



# interim

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

Volume 40, Issue 5

May 2022

## May 1—Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

We celebrate the feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1. Joseph lived well the varied aspects of the call given to him through his dreams—that of husband of Mary, protector of Jesus and Mary, and provider for his family through his skills as a carpenter. Through the modeling of our patron, we, too, strive to live our mission of unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God.

We do not live this mission alone. We

have many who partner with us: our agrégées, associates, Partners in Mission, employees and our volunteers. To all of you we extend a very sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU. We are grateful for:

- your warmth and kindness to so many.
- the many ways in which you extend the charism to others.
- your generosity in a multitude of ways.

- the ways you give and give and give some more. We thank you and we bless you for bringing the gentleness and compassion of St. Joseph to so very many people. Happy St. Joseph's Day!

Sister Mary Drexler

*Be sure to read Sr. Ann Marie Cappello's Mission Possible article on page 2 for information about our employee/volunteer Mission Day celebration.*

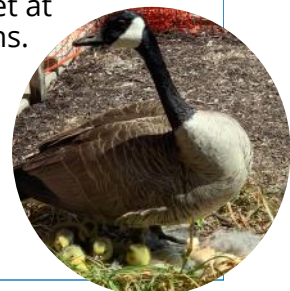
## The Wild Goose Chase Concludes

April was a month of rejoicing at 5031 West Ridge Road as we celebrated Easter and saw the birth of 9 baby geese. As you may recall from last month's Interim, Mary Grace (and Gilbert) had seven eggs in a nest just outside of the Administration Building. What I failed to report is that another pair of geese



behind the CLC also had eggs in a nest although we were unable to get close enough to see how many eggs were there. Well, on April 5<sup>th</sup> three goslings hatched and a fourth egg did not hatch from that nest. That geese family moved on to greener pastures, probably Wegmans. Back to Mary Grace and Gilbert...their six babies hatched on

Holy Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. One egg was left in the nest, and we presume it was the one that was laid eight days before the other six eggs. By the end of the day on the 15<sup>th</sup> the family of eight was gone and have also been spotted across the street at Wegmans. So ends our 2022 goose watch.



## Take Back the Site Vigil

For Antonio Yarger, Jr. the 7 year old who was shot and killed in the 2100 block of Downing Avenue.

**Tuesday, May 3  
5:15 p.m.  
2100 block  
of Downing Ave.**

Let us pray for the family of this 7 year old and the police as they look for the perpetrator.

## Name That Tune Gala Basket Raffle

Theme Baskets will be on display and tickets will be sold in the Gathering Room at the CLC

**Wednesday, May 4  
11-4 and 7-8  
And  
Thursday,  
May 5, 11-4**

**Tickets  
6 for \$5**

**Take a Chance!**



# MISSION: POSSIBLE: SSJ Mission Day

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

In 1955, Pope Pius XII declared May 1 as the feast of St. Joseph the Worker to celebrate the church’s commitment to the dignity of labor. This date is also International Worker’s Day.

It is an appropriate time to thank our SSJ employees — those at the CLC , the Administrative staff, our volunteers for their faithful service. We are grateful to them and to those in our sponsored ministries for all they do to serve our needs and those of the dear neighbor without distinction, especially during “these not so normal times.”

Our Employee and Volunteer Mission Day Luncheon will be held on Monday, May 2. We are excited to recognize the

following milestone anniversaries:

### 20 years

Ifeta Borovina  
Murveta Borovina  
Olga Goncharova

### 10 years

Angelina Siliman

### 5 years

M J Callahan  
Debbie Norman  
Robbie Phillips  
Amela Pucar

Sanela Pucar-Brescic

This year, we consider all our employees as “Living the Mission” Distinguished Employees and we honor each of them for their untiring commitment and perseverance under the most challenging circumstances.

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

**Joseph ,  
patron saint of workers,  
blending skill with charity,  
silent carpenter,  
we praise you!  
Joining work with honesty,  
You taught Christ with joy  
to labor,  
sharing his nobility.**



As we prepare to meet for the second round of conversations, this is a reminder that you can access all the comments from each of the first round conversation groups on our website under Chapter information and resources if you are interested.

