

interim

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

Volume 40, Issue 7

July 2022

Summertime

We are blessed to live in a part of the country where we experience the beauty of all four seasons. Each has its own richness, color, awakening of senses, and festivities to celebrate. The season of summer is upon us with its warmth, extended daylight, color, and sounds. It's a season where we can get out and be one with nature through our gardening efforts; our enjoyment of the fruits of the earth; a game of corn hole, a

hike, a bike ride or sitting on the porch with a good book. If you aren't a gardener, appreciate the beauty and gift of those who till the soil. Pray for the success of their planting. Go out and enjoy some time in the fields picking strawberries or beans, or whatever fruit or vegetable comes next. Summer, for me, is a slow-down time. Take some time each day to appreciate the beauty of this season. Enjoy



the gentle rainfall, the warmth of the sun on your face, the breeze that passes by as you walk. Enjoy a chat with a neighbor and give thanks for the beauty and delight of summer, and the God who brings all these wonders and treasures to us each day. Enjoy and give thanks.

Sr. Mary

Sister Mary

**RADICALLY
TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITY**

It's not too late!
There's still time to sign up and join us for the virtual Federation Event at the CLC.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

And, IT'S FREE!

See page 5 for details.

Erie Bail Fund Presentation

**July 18th
6:00 p.m.**

Community Living Center

Sisters, associates and agrégées are invited to join us on **July 18th at 6 p.m.** in the Gathering Space of the CLC for a presentation from the Erie Bail Fund. This will be a great follow-up to the information that will be shared at the Federation Event.

See page 6 for more info.



Please join us **Coffee (or tea) Hour Thursday, June 30**

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
SSJ Admin. Building

Brown Bag Lunch Monday, July 18

12:00 noon
SSJ Admin. Building



Sister Ann Marie Cappello and Sr. Ricarda Vincent have organized a few Associate get-togethers. All are invited—**associates, sisters, and agrégées!** Let's get together and catch up on things.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Or call 814-823-1182

Please RSVP for the Coffee hour by June 27.

Join us for both!

MISSION: POSSIBLE

St. James Haven — Out of Sight, Not Out of Mind

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

You've heard the proverb "out of sight, out of mind" at one time or another. It basically means that if we don't actually see something, we might just forget about it, or at least not think about it. That doesn't mean it's intentional, perhaps just not top-of-mind. Because the St. James Haven ministry is not in Erie and visible to us, this proverb might be appropriate.

However, last Saturday the SSJ Associates held our last drive-thru collection for this year which benefitted St. James Haven in Meadville. Even though St. James Haven might be "out of sight," it is not out of mind.

The mission of St. James Haven, an outreach ministry of

the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, reads: *In keeping with the Sisters of St. Joseph charism of "unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God without distinction," St. James Haven, established by the associates, provides a place of welcome, nightly refuge, food and comfort for homeless men in the Meadville area.*



It was 25 years ago, in 1997, that the Meadville associates saw a need for a homeless shelter for men.

With the blessings of SSJ Leadership, they made it a reality. The associates oversaw

the day-to-day operations of St. James Haven from its inception until 2018. We are forever grateful to the Meadville associates who reached out to help the dear neighbor in need.

Today, St. James Haven continues to be the only homeless shelter for men in the Meadville area. It can accommodate 14 men each night and is open from 6:00 p.m. till 8:00 a.m. every day. The men are provided a clean, dry, comfortable shelter as well as fellowship. A simple, evening meal is provided by local donors.

Samantha Stump is the executive director of St. James Haven. We are blessed and grateful to have her overseeing the operations and ensuring that our ministry there continues. This is what makes the **SSJ Mission Possible!**



Congratulations and Good Work, Pre-Chapter Groups!

"Continue to increase our belief that You lead us and gift us with all that is needed to serve the Dear Neighbor."
(2022 Chapter Prayer)

Thank you for your thoughtful discernment and round two conversations to identify the top two Chapter issues.

The Chapter Planning Committee met on June 20 to review and synthesize the responses submitted by each group. Your work helped move the planning process forward in a positive way.

We continue to pray as we move forward in faith . . .

As we continue to prepare for Chapter, be sure to take advantage of all the articles and resources on the Chapter web page. Go to www.ssjerie.org and click on login.

Just added to the Chapter web page:

- **Pre-Chapter Small Group Meetings #2 Reports**
- **Some Reflections on the Chaos and Hope in Transition** Excerpts from **The Other Side of Chaos** by Margaret Silf

Erie Gives Day 2022

by Dotty Hanna, Development Director

Mark your calendar. Erie Gives Day 2022 will be held on **Tuesday, Aug. 9.**

That's the day Erie area residents (past and present) are asked to open their hearts and wallets to support area nonprofits. And that support is needed now more than ever.

