

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

## Pentecost

### *and a Call to Lament and Mourn*

As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, may we long for the Holy Spirit in new and exciting ways.

These days of COVID-19 have been challenging for all of us. We are growing tired of this social distancing, staying home, and mask-wearing, yet we are fearful of what is to come. We don't want this dreaded virus, nor do we want anyone else to have it. We are yearning for a freedom, a longing to go back in some ways to "the way it was." Easing restrictions just won't do it for us.

LCWR has invited us to partner with other faith leaders in calling all people to spend time during the weekend of May 29-31 to lament and mourn the 100,000 persons who have died in the U.S. from COVID-19. We are being asked to pause at noon on June 1 to honor the deceased. Please consider participating

in this effort through the following:

- Mark the grim milestone on Sunday (Pentecost) in your own celebration of the Eucharist or common prayer and encourage others to do the same.

- Contact elected officials and ask them to designate Monday, June 1 a National Day of Mourning and Lament-- remembering the dead with moments of silence, lowering of flags, interfaith vigils, and civic memorials.

- Use social media and other communication platforms to post prayers and laments, names, photos, and tributes to those who have died of the virus during the days leading up to June 1. #DayofMourning, #Lament100k

- On Monday, June 1, we are asked to join the civic community and pause once more to remember those who have died. It will



be appropriate for flags to be lowered and to observe moments of silence, prayer, reflection, and bell-ringing. This call to remember is being supported by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, who represent over 1,400 mayors across the country.

We need a breath of new life now more than ever. We need the Holy Spirit to come upon us this Pentecost with a freedom and an energy that will allow our hearts to be transformed in new and exciting ways.

May we be open to the great gift of the Holy Spirit.

*Sr. Mary*

Sr. Mary Drexler  
Leadership

## Directory updates

### Sisters:

S. Rose Anne Fedorko  
814-836-4069  
S. Rebecca Ann Costa  
814-836-4140  
S. Mary Joan Beauseigneur  
814-836-4109  
S. Ann Donohue  
814-836-4113

### Associates:

Yvonne Gersims  
814-397-0171 (cell)  
Clarice Sidun  
814-340-0629 (cell)  
Peggy Ziegler  
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### Remove:

Associate Tish Hosick  
Associate Ellen Mooney  
Associate Anna Wiley



# MISSION: POSSIBLE!

## virtual presence

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

May 1 was the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Under normal circumstances, we would have celebrated our SSJ employees, including those with milestone years of service, during our Annual Employee Mission Day luncheon. We would also have recognized an employee as the "Distinguished Employee of the Year." Due to the pandemic, things were very different this year and our Mission Day celebration didn't happen.

Nonetheless, it's important to recognize three employees who are celebrating milestone

anniversaries with us: Don Olson (maintenance)- 25 years; Stephanie Hall (communications/PR) - 20 years; and Bill Winarski (maintenance) - 10 years. Congratulations to each of them!

As Sister Mary Drexler said in her article last month, the employees at the CLC are doing a fantastic job, and we are grateful. Likewise, we are also grateful to all employees and staff, including those in administration and our sponsored ministries: Saint Mary's Home of Erie, Sisters of

St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, the SSJ Mission and Ministries Foundation, St. James Haven, and St. Patrick's Haven for all they are doing to serve the needs of the dear neighbor during these "not-so-normal" times.

To quote Sister Mary, "We Sisters of St. Joseph, associates, agrégées, and employees, take our lead from our patron, St. Joseph. In ever-quiet, gentle ways, our patron shows us how to care for the dear neighbor even from our own home."

This is what makes the **SSJ Mission Possible!**



## notes

Once again, thank you to all who called or sent condolences on the death of my brother, Bill. It's a great loss to my siblings and his wife Gayle and eight children. I have always said that while losing my parents was difficult, when the time came when I was beginning to lose my siblings that I would find it even harder. So true!

When possible, we will all be gathering at Arlington National Cemetery for his burial.

Sr. Moira Sullivan

Thank you for the prayers and the many expressions of get well wishes received through my surgery and recovery process. One of my cards read: *Recovery is a process. It takes time, patience and everything you've got.* Very true!

Through all of you, I have experienced God's caring presence with the healing touch and strength that sustains me each day. I am most grateful for the extra tender loving care shared at the CLC by the Sisters and staff.

My prayers for each of you in gratitude.

Sister Clare Marie Beichner

Thank you and God bless you for your prayers, thoughtfulness and loving words for my brother, Dick, and his family through his illness and death. We are so grateful for your cards, Mass offerings, and compassion for him and his family in Florida.

