

interim

Volume 37, Issue 11

November 2019

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

November, already? *Message from leadership*

It's been a busy month! We held a Community Day for the sisters at the end of September, during which we presented the work thus far done by the KEB consultants. They have helped us to identify

some specific priorities to address as we move forward, and during Community Day, the sisters affirmed those priorities. This work is vital in helping us prepare for the next phase of our future. Like your families, we too have to be thinking



and planning for our retirements and beyond.

(Continued on page 3)



Remembering our deceased sisters, agrégées and associates.

Sunday, November 10.

Details on page 4.

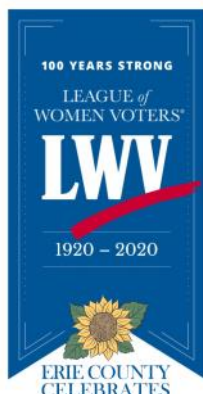
Agrégée Information session

COME AND SEE

Agrégées are Catholic women who commit themselves to God through the spirit and mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph – loving and serving God and neighbor.

An information session will be held on November 9 at 10 a.m. at the Community Living Center.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Sr. Susan Herzing at 814-836-4066 or s.sherzing@ssjerie.org.



Prayer Service 100th Anniversary for Suffragettes

The Sisters of St. Joseph are hosting a prayer service for the Erie community as part of the year-long celebration commemorating the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment and voting rights for women.

**Thursday, November 21, 2019
6:00 p.m., CLC Chapel**



31st Annual SSJ Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving plans are in full swing, and once again, we're gearing up to serve nearly 800 meals on Thanksgiving Day. If this year is like years past, about 300 guests will join us for dinner at Gannon's Waldron Center and

approximately 500 persons will have meals delivered to their homes.

Volunteer positions are filling up, but we still need additional help with meal delivery to homebound neighbors.

We also need pies (at least 100). Frozen pies should be delivered to the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center by 4 p.m. Friday, Nov.

DONATE NOW ONLINE
Thanksgiving Dinner Fund
www.ssjerie.org

(Continued on page 3)

mission possible

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

MISSION: POSSIBLE

Sisters Rosemary O'Brien, Susan Herzing, and I attended the Religious Formation Conference Congress 2019, held recently in Louisville, KY. This month's Mission Possible column offers our collaborative thoughts on the experience and a reflection from Sister Susan on the inspiring side trip to the Abbey of Gethsemani.

The conference attracted more than 300 attendees from throughout the U.S. and the world. The theme: "Being Signs of Courageous Hope" was the perfect framework for a few days of enriching networking, dialogue, learning, prayer, Eucharist, and celebrations.

Reflection on a Visit to the Abbey of Gethsemani

By Susan Herzing, SSJ

Nestled on 2,200 acres of land 60 miles south of Louisville, Kentucky, lies the Trappist monastery of Gethsemani, where 38 monks reside and open their lives to share peace, tranquility, and prayer with those who seek time and space away from their daily lives.

During the Religious Formation Conference, we were given the opportunity to experience this and to learn about Father Louis, better known as Thomas Merton, from Daniel Horan, OFM, a leading international Merton scholar. He shared ways that Merton's legacy continues to inspire and challenge. We learned about life at the abbey; we saw the hermitage where Merton wrote, and we saw his grave. At noon, we prayed with the monks. All of this was enlightening, but through it all, there was an overriding presence and challenge. God was there: in the place, in the space, in the monks, and in us.

The fidelity and devotion of the monks were palpable. We were invited to find God wherever we were, to keep our eyes on Jesus, to give thanks for all that has been, for all that is, and for all that is yet to come. We left this holy ground changed. For some, the change was small. For others, it was a resolve to learn, pray, and be more. Whatever it was, we each came away touched, challenged, changed.

Keynote speakers touched minds and hearts with their challenging messages. Father Bryan Massingale referenced Pope Francis' words 'that we are not living in an "era of change," but rather a "change of eras." These words were then expanded by Fr. Bryan in his presentation, "Courage for an Interim Time that Does Not Yet Know Its Name." He referenced lines from a poem by John O' Donohue as being an apt description of the times in which we live: "the old is not old enough to die away, and the new is still too young to be born." No one, he said, can tell what the new age we are entering will be like, but we know it will be radically different. This, indeed, is a change of eras.

Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ, spoke compassionately about

the universal call to embrace our brothers and sisters who are forced to migrate from their homeland with courage and hope.

We, along with the other attendees, were profoundly moved by both presenters who challenged us by their very presence. They were the message.

Another highlight of the trip was sightseeing and dinner with Sister Josette Gocella, who lives and ministers in Louisville.



Sisters, Agrégées, Associates and friends

We're excited to share the inspiring keynote presentations from the Religious Formation Conference Congress 2019. Please join us for these video presentations in the coming months. Please come; you will be inspired.