Also, check out other resources related to SSJ spirituality and our future that have been added to the Chapter page of the SSJ website. One of those new resources is explained below.

## Roots Alive! In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Hundreds of sisters, associates and partners in mission participated in seven monthly sessions which brought our charism and mission to life in a renewed manner with significance for our times and capacities.

Some comments shared following the final session, “Integrating Roots and Shoots,” were:

“I was deeply moved, encouraged, and surprised by

the richness of the content...something totally spiritual...to explain the unexplainable in words...deep gratitude to our presenters. The Roots Alive! Sessions are not simply presentations but “proclamations.”

“...I am left with a sense of hopefulness and optimism.... It is quite apparent that we do not possess the Charism in terms of control, but the Charism indeed has us!”

“We are called to rekindle the relationships that draw us outward, to ignite that fire once again to make the light of the world present...we are called to be “Incarnational Love.”

Access to these presentations is now available on the Chapter resource page of our website.

Be inspired. Experience one or all of the presentations.

## Thanks for Standing with Ukraine



From March 15 to April 15, more than \$3,250 was donated by sisters, agrégées, associates and other friends to support our

neighbors in Ukraine. With an additional gift of \$2,500 from the Sisters of St. Joseph Mission & Ministries Foundation, \$5,754 will be sent this week to Catholic Relief Services for distribution to Caritas Ukraine.

These dollars – restricted for direct services – will help feed, cloth, counsel and shelter



Ukrainians whose lives have been upended by war.

Thanks to all who donated and held the Ukrainian people in prayer.

## We're thinking about our legacy. Are you thinking about yours?

Have you made a gift to the Sisters of St. Joseph or the SSJ Mission & Ministries Foundation in your will? If so, please tell us about it. We can shout it

from the rooftops — or keep it quiet if you wish to remain anonymous. Either way, knowing about your plans allows us to express our appreciation and prepare for a strong future.

Or maybe you're thinking about making a gift from your estate, but don't know how to start or what kind of gift might be best for you to give? We can help with that, too.

For starters, here are a few simple ways to leave your mark on the future:

- Give life Insurance you no longer need
- Make a gift from your will or trust

- Donate appreciated stock (and save on taxes)

If you believe in the Sisters' mission and want to help carry it forward, please contact us.

We would be pleased to work with you and your advisor(s) to determine the gift that best suits your situation and interests. Contact: Cathy Fresch at 814-836-4253 or [cathy.fresch@ssjerie.org](mailto:cathy.fresch@ssjerie.org).

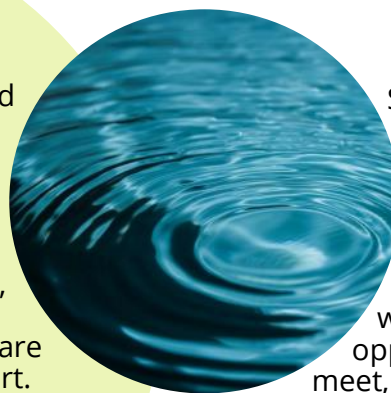
## SSJ Agrégées: : Widening the Circle

Earlier this year, the agrégées and companion Sisters from Brentwood and Springfield met on a ZOOM call. The experience was so beneficial, they decided to invite the agrégées from Boston. In March, they invited us to join-them. Nine of our agrégées have been able to participate.

April brought Concordia and Sister Marcia Allen, one of the "dreamers" of the agrégées process into the group.

Carondelet is invited to participate in May.

The main reason for gathering is to get to know each other, to share briefly life and call, and to share the state of the heart. Recently there has been conversation concerning the Federation Event in July. A get-together is being planned for Thursday evening, July 7.



Several of our Agrégées will be attending in person and others are planning to attend virtually.

This has been a wonderful opportunity for all to meet, chat, and support one another. There is life and energy around all of this. Only God knows how this will evolve in the future.



## 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.



### Drive-thru Event

Many thanks to **S. Phyllis Hