

interim

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

Volume 40, Issue 6

June 2022

A Ripple Effect

A few weeks ago, I was my grandnephew Patrick's, Confirmation sponsor. I was deeply touched that he asked me, but even more by what was to follow.

We attended practice a few days before Confirmation. At that time, I asked Patrick what Confirmation name he chose. "Joseph," he responded.

"Did you choose Joseph for your brother?" I asked.

Patrick's response took me by surprise.

"No, Aunt Mary, I chose Joseph for the Sisters of St. Joseph, and because you are a Sister of St. Joseph."

I have pondered his response for many days. Being a Sister of St. Joseph does make an impact on the lives

of many people, young and old. The good we do as a congregation has a ripple effect on individuals and the wider community.

May we continue to honor our patron by the way in which we connect others with our loving God. Blessings,

Sr. Mary
Sister Mary

Sisters, Agregees and Associates
Ice Cream Social & Game Day
Saturday, June 18
1:00 p.m.
Community Living Center



Some games are available at the CLC (Shut the Box, Scrabble, etc.). Feel free to bring one of your favorites!



[Click here to RSVP by June 3, 2022.](#)

We are monitoring the increasing COVID transmission rates in Erie county. In addition to being fully vaccinated and boosted, we may have to require that masks be worn, or worst-case scenario, cancel the event. We will keep you posted.



Mary's Day 2022

On Wednesday, May 25, Mary's Day was celebrated at Villa Maria Academy and at the Community Living Center. This was the last Mary's Day celebration that will take place in the VMA building on West 8th Street.

Hail Alma Mater

Following the Mary's Day celebration at VMA, many alums showed up to join the students in singing the alma mater on the front lawn of the school.



MISSION: POSSIBLE: Spirits on Fire

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

The other day, Cathy Fresch, Campaign Manager, was sharing with me about her recent experience of attending the CSSJ Federation sponsored program, **Spirits on Fire**, in Chicago and also her recent small group session on zoom. The Spirits on Fire Program is a formation program to assist lay leaders in deepening their knowledge and lived experiences of the mission and spiritual traditions of the CSSJ as well as more deeply grow into and lead in the mission of unity from the CSSJ charism. It furthers the learning and



integration of the CSSJ mission and spirit. To date, more than 100 CSSJ lay leaders have participated in the program.

As I was reading about the Spirits on Fire program I came across the following quote by Sister Marcia Allen, CSJ from Concordia, KS: *"Our charism... sends us into the world as continuous acts of love, a love that is active and inclusive, patient and enduring, fearless and tender, forgiving and giving, steady and steadfast. It forms bridges, makes connections easier and facilitates life for others, enabling them also to stir up love in our world."*

During our conversation,

Cathy shared the **Mission Inspired Leaders Prayer**. The last stanza resonated with me. *"Ever loving God, lead us to make creative connections, link imagination and unite hearts in unioning love so that here and now we can stir up love in our world."*

As I read these words and began reflecting on them, I began to ask myself: How am I stirring up love in the world? I leave you with this question to ponder: As a Sister of St. Joseph, associate, or agrégée, how are you stirring up love in our world? This is what makes our **SSJ Mission Possible**.



Pre-chapter conversations Round Two!

During round two of the group conversations, participants have been invited to use the Chapter prayer to reflect and discern what top two areas God is calling us to consider from the commonalities identified in the synthesis. All

issues identified are important, and will not be lost. In order to give quality of time and attention to our Chapter work, we are able to address only two issues at this Chapter.

The synthesis, based largely on the frequency of responses for particular issues and themes, was sent to pre-

chapter participants on April 27. (Please use the format on the SSJ website to complete group reports.)

All responses from the pre-chapter groups are due to Cass by Friday, June 3, 2022.

Hospitality of the Heart

SSJ Summer Conference Retreat with Sr. Mary Rowell

July 11-15, 2022
SSJ Community
Living Center

The retreat begins on Monday, July 11, with liturgy at 9:00 a.m. and concludes on Friday, July 15, at 4:00 p.m.

Contact [Sr. Rosemary O'Brien](#) if you have questions. Registration is now open. [Click here to register](#), or you can pick up a registration form at the CLC. Registrations are due June 10.



Prayer for Uvalde and Call to End Gun Violence

**Children—God’s beloved, full of potential,
energy, and light.**

**Teachers—God’s beloved, caring, and formative
presence in classrooms and communities.**

Nineteen children and 2 teachers were murdered at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. We grieve the violent loss of life and the staggering toll of gun violence that normalizes active shooter drills and the heartache of grieving families in the United States.

This perpetual gun violence is unacceptable and deplorable. Less than two weeks ago, 10 people were killed and 3 others injured, at a grocery store in Buffalo, New York. Most were Black.

The August 2019 *Call to End Gun Violence* statement we released in the wake of the mass shooting in El Paso, Texas echoes this communal heartbreak. The U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph again implores legislative bodies to pass legislation that bans assault weapons, requires universal background checks for all gun sales, provides funding for gun violence prevention research, and makes the trafficking of weapons a federal crime.”