There will be two viewings of Fr. Bryan's talk

Courage for an Interim Time

Monday, November 11
3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 12
6:00 p.m.

SSJ Community Living Center
Gathering Room

Thanksgiving Dinner

(Continued from page 1)

22. Fresh (unfrozen) pies should be delivered by 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27.

If you would like to volunteer or if you're planning on baking or buying pies for the dinner, please contact Carol Hermann at 836-4198, or email carol.hermann@ssjerie.org.

As always, the dinner is open to anyone in need of a meal or

companionship on Thanksgiving Day. Doors will open to guests at 11 a.m., and serving ends at 12:30 p.m.

Those who are unable to attend may arrange for delivery by calling 836-4198 between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26. This is the ONLY time delivered meals can be requested.

Donations to the Thanksgiving Fund are used for

the costs associated with the Thanksgiving Dinner. Gifts over and above our expenses will be distributed to area food pantries, soup kitchens and social service agencies immediately following the Liturgy of Thanksgiving in January.



Message from Leadership

(Continued from page 1)

October started with our annual Board of Corporator's meeting. Later in the month, we held information sessions to share the KEB update with agrégées and associates as well as our administrative staff.

We attended special events and ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the opening of the new emergency department, operating suites, and cancer center at Saint Vincent Hospital, reinforcing that the SSJ healthcare legacy does indeed continue.

Sister Phyllis and Cindi Olesky attended the annual Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) conference in

Texas, and Stephanie Hall attended the annual Communicators for Women Religious Conference in Arizona. Wow! That's a lot for one month!

And so now, just a brief moment to breathe before we travel to Latham, NY, to participate in the U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph Leadership Assembly. We'll share more about that next month.

As we prepare to enter the Thanksgiving and Advent seasons, we are grateful for each of you and your relationship with us.

God bless you,

Sr. Mary
Phyllis
Sister Carol



Pictured at the event preceding the ribbon-cutting for the new Emergency Department and Operating suites at Saint Vincent Hospital are: (L-R) Peter Lund, Saint Vincent urologic surgeon; Dr. Chris Clark, Saint Vincent President; Carol Morehouse, SSJ; David Holmberg, Highmark Health President and CEO; Mary Drexler, SSJ; James Teed, Senior VP of Sales and Regional Markets for Highmark; Phyllis McCracken, SSJ; Dr. Wayne Jones, Director of Emergency Medicine; Cindy Hundorfean, President and CEO of Allegheny Health Network.

It's back! The SSJ online store will be opening soon for Christmas orders!

The SSJErie online store will be opening the first week of November and will stay open through November 19 so that orders can be processed in time for Christmas gift-giving.

The online store makes it easy to choose from a variety of items in a variety of colors. You will be able to select items, sizes, colors, and pay online, making the process as seamless as possible!

Orders will be available for pick up at the SSJ admin building.

VISIT THE SSJ ONLINE STORE ACCESSIBLE VIA THE SSJ COMMUNITY PAGE OF THE WEBSITE. LOGIN at www.ssjerie.org



get to know ssj associates



Dolores Miller

A native of Chicago, Dolores and her husband, Ron, settled in Erie in 1986. Dolores worked as a registered nurse at the SSJ infirmary and as a certified childbirth educator at Saint Vincent Health Center.

Dolores volunteered her time teaching childbirth classes through Catholic Social Services. She taught religious education at St. Luke's parish, served as Eucharistic minister, and helped in many parish activities. Dolores and Ron volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and were involved with Toastmasters, a public speaking group. Dolores and Ron became associates in 1991. Sister Colette Palmer was her mentor.

Dolores enjoys bingo and card games and looks forward to Wednesdays when she attends her bible study sessions.

She has two children, James and Annette, and a granddaughter, Allison. Dolores will celebrate her 90th birthday on November 19th. Happy Birthday, Dolores!

associates' news and happenings

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to all associates who are celebrating birthdays in November, especially to Jeanne Brim, Wally Brown, Mary Lyons, Dolores Miller, Mary Lou Rathers, Patty Sullivan, and Sue Ann Wisniewski who are celebrating milestone birthdays.

Candidate Session

The associate candidates will meet Saturday November 16th at 9:00 a.m. in the Gathering Room at the CLC for their third formation session. Sister Phyllis DiFuccia will share the SSJ History with them.

Anyone interested

If any associate is interested in shadowing or working with Theresa Ann Walkiewicz in planning and helping with the directed retreat weekends held at Villa Rosa, please contact the associate office – 836-4134 or email s.amcappello@ssjerie.org.

Associate Welcoming

You are invited to attend the Welcoming Ceremony for Linda Winters which will take place during the liturgy on Sunday, November 17, at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel at the CLC.

Please join us!
**Prayer service to remember
 deceased sisters,
 agrégées and associates
 Sunday, November 10
 2:00 p.m.
 CLC Chapel
 Refreshments to follow**



We remember

Sisters:

S. Mary Margaret Balizet
 S. Mary Francis Becker
 S. Mary Ellen Dwyer
 S. Bernardine Pais
 S. Mary Julia Scully
 S. Marilyn Terwilliger
 S. Naomi Wood

Agregees:

Jeanne Marie Costa

Associates:

Ed Brown
 Zeline Euler
 Susan Hamric
 Jean Hausmann
 Mary Catherine Hosack
 Audrey Lavery
 Jane Mientkiewicz
 Ronald Miller
 Clotilde Novak
 Betty Rowand
 Ruby Schaaf

"In God's Perfect Time"

Advent Reflections and Concert with

Dan Schutte

Dan has been composing music for worship for more than 30 years, including extensive collaborations with the St. Louis Jesuits. His more recent pieces exhibit an enduring ability to reach into people's hearts and draw them into prayer. He is one of the best-known, most prolific and influential composers of music for the liturgy today.



Composer of:
"Here I Am, Lord", "City of God", "Sing A New Song",
"These Alone are Enough", and many more...



**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2019**

AT 3:00 P.M.

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek, PA 16421

free and open to all!

Directory updates

S. Colette Palmer 814-836-4116
S. Geraldine Olon 814-836-4106
S. Martha Ann Rinderle 814-836-4104

Agrégée Charlene Kellerman
ckellerman28@gmail.com.
Associate Frank Gredler
add Apt. 243 to his address
Associate Sandy Greggs
4400 E. Lake Road Apt. 206
Erie, PA 16511
Associate Dolores Miller
Springhill Senior Living Community Apt. 209
2323 Edinboro Road
Erie, PA 16509
Associate Lewis Nordin
803 East Grandview Blvd. Apt. 201
Erie, PA 16504
Associate Mary Ann White
322 Washington Place Apt. 235
Erie, PA 16505
Associate Arlene Barlekoff
St. Mary's Home of Erie
607 East 26 Street Rm 2230
Erie, PA 16504



Fall fun at the C&C!

events, happenings and ministry news

St. Patrick's Haven

The visiting team at St. Patrick's Haven commit to spending one evening a month for an hour at 7 p.m. talking with our guests. Can you spare an hour and join our team? We have a large need for more people to help with this important ministry. Please contact **Betsy Wiest** at 836-4153 for more information.

Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation—join us!

Do you turn on the news each day and wonder what can be done to help our world deal with issues such as human trafficking, the environment, immigration, the death penalty, etc? Well, please consider joining the Sisters of St. Joseph Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Team. We sponsor many activities throughout the year to bring awareness of issues and work to make the world a better place. If you have a heart for social justice and just helping people, please call **Betsy Wiest**, Social Justice Coordinator at 814-836-4153.



Holiday Struggles?

The holidays can be difficult when grieving the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or even the loss of a job. Please join others feeling the same for a time of comfort, warmth, and love.

**Wednesday, December 11
6 p.m.**

**Luther Memorial Church
225 West 10th Street, Erie**

A reception will follow. The church is handicap accessible, and has a well-lit parking lot/security.

One Table Gratitude Gathering

**Saturday, November 9
5:30 p.m.**

**St. James AME Church
236 East 11th Street**

There are few better ways of building bridges than sharing a meal. Sitting together around tables with food and drink helps to create an intimate space that encourages sharing and understanding. Please come, enjoy a meal with us, be part of some story telling and gratitude sharing. The congregation of the St. James church will be providing the food. Donations will be accepted to help defray the cost. Proceeds above the cost of the dinner will go to the St. James church in gratitude for the space and the meal.

For information, contact:

Chuck Cammarata
814-881-1905

chuck.cammarata@gmail.com

or

Jean Moore
814-461-9665

jleomoore58@gmail.com

News from the SSJNN

Many thanks to SSJ Communications Director, **Stephanie Hall**, and the other professionals who participated in SSJNN's career education speaker series at Wilson Middle School in October!



Beginning Saturday, November 9, artwork created by children in afterschool programs at SSJNN will be on display at the Topsy Bean coffee shop at 2425 Peach Street. Stop in and check out some of their creations done with the leadership of talented volunteer **Mary Ann Huster**.

SSJNN will support neighborhood businesses by participating in Small Business Saturday on November 30. The event is part of a national movement. Keep an eye on this event via Facebook for details on the passport card for shoppers and entry for the huge prize basket.

SSJNN is in need of volunteer receptionists at our east side location. This includes answering the phone and other small tasks. Hours needed are Mondays 9-12, Tuesdays 9-12, and Thursdays 12-4. Please call Lora Caldwell at 897-6901 if interested.