During the past 11 years, more than 5,000 gifts have been made on Erie Gives Day to support the Sisters of St. Joseph and SSJ sponsored ministries. And we couldn't be more thankful.

Speaking of thanks, we're also grateful to The Erie Community Foundation and its partners who match a percentage of all donations made on Erie Gives Day, making every gift even greater.

So mark your calendar for **Tuesday, Aug. 9**, and consider

being a part of this very special day of giving.

The Details

Time and Date: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, August 9

Gift Amount: The minimum gift is \$25. There is no limit to the amount of money you may give.

Checks: Erie Gives will accept donations by check. Gifts by check must be made out to The Erie Community Foundation, received by August 8 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 by the end of August.

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

Radical Times, Radical Response Planning Process

The *Radical Times, Radical Response* planning process, which is supported by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), initially began in 2019. During the pandemic, Congregational Leadership paused the process to focus on members' health, well-being and other matters. The committee last met in February 2020 and was officially paused in July 2020. The Committee re-engaged on March 22, 2022.

On May 14, 2022, updated information was presented to the Congregation. Subsequently,

Associates, Agrégées and Administrative staff were provided the updates. For information about the process, go to the *Radical Times, Radical Response* page on the SSJ web site. To access the RTRR page, go to www.ssjerie.org and click on login (upper right). Then enter the SSJ Community username and password.



Associates' News and Happenings

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Associate Director

Prayers



Please keep in your prayers all the sisters, agrégées, and associates and their family members who are dealing with health problems, especially **Associates Mary Alice and Bob Haibach and Peggy Zeigler.**

Also remember in prayer the repose of the soul of Associate **Dolores Miller** who died June 15, 2022; Harry Semler, husband of Associate **Ann Semler** who died June 8, 2022, and Shirley Alcorn, sister of Associate **Sandra Greggs** who died June 15, 2022. May Eternal light shine upon them O Lord! Please remember their families in prayer also.



Drive Thru Event

Many thanks to **Sister Clare Marie Beichner, Sister Susan Herzing, Associates Jane Zawacki and Paul Wilkoz** who gave their time and energy to help at the Drive-thru held for St. James Haven. We also want to thank all those who drove through to make donations to the Haven. Your generosity and kindness are appreciated, and your donations will help the

dear neighbors in Meadville. A big thank you to **Vickie Pangratz**, our Director of Information Technology, who delivered the donations to St. James Haven for us.



Associates 40th Anniversary Celebration Committee

The 40th anniversary planning committee is busy planning the October 15th anniversary celebration which will be held in conjunction with Founder's Day. The committee consists of **Pat Marshall and Nancy Donnelly, Co-chairs; Jane Zawacki, Carol Picheco, and Lucille Sitzler, Environment; Linda Kuhn and Pat Fronzaglia, Gifts; Brandon Vogt, Liturgy; Mary Ann Zarnick and Mary Roach, Food; Ellen McNerney, artwork for Invitations and program; and Sister Ricarda and myself.** We will continue to keep you updated as plans progress.

Associate Candidates

If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming an Associate this year, it is not too late to join the candidate group for 2022-23.

We will begin our sessions in September. Ask anybody who is interested to call me at 814-823-1182 or 814- 836-4199.

What is Happening in your part of the World?

Recently, I received a phone call from **Betty Chess'** daughter Amy who informed me that Betty has relocated to be close to her family. Her new address is: **1403 Orleans Court, Grayson, GA 30014.**

Mary Ellen Brown also called to inform us that she is moving to be close to her family. Her new address is: **55450 Brand Ave, Bridgeport, OH 43912.**

Attention All Quilters

We're exploring an idea for a project in conjunction with our 40th anniversary and need your help. If you sew or quilt and would like to volunteer to share your talent, we would appreciate your help. Please contact **Pat Marshall** if you are interested in helping.



Thank you!

I would like to thank **Sisters Marjorie Adams and Veronica Mittal and Associates Sandy Filippi, Cynthia Grucza and Donald Swift** as they complete their terms on the Associate Advisory Committee. We are grateful for their dedication and commitment during the past 4 years.

Sisters, Associates, Agregees
JOIN US at the CLC
 U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph
Virtual National Event

It's the next best thing to being there!

July 8-10, 2022

It's FREE!

Please RSVP by June 28.

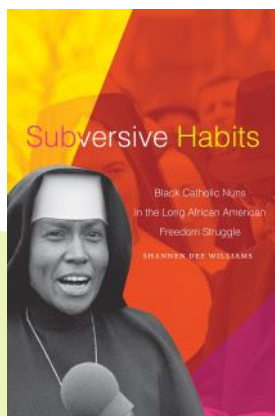
****NOTE:** *Even if you responded a while ago that were interested in participating, we need you to fill out the RSVP form by clicking below so we can get an exact count for meals and set up.*

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW SCHEDULE AND TO RSVP](#)

Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle

If you missed the book launch of *Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle*, which was hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, it was recorded and is now available for listening. [Click here for the link.](#)

Described as "a sacramental moment" and "profoundly transformative" by the Baden Sisters, the event far exceeded expectations for participation. A total of 136 guests joined the in-person program while 526 viewed the live-streamed event. To date, there are more than 780 views of the recording. Duquesne University, who hosted the venue and steamed the event, reported that it was the highest number of views for any of its virtual events except for commencement. The University also said that it was the first time books sold out at a book launch! Most important, the Baden Sisters were humbled by



the opportunity to help the author, Dr. Shannen Dee Williams, bring to light the painful history of racial injustice for Black Catholic sisters in our Church.

Because of the overwhelming feedback that has been received, an opportunity for further reflection including several reflection questions and the option to share responses has been created. You can find this opportunity in the link provided.

[Click here for the link to the recording and the reflections.](#)



The Green Corner NWPASynod Green Team

Here are some ideas for "greening-up" your next get-together:

- Substitute throw-away plastic table covers with bedding sheets (lots of great designs) or butcher/craft paper (furnish crayons or makers for guests to decorate.)
- Choose party favors wisely:
 - Select paper bags rather than plastic.
 - Give a book to young attendees, related to the party theme.
 - Give a photo frame (can be decorated) with a picture of the guest(s).
- Substitute plastic tableware and straws with paper goods (compostable ones are best).
- Having a large number of guests? Provide markers or labels for their cups, so only one per person is needed.
- Provide labeled trash bags, separating landfill and recyclable items.



Directory changes

S. Mary Helen Forney
 New cell phone number:
 814-983-1519.

A. Betty Chess
 New address:
1403 Orleans Court
Grayson, GA 30014

A. Mary Ellen Brown
 New address:
55450 Brand Ave.
Bridgport, OH 43912

where's the justice?

Erie Bail Fund Presentation

Sisters, associates and agrégées are invited to join us on **July 18th at 6 p.m.** in the Gathering Space of the CLC for a presentation from the Erie Bail Fund. This will be a great follow-up to the information that will be shared at the Federation Event.

The Erie Bail Fund is a coalition of community organizers and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie/Community Anti-Mass Incarceration Team that works to provide bail and commissary assistance to individuals at the Erie County Prison.

During the presentation, they will describe the unjust nature of cash bail, its mechanism within the prison-industrial-complex as a whole, and its devastating impacts on real people.

Our Friends, the Pollinators

Have you eaten a meal lately? Your meal was most likely provided in part by pollinators. Pollinators are essential to about 80% of the crop plants grown around the world.¹

A pollinator is anything that helps carry pollen from the male part of a flower or blossom (stamen) to the female part of the same or another flower (stigma). Pollinator animals include bees, wasps, moths, butterflies, birds, flies, and small mammals, including bats.²

Many pollinator populations are in decline due to pollution, the misuse of chemicals, disease, and changes in climatic

Due to COVID, we are limiting the number of people who can attend. [Please RSVP by clicking here to reserve your spot.](#) *Remember, in order to attend you must be fully vaccinated and boosted. If you have not shown your vaccination card yet at the CLC, you must bring it with you.*

Update on Gun Legislation from Cease Fire PA

Ten Senate Democrats and ten Senate Republicans met to broker a bipartisan framework for gun reform. This modest proposal is a starting point toward more action and debate at the federal level, and we cannot let this opportunity pass us.

Here's what the framework would do:

- The federal government would provide grants to states,

to empower state governments to create Extreme Risk Protection Orders (also known as red flag laws).

- The dating partner loophole would be closed nationally, meaning that when a person is convicted of abuse, they will be barred from access to guns, whether that person was their married spouse or just someone they had been dating.
- Gun purchasers ages 18-21 would go through a more comprehensive background check when purchasing a long gun.
- It would make addressing straw purchasers (those who buy guns on behalf of those who are prohibited) and gun trafficking a higher priority.

[Contact Senator Toomey and Senator Casey to tell them to support it.](#)

patterns.³ We need to help them and certainly avoid harming them.