Prayers and love to you, Sr. Colette, my Sister, Carol, and my brother, Doug

## ZOOM: "Socially Distant but Spiritually Connected" Online ZOOM Prayer/Sharing Group Continues



Our weekly ZOOM Prayer and Sharing group for sisters, agrégées, and associates continues to meet on Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. To participate, you need to download the ZOOM app (APP store) on your mobile device or create a free ZOOM

account on your computer. You DO NOT have to give any credit card information to open a FREE ZOOM account.

For computer users, go to ZOOM.us

You will see where it says SIGN UP FOR FREE. Enter your information. You will receive a CONFIRMATION email that you need to open and follow the steps. You have to click where it says, "I am not a robot." You can SKIP the step to invite friends. Hope you can join us!

### ZOOM and Technology Troubleshooting/Tutorial

Need help with learning/using ZOOM? Have questions about navigating the SSJ website? Other technology topics you want to know about? Each Tuesday at 3 p.m. you can sign on to our ZOOM tutorial session for help with your specific issues. The information and link is sent out each Monday in an email.

## CLC Chapel Facelift!

*New Carpet in the CLC Chapel*



While we are all adjusting to not getting haircuts, hair color or perms during the pandemic, the CLC chapel has undergone a facelift — of sorts!

The chapel carpeting was recently replaced, and it looks great! We are now considering

various seating arrangements that will best utilize the space, adhere to social distancing guidelines, and allow for better access to wheelchairs.

Be watching for more information and photos.

*Gardeners Sr. Peggy O'Brien and Sr. André Feulner are busy keeping the flower beds beautiful!*



## get to know ssj associates



### Stephanie Hall

Twenty years ago, in May of 2000, Stephanie became our Director of Communications and Public Relations and the first lay person hired to our administrative staff (see box). Two years later, Stephanie and her mother, Mary Lou Rathers, became associates. Sisters Margaret Ann Hardner and Nancy Fischer were Stephanie's sponsor and mentor.

Stephanie enjoys being in nature, especially at the beach or in the desert of New Mexico. She has a passion for art and painting. Following a 2019 pilgrimage in the desert during which she prayed for God to unleash her creativity, she has found a niche in painting iconic portraits on denim jackets. So far she has painted Frida Kahlo, Marilyn Monroe, Elton John and David Bowie. One of her works was accepted into the 2020 Erie Art Museum Spring Show which opens later this month.

Stephanie is the proud mother of two children, both of whom also worked for the SSJs. On Leap Day this year, Stephanie's first grandchild, Oliver, was born.

Stephanie is a graduate of Villa Maria Academy and John Carroll University.

## associates' news and happenings

We have been thinking of all of you and continue to pray that you and your families are safe and in good health. We continue to make phone calls to associates who don't have email. It really has been great to be able to spend time visiting via phone. We still have more calls to make.

Birthday greetings to all associates who are celebrating birthdays in June. Happy birthday especially to **Kirsten Beall** who is celebrating a milestone birthday this month.

Since we have been practicing social distancing and staying at home, there is not much news to report. Let us know what is happening in your corner of the world.

The sisters, associates and agrégées continue to pray via Zoom every Tuesday at 4:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to join! (See page 3.)

### Maxim Moment

In the 17th century, Father Jean Pierre 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 for this month for your personal reflection.

#### Maxim

*Stay in the present. Trust the future to God.*

Contemporary version: *Stay present to the moment and the future will take care of itself.*

#### For Reflection:

I renew my practice of finding God in the present moment.  
I notice any tendency to regret the past or fear the future.

## SSJ Communications Director Relocating to South Carolina

Stephanie Hall, SSJ Communications and Public Relations Director, and her son, Nick, are relocating to South Carolina to be closer to family. Leadership has agreed to allow Stephanie to continue her work for the congregation on a remote basis while residing in South Carolina.

"Recent events, including the birth of my first grandchild and the pandemic, have intensified the desire of my family to be geographically closer," she says. "It's bittersweet because I love Erie, and I will miss seeing friends. I am grateful for the opportunity to telecommute and that we live in a time when it's no longer just a possibility, but rather, a reality. I will return to Erie periodically throughout the year, and I look forward to seeing you in person for a proper farewell. Until then, I appreciate your prayers and support, and I look forward to continuing to work for the SSJs with the same level of passion and commitment that I always have."

## May Crowning

The May crowning was held outside in the flower garden. Sister Rose Anne Fedorko was the May Queen with nurse aides Haven, Kim, and Marveta serving as her attendees.

Social distancing was observed as the Sisters were spread out around the garden. Everyone enjoyed being outside for this most blessed celebration.



## Religious Life in the United States Today

The 2020 NRVC/CARA Study on Recent Vocations identified more than 3,500 women and men who entered religious life from 2003 to 2018. On average, around 200 people a year make perpetual profession and about 400 begin the process of initial formation.

Key findings about new members:

**Endless call:** Women and men continue to respond to the call to religious life.

**Appeal:** Drawn by prayer, spirituality, charism, community life and mission.

**Attributes:** Culturally diverse; embrace intercultural, intergenerational living.

**Lifestyle:** Committed to living simply and in solidarity with the poor.

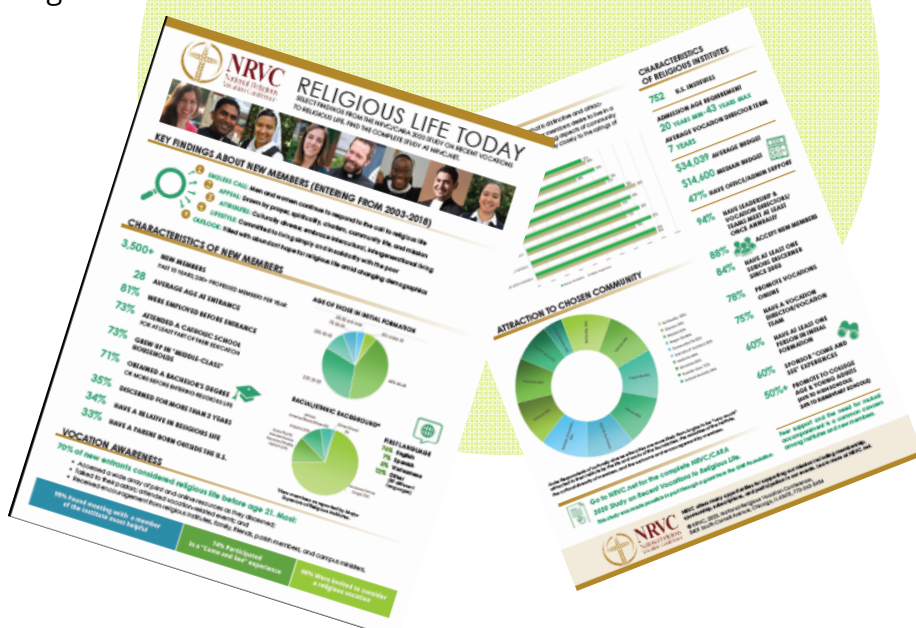
**Outlook:** Filled with abundant hope for religious life amid changing demographics.

The good news is that

people are still being called to consecrated life. God calls. Women and men respond. Religious life continues.

*Of interest: Stephanie Hall, our Communications and PR Director, was invited to participate in this study as a representative of Communicators for Women Religious. She attended the 2018 NRVC Convocation in Buffalo and contributed to a roundtable discussion to provide input into the study.*

More information on the SSJ community page at [ssjerie.org](http://ssjerie.org)



## CURRENT NEEDS AT ST. PATRICK'S HAVEN

We have been distributing lots of socks to the guests at St. Patrick's Haven. As a result, there is a great need for socks—especially white socks. Our current supply is almost depleted. Please coordinate the delivery of all donations through **Betsy Wiest** at 814-881-6088 as the Community Living Center is not open to accept items and staff are working remotely from their homes. Thank you for helping us support the homeless men who come to the Haven seeking shelter each evening.



## SSJNN Receives Money from CROP

The SSJ Neighborhood Network recently received \$900 from the Erie County CROP Hunger Walk Board. Each year, the SSJ and SSJNN family and friends donate to and participate in this fundraiser. The CROP board divides the donations among several designated food suppliers. Hope remains strong for this year's walk to take place in September, but it's still uncertain. At right, Sister Phyllis Hilbert is shown accepting the check at the Little Italy office of SSJNN.



## LITTLE ITALY FARMERS MARKET

331 West 18th Street

FRESH • HEALTHY • LOCAL

EVERY MONDAY

June 29 — September 28

3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Featuring produce grown in the SSJNN Urban Farm by Little Italy teens and several local farms



SNAP, WIC and FMNP Senior Vouchers accepted & MATCHED to encourage eating FRESH • HEALTHY • LOCAL

Also accepting credit cards.

Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network  
814-454-7814 • www.SSJNN.org



## Saint Mary's East and Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge achieve Advanced Accreditation!

### QAPI Distinction for Nursing Centers

Celebrating excellence in continuously improving quality of care for nursing home residents.

HealthStream congratulates **Saint Mary's East and Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge** along with six other nursing centers for achieving Basic QAPI or Advanced QAPI Distinction.



## where's the justice?



### Pennsylvania passes Act 1 in the fight against human trafficking

Pennsylvania legislators recently took another step forward in the fight against human trafficking. Governor Wolf signed into law the Pennsylvania Buyer Beware Act 1, which went into effect on April 6, 2020. The Act shifts the focus of state law from punishing the victims of trafficking to punishing those who traffic individuals and those who buy sex from them. It increases the severity of the offense for patronizing a victim of human trafficking. Act 1 expands the definition of child to include anyone under the age of 18 years of age. It increases fines against those who patronize a victim of human trafficking, and uses those funds for policing, prosecution and victim services. There is still work to be done, but Act 1 is a victory along the way.

### Help us fill the wall

The St. Patrick's Haven visiting ministry is comprised of individuals who meet with Haven guests each night to provide a ministry of presence and companionship. With the onset of COVID-19, volunteers have not been able to visit. More than ever, Haven guests are feeling isolated and alone.

We have developed a "We're Thinking of You" wall



and we need your help. Please consider dropping a card in the mail to let our guests know they are in your thoughts and prayers. The cards will be posted on a wall in the Haven for all to see. The goal is to fill the wall with good wishes for the guests.

Please send your cards to the following address:

**St. Patrick's Haven  
239 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Erie, PA 16503**

### Meet one of our Haven angels

Since COVID-19 became a part of our everyday life, SSJ Agrégée Judi Janke has adopted St. Patrick's Haven. Each week, Judi donates something in response to whatever the most pressing need is at the Haven: snacks, socks, underwear, toiletries, etc. Thank you, Judi, for your continued, loyal support of our mission to serve homeless men in Erie.



## United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Developed in 2015 and to be completed by the year 2030.



### GOAL #8:

**Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.** To keep up with the growth of the global working age population, about 30 million jobs per year are needed between 2016 and 2030. The persistent lack of decent work opportunities, insufficient investments and under consumption contribute to the erosion of the basic social contract: that all must share in progress. The creation of quality jobs remains a major challenge for almost all economies.

**TAKE ACTION:** Contact your legislators and encourage them to work toward the development of long-term, safe and secure jobs with life sustaining wages, for all.

Do you have a heart for justice?  
Join JPIC

If you have a heart for social justice please consider joining the JPIC Team. We welcome your help. Call Betsy Wiest, at 814-836-4153.



## Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

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## JPIC— Green Apple Award Winners

by Betsy Wiest, SSJ Social Justice Coordinator

The SSJ JPIC Team once again gave Green Apple awards to Erie Diocesan grade school teachers for innovative projects that teach students about the environment. In the past, members of the JPIC Team would visit each teacher in their classroom to present the award. With COVID-19, the teachers received their awards in the mail.

To give you an idea of the amazing work the teachers are doing, here is a listing of this year's teachers and their projects:

**Tara Kramer of DuBois Central Catholic School in Dubois, PA** taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade students how robotics can reduce time and manpower waste.

**Amber Bulicz of St. Joseph School in Warren, PA** partnered with Crayola

Colorcycle to help her students recycle markers by making them into a variety of things ranging from plastic siding to roads.

**Kate Brennen of St. Joseph School in Warren, PA** invited her students to create "Project Plastic" which incorporated a school-wide plastic bottle recycling program.

**Alli Bowman of St. Gregory School in North East, PA** increased student awareness of what can be recycled and what should be discarded.

**Kelly Pompeii of DuBois Central Catholic School in Dubois, PA** partnered with the PA Game Commission's free seedling program to plant trees at the school and to provide a

tree for each student to take home.

**Michael Cox of Mother Theresa Academy in Erie, PA** taught his students about the water cycle as well as how to protect and conserve water.

**Pamela Cianci at St. John Paul II in Hermitage, PA**

collaborated with Waste Management to have students place recycling bins in the school hallways.

**June Grasso of St. John Paul in Hermitage, PA**

taught her students about recycling and why it is so important.

Congratulations to all our Green Apple recipients for bringing Pope Francis' message in his environmental encyclical, *Laudato Si* to life for their students.