Volunteer Opportunities at Saint Vincent Hospital

Contact Jodi Andres
Phone: 814-452-5646

Jodi.Andres@ahn.org

Or apply online at
<https://www.ahn.org/volunteer-application>

where's the justice?

Erie group attends Cleveland Trafficking Coalition event

SSJ Social Justice Coordinator Betsy Wiest, Maureen Dunn (Erie Dawn), Pat Bellingham (Lutheran Women), Paul Lukach (Crime Victim Center) and members of the Congregation of St. Joseph in Cleveland attended the Cleveland Collaborative to End Human Trafficking annual luncheon. The Collaborative has been fighting human trafficking in the Cleveland area for 12 years. The keynote speaker was Kendis Paris, co-founder of Truckers Against Trafficking.

JPIC Coordinators meet in NYC

SSJ JPIC Coordinators gathered in New York City recently for their annual meeting. While in the Big Apple, the group toured the United Nations and met with the sisters working there with our NGO.

Pictured: Betsy Wiest (l) with SSJ JPIC Coordinators.



Vigil for immigrant children

SSJ Agrégée Deb Seng, recently attended the Vigil for Immigrant Children in front of the Federal Court House in Erie. The vigil was one of many conducted throughout the U.S. in conjunction with a third Catholic Day of Action in El Paso, Texas as part of the "Stop the Inhumanity" campaign designed to increase pressure on the U.S. government to end child detention. Images of

immigrant children detained in cages, separated from family members, and living in unsanitary, unhealthy conditions have outraged the nation. The faith community has decried this treatment of children not only as a violation of human dignity and rights, but also as contrary to religious teachings and the sacred call to care for all people, especially those who are most at risk, such as children.

Bread for the World

Betsy Wiest, along with members of the Pittsburgh Bread for the World chapter, recently met with Jill Burke, Executive Assistant to Representative Mike Kelly, to discuss initiatives to end hunger on both the global and national levels. The group asked Kelly to support H.R. 189 to increase global nutrition funding to \$250 million in the upcoming budget. The group also asked him to continue to support the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which provides food assistance for low income children and adults. Ms. Burke passed along the concerns of the group to Rep. Kelly.



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The UN developed 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 to be completed by the year 2030. Starting this month, we will include a different SDG in each issue of Interim.



GOAL #1: to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. More than 700 million people live in extreme poverty. They struggle to fulfill the most basic needs (health, education, water and sanitation). Right now, 30 million children are growing up poor in the world's richest countries.

TAKE ACTION: Donate today to your local food bank or soup kitchen.

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

Climate Strike—There is no “Planet B”!

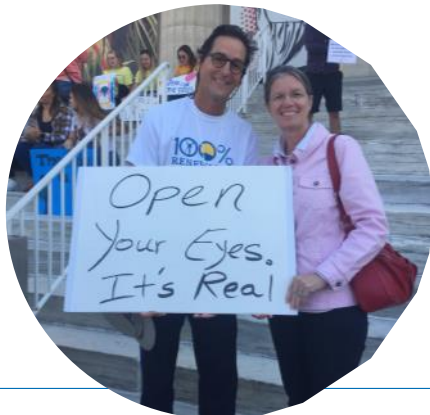
Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teen whose solitary weekly climate strike has sparked a worldwide movement, shares a clear message about our climate.

“I don’t want your hope. I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic...and act as if the house was on fire.”

On September 20, people all over the world participated in The Climate Strike. In Erie, students from Mercyhurst University and Penn State-Behrend, along with groups from the Neighborhood Art House, NAACP, Collegiate Academy, and others, coordinated the local Climate Strike. It took place on the steps of the Erie Art Museum. Speakers offered ways to slow down climate change. There were marches and educational sessions throughout the day. People were encouraged to

vote for those candidates who are working to save our planet. The issue is not difficult to grasp: human activity is threatening our planet, our home, at an alarming rate. To mitigate the worst effects of the climate crisis, urgent and radical political change is needed. Students chanted, “There is no planet B.”

We see the effects of climate change in ever-intensifying tropical storms, such as Dorian, a category five hurricane that stalled over the Bahamas. We



watched on the news the heartbreaking suffering of the refugees from the storm’s destruction. There are fires in the Arctic and the Amazon rainforest, warming oceans, and in our area, rising lake levels. This summer, many of the beaches at Presque Isle closed due to harmful algae blooms. The EPA recently stated that Pennsylvania had warmed more than half a degree in the last century. We can see the effects in more frequent, heavy rainstorms and a change in our agricultural growing seasons. The people who make the most significant difference are the ones who do little things consistently. Swap out one-time use products such as water bottles, shopping bags, plastic straws, and paper towels for reusable items. Be consistent and help save our planet.

Pictured with Betsy Wiest is Jaun Llarena, a local social activist.