Refer to Penn State Extension's "Planting Pollinator-Friendly Gardens."⁴

- Choose plants native to your region, and avoid modern hybrids.^{5,6}
- Choose nectar- and pollen-rich flowers with a range of shapes, sizes, and colors. Check with Penn State or a nearby Master Gardener for guidance.
- Have several different plants in bloom from early spring through late fall.
- Avoid landscape fabric and mulch.
- To the extent possible, delay

garden cleanup until spring so insects and the soil gain nutrition and shelter.

- Avoid unnecessary mowing and pruning at times when blossoms are present.



¹<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/importance.shtml>

²<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/pollinators/what-is-a-pollinator.htm>

³<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinators>

⁴<https://extension.psu.edu/planting-pollinator-friendly-gardens>

⁵<https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/plants>

⁶<https://www.panativeplantsociety.org/>

LITTLE ITALY FARMERS MARKET

331 West 18th Street

**EVERY MONDAY
3:00 - 6:00 PM
JUNE 27 - SEPT 26**

Featuring produce from several local farms, including the SSJNN Urban Farm Project. Special event days last Mon. of each month!

Little Italy Farmers Market doubles SNAP, WIC and FMNP Senior Vouchers!

For more info call: 814-454-7814

Online: www.SSJNN.org

Facebook or Twitter: @SSJNN



ssj community July Birthdays

- 2S. Teresa Marie Bohren
A. Susan Shannon
- 3S. Andre Feulner
- 4A. Paul Mercier
Agr. Betsy Wiest
- 5A. Cindy DeCoursey
- 6S. Mary Ann White
- 10A. Patrick Shaughnessy
- 11S. Joseph Marie Fitzgerald
S. Susan Herzing
- 12S. Geraldine Olon
S. Marie Timmons
- 13S. Jude Marie Talerico
- 14A. Cindi Olesky
- 15S. Barbara Ann Zakutney
Agr. Deb Seng
A. George Dufala
- 17A. Stephanie Hall
- 18S. Marie Stephen Kebort
A. Peggy Zeigler
- 19S. Sally Villa
A. Kathleen Mannino
- 20A. Marvin Ridgway
- 22A. Ruth Mercier
Agr. Jeanne Marie Ryan
A. Elizabeth Rowand
- 25A. Christine Opron
- 27A. Mary DeSanti
A. Joan McCain
A. Anne Swift
- 28S. Mary Herrmann
A. Mary Schwenk-Roach
- 30S. Carmel Rojek
A. Clarice Sidun



Garage Sale with a Cause

Several years ago, agrégées **Arlene Chaney** and **Jeanne Marie Ryan** began sponsoring Hekima Place near Nairobi, Kenya, an organization which houses and educates Kenyan girls. They currently care for about 100 girls—infant through university age.

Despite the dangers of being Christian and educated in Africa, founder Kate Fletcher is determined to change the treatment of girls/women and expand their opportunities.

Arlene and Jeanne previously sponsored a young woman named Ann Njambi for

6 years. She graduated valedictorian from university with a degree in pharmacy. Arlene and Jeanne now sponsor the orphanage.

You can help support this important cause. Please stop by Arlene and Jeanne's garage sale. Proceeds benefit Hekima Place. You never know what treasures you might find. Or just stop to say hello!

**June 24, 25, 26
July 1, 2, 3
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
3309 Asbury Road**

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

Cash Bail System

For those who will be attending the Federation Event either in person or virtually, we will be learning more about the cash bail system. Here is just a little background to help us get prepared. The cash bail system according to the American Bar Association provides that the court can permit an individual charged with a crime to go free pending their trial. In exchange, the court sets a cash amount, bail, that the person must pay to the court to ensure their appearance at trial. In this way, the cash bail operates as a kind of collateral— when the person appears, the court returns the money. If the person fails to

appear, the court keeps it.

The American Civil Liberties Union issued a report last year which showed the cash bail system in Pennsylvania has disproportionately impacted Blacks. The system keeps poor people in jail awaiting trial and allows those with the ability to pay to be released while they await trial.

Many states are passing legislation to reform the cash bail system. For example, New Jersey reformed its cash bail system in 2017. The result of the reform is that NJ has reduced pre-trial detentions by about 6,000 and without an increase in crime.

by Deb Seng, SSJ Social Justice Coordinator



Read more about the cash bail system at [prisonpolicy.org](https://www.prisonpolicy.org). You will find many interesting articles and statistics. if you click on state profiles, you can read all about Pennsylvania.

Please plan on joining us on July 18th for a presentation from the Erie Bail Fund. More information on page 6 .