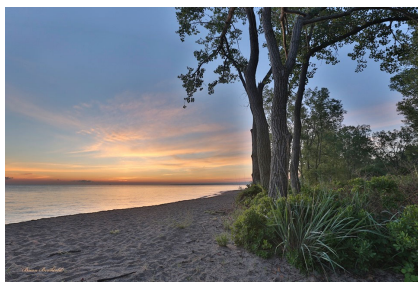
Do you have an hour a month to visit with the homeless men at St. Patrick's Haven? We are in need of people to volunteer for this powerful and life touching ministry of presence. Call Betsy at 836-4153 if you are able to help lighten the load of our "dear neighbor" by just talking and listening for an hour.

Presque Isle Through My Eyes

Join photographer Brian Berchtold for a visual tour of Pennsylvania's Presque Isle State Park.



**Tuesday,
August 13, 2019
1:30 p.m.
CLC Gathering Room
All are welcome!**



Little Italy Farmer's Market 331 West 18th Street *FRESH, HEALTHY, LOCAL*

Mondays, 3-6 p.m. through September 30

SSJNN Little Italy farmer's market will celebrate National Farmers Market Week on Monday, August 5. The Health Dept. will have activities for children and families and, as always, there will be lots of fresh produce grown by local farmers and neighborhood teens and volunteers. Hope you can join us to celebrate community and the market!

***Celebrating "A Lifetime of Giving"
and 135 Years of Caring***
Thursday, September 12th
Bayfront Convention Center
5:00 – 8:00 PM
\$75 per person



Complimentary cocktails, elegant sit-down dinner, fine entertainment and award ceremony honoring the 2019 Ageless Remarkable Erieites. All proceeds make a difference for seniors benefitting from the James E. Mantyla Benevolent Care Fund at Saint Mary's Home of Erie! Contact Emma Toner, 451-1316 or etoner@stmaryshome.org for more information, or to RSVP by August 30th.



Allegheny Health Network
**Saint Vincent
Hospital**

Volunteer Opportunities at Saint Vincent Hospital

"Touch Lives" at Saint Vincent Hospital by offering your heart, compassion, and gifts. I invite you to apply or call to discuss how "together" we can enhance the patient/family experience as well as your own.

Jodi Andres
Director, Volunteer Resources
Phone: 814-452-5646

Jodi.Andres@ahn.org

To become a volunteer, apply online at
<https://www.ahn.org/volunteer-application>

where's the justice?

Bombas socks for St. Patrick's Haven

Bombas recently made a generous donation of socks to St. Patrick's Haven. For each pair of socks purchased, Bombas donates a pair to someone in need. They utilize natural fibers so their socks are antimicrobial and moisture wicking – keeping feet protected and dryer – a real need for those experiencing homelessness. To date, Bombas has donated more than 22,219,195 pairs of socks. Thank you Bombas for helping the men at St. Patrick's Haven!



Neighborhood Watch informed on human trafficking

Agrégée Deb Seng recently gave a presentation to the Neighborhood Watch Committee, the West Side Saints, at the First Church of the Covenant. Her presentation focused on what trafficking may look like in our area and more importantly, what neighbors can do if they suspect trafficking activity. Deb also spoke with the group about the current initiative to change the rest stop signs in PA to be more helpful for victims and educational for those who are unaware of trafficking. Several of the members of the Watch Committee signed letters



in support of House Bill 1513 which would require the signs to be posted in restrooms and contain more information.

Rest stops work to stop human trafficking

Betsy Wiest had a very productive meeting with **Congressman Mike Kelly** about human trafficking in the Erie area. They discussed initiatives to combat human trafficking occurring in Erie as well as the recent PA State House Bill 1513 which would improve signs pertaining to human trafficking in PA and their placement in rest stops on roadways. Congressman Kelly made some suggestions that could help move this legislation on the road to a vote. He also offered to look at ways to take the Pennsylvania rest stop initiative and expand it nationwide.



Sharing Experiences

Agrégées Deb Seng and Betsy Wiest, along with Patrice Swick of the Erie

Diocese shared their experiences volunteering with refugees at Annunciation House in El Paso on July 18th. The women spoke to a group of about 100 people about how Annunciation House assists refugees who come through their program



enroute to their U.S. sponsors. They were able to provide a first-hand look at the refugee situation on the border. Those in attendance collected \$274 for Annunciation House.

Church Women United to recognize JPIC

Church Women United are hosting the 2019 Human Rights Day on Saturday, August 24, 2019 at 1 p.m. at Luther Memorial Church, 225 W. 10th Street. The theme for the day is: The Time is Now! United to Serve: Human Trafficking Awareness. The Sisters of St. Joseph JPIC Team will be presented with the 2019 Human Rights Award for their involvement with Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELCA) to raise awareness of the human trafficking crisis in Erie and beyond. Betsy Wiest, Social Justice Coordinator, will be present to accept this award. Members of the Crime Victim Center of Erie County will be on hand to accept any in-kind donation of colored pencils, crayons and blank journals. All are welcome to attend the ceremony!

SAVE THE DATE!

Deb Seng, Patrice Swick and Betsy Wiest will speak about their experiences volunteering at Annunciation House on the U.S./Mexico border at the Jefferson Society in Erie on Monday, September 23, 2019 at 7 p.m.

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

Reducing our carbon footprint 50% by 2030

Erie 2030 is a strategic initiative of the Green Building Alliance which is comprised of dedicated local property owners and facility managers from all sectors. The international 2030 Districts Network supports them. The goal is to assist building owners and managers as they strive toward a 2030 District challenge of a 50% reduction in energy use, water consumption and transportation emissions by the year 2030.

The 2030 Erie District recently met for a workshop at the CLC. Sr. Marianne Stuckert presented the Sisters of St. Joseph 2030 commitments to reduce their carbon footprint. In April 2016, a committee was set up to determine what current initiatives could be improved. The first thing they did was educate sisters who reside at the Community Living Center on the need to join 2030 and how they

can help. Since that time, the sisters have embraced the idea of helping care for our common home by reducing their carbon footprint. Some of the initiatives the sisters have done are:

- Cooking oil is recycled
- Food is homemade, not processed.
- Changed the lighting in the CLC and Admin Buildings to LED
- A hydrogen peroxide cleaning system is used instead of chemicals.
- Installed thermal windows

These combined initiatives will hopefully result in a decrease in the carbon footprint of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

We've come a long way, but the work continues. As you go through your day, here are a few easy things you can do to



reduce your carbon footprint:

- Turn off lights when leaving a room.
- Drink water from a reusable water bottle.
- Buy local produce or plant a garden.
- Combine errands, so you are making a "loop" instead of individual trips.

Each thing you do makes a difference, so join the initiative of 2030 and help reduce your carbon footprint!