[\(Link to Corporate Voice Statement\)](#)



Sisters of Saint Joseph
U.S. FEDERATION

*We are called to denounce this evil
of gun violence and move toward
unifying love.*

*May we act boldly to transform
politics and our country
to ensure that the dignity
of every person
is preserved and celebrated.*

*May we hold all in prayer—
the entire Uvalde community and
all dear neighbors who have been
impacted by gun violence. May
they experience the care and pro-
tection of St. Joseph.*

Federation Event 2022—Livestream

Below is the tentative schedule for the livestream experience of the Federation Event 2022 at the Community Living Center. This virtual experience includes the sessions below, sharing with others, and celebrating our life as the community of Joseph. The event promises to be enriching, energizing, and an opportunity for building friendships and community. Be watching the weekly e-news for more information about the virtual experience at the CLC and RSVP information.



Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
6:30 pm	Welcome	8:45 am	Welcome	8:45 am	Welcome
6:45 pm	Opening Ritual	9:00 am	Gathering Prayer State of the Heart	9:00 am	Gathering Prayer State of the Heart
7:15 pm	Introduction/Blessing Keynote: Lynn M. Levo CSJ	9:30 am	Introduction/Blessing Keynote: Olga Marina Segura	9:30 am	<i>Restorative Justice</i> Introduction/Blessing Presentation: Serena Martin-Liguori
		2:30 pm	Introduction/Blessing Panel: Nina DuBose Dr. Siabhan May- Washington, Ed.D Casper ter Kuile Thuy Tran, CSJ	10:10 pm	Testimonies
		3:20 pm	Reflection	2:30 pm	Liturgy
		3:30 pm	Interaction of Panel/Keynotes Q & A with Panel/Keynotes		
		4:30 pm	Closing Prayer		

Associates' News and Happenings

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ
Associate Director

Prayers

Please keep in your prayers all the sisters, agrégées, associates and their family members who are dealing with health problems, especially **Associates Karen Grove and Uta Smith.**



St. James Haven Drive-Thru

On **Saturday, June 11, 2022, from 10:00-11:30 a.m.** we will be holding our last drive-thru event of the year which will help our sponsored ministry, St. James Haven in Meadville. Our volunteers will be waiting in front of the SSJ Administration Building to accept your donations for the Haven. According to Samantha Stump, St. James Haven director, the Haven needs coffee creamer, sugar, snacks, toilet paper, paper towels, air fresher, travel size deodorant, tall kitchen size garbage bags, and Ziplock bags – gallon and sandwich size. We also need a few volunteers to help with the Drive-thru. If you would like to volunteer, please call me at 814-823-1182 or [send me an email.](#)

What is Happening in your part of the world?

I enjoyed a recent phone conversation with **A. Elaine Clyburn** who is now living in South Carolina to be close to her family. Elaine will be celebrating her 40th anniversary as an associate this year along with **A. Pat Marshall.** It was also great to speak with associates **Frances Skobieranda and Linda Dougherty.**

Candidate Information Session

An information session will be held **Monday, June 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Administration Building for anyone who is interested in becoming an associate. If you know of anyone, please invite them to the session. We will also be hosting this meeting on Zoom for the convenience of a few who do not live in Erie.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We have had several requests for prayer shawls recently, especially from people outside of the area. Cathy Fresch and Cass Shimek have graciously assumed the task of fulfilling the requests. We are in need of unisex colored shawls. Our supply is low, so if you knit or crochet and would like to make shawls at home, you can drop them off at the administration building or the CLC. We are grateful to the prayer shawl ministry from Sacred heart Parish which has provided us with shawls their group has made.



Directory changes

Agrégée Betsy Wiest no longer has a landline phone. Please use her cell phone number as listed in the directory.

Let's Get Together!

We can finally, once again, invite you to the CLC for some get-together time and catch up with what's been happening in our lives. We have planned a few times to just do that. Mark the following dates on your calendar and plan to join us for one or all of these events. Hopefully one or all the days and times will accommodate your schedule.



Coffee Hour
Thursday June 30
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.



Brown Bag Lunch
Monday, July 18
12:00 noon



Afternoon Social
Tuesday August 16
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

15th Annual SSJNN Guess That Tune Gala

The staff of the SSJ Neighborhood Network extends its sincere gratitude to the Sisters of St. Joseph, a Diamond level gala sponsor, and all agrégées, associates, and SSJ staff for their help in making the 15th Annual Guess That Tune Gala such a success! Special thanks to Sister

Catherine Manning and all the Sisters who created the theme baskets and all the sisters and staff who bought chances. The support means so much—we can't thank you enough! **THANK YOU for your support of SSJNN ministries!**



Basket Winners!

Congratulations to basket winners:
Sr. Mary Claire Kennedy—*Soothing Sips & Sentiments*
Sr. Ann Marie Joint—*What A Dog's Dreams Are Made Of*

where's the justice?

Haiti Convent Update from the Sisters of the Humility of Mary

On August 14, 2021, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake hit southern Haiti. The Little Sisters of St. Therese had their convent destroyed and the five sisters were sleeping on the street. The Sisters were staying outside their clinic, which was also

damaged. The call went out asking for help from the Humility of Mary Community. The Sisters of St. Joseph answered the call as did many others. Over \$99,000 was sent to the Little Sisters of St. Therese to help rebuild their convent. The good news is that on April 23, 2022, The Little Sisters of St. Therese were able to gather

and celebrate and bless their new convent. It has five bedrooms, a dining room, chapel, living room, kitchen and storage area. The Sisters do so much for the people of Haiti, we are glad to be able to have helped provide a place for them to rest and feel secure.

Child Labor Trafficking and the Chocolate Industry—Did you know?

From U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

- Americans purchase \$2 Billion in chocolate each year! More than any other country.
- Child labor trafficking is widespread in the cocoa industry.
- Additionally, gender inequality is rampant in areas with cocoa farms and women are often discriminated against in the industry .
- According to Fairtrade America, many workers in the cocoa industry live in poverty, sometimes making less than \$2 a day. Workers are paid less than \$4.50 a week when the national average should be \$9 a week.
- The effects of the climate crisis. Cocoa farms are experiencing soil erosion, new weather patterns, and lower crop yields, which leads to reduced income for workers and results in food insecurity and poverty.
- The treatment of workers in the cocoa industry is an injustice we need to fight against — and the first step is learning all about it. NGOs claim about 2.1 million children are working in the industry, but in the last year there has been an estimated 15 to 20 percent increase in child labor in West Africa as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[For more information, click here.](#)



Eat Chocolate Responsibly

COMPANY/PRODUCT	GRADE	LABOR CERTIFICATION	BITE-SIZE CANDIES	SEASONAL SPECIALS/ GIFTS	ORGANIC/ NON-GMO VERIFIED
Alter Eco _m	A		✓		
Divine _m	A		✓	✓	
Equal Exchange _m	A		✓		
Shaman _m	A				
Sjaak's _m	A		✓	✓	
Theo Chocolate _m	A		✓	✓	
Endangered Species	A		✓	✓	
Hershey	C+		✓		SWITCHED TO CANE SUGAR FOR HERSEY BARS & KISSES
Mars	C		✓		
Ferrero	C		✓		
Mondelez (Cadbury; Green & Black's)	C		✓		
Nestlé	C		✓		
Ghirardelli (owned by Lindt)	D		✓	✓	
Godiva	D-	None	✓	✓	



St. Patrick's Haven is in need of individually wrapped snacks for our guests. If you are able to help, please contact Betsy Wiest at either 814-836-4153 or betsy.wiest@ssjerie.org for delivery information. Thank you so much for your help!

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

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 17, 18, 19
June 24, 25, 26
July 1, 2, 3
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
3309 Asbury Road

Nurse aides Needed!

The Sisters of St. Joseph are seeking applicants for the position of Nurse's Aide.

Nurse Aides assist the professional nurse in providing nursing care, comfort, and assistance to the sisters, including assistance with personal care and activities of daily living (ADLs). Certification preferred, but not required. Day/Evening rotation including rotating weekends and holidays.

Contact Ruth Waidley
814-836-4225
EOE

ssj community *June Birthdays*

- 4 A. Barbara Alward
- 5 A. Rita Lyle
- 7 S. Lucille DeStefano
- S. Jean Baptiste DiLuzio
- A. Kirsten Beall
- 10 A. Peg McCravery
- 11 A. Don Swift
- 12 A. Barbara McGaughey
- A. Betty Chess
- 14 A. Peggy Rusnak
- A. Gratia Wittmann
- 15 A. Arlen Twerdok
- 17 A. Alice Fuhrman
- 18 A. Mary Wright
- 21 A. Cecelia Shatem
- 23 A. Marjorie Fischer
- 24 A. Tammie Mang
- 26 A. Pam Kiehlmeier
- 27 S. Clare Marie Beichner

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

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WWW.
SSJERIE
.ORG

Native Land Digital

Have you ever wondered who lived on your land long ago? I have. Recently, I wondered who lived at 5031 West Ridge Road. So, I decided to find out. First, I went to [Native Land Digital](#). It is very user friendly. All you have to do is put in your address and it will tell you what tribes lived on your land. For 5031, three tribes popped up, the Haudenosaunee, the Erie and the Mississauga. The website allows you to explore each of the tribes with one click. According to Native Land Digital, the purpose of the program is to map indigenous lands in a way that changes, challenges,

and improves the way people see history and the present



day. They hope to strengthen the spiritual bonds that people have with the land, its people, and its meaning. While doing the research, the words of Pope Francis in

by Deb Seng, SSJ Social Justice Coordinator

Laudato Si kept coming to me. "Everything is connected." (LS91)

Native Land Digital aims to improve the relationship of people with the land around them and with the history and sacredness of that land. The information found on this website is fascinating and educational. I encourage you to do some research on your land. Feeling a connection with the indigenous people of the past helps us to be a part of the future where we can connect with the Earth and the creatures that inhabit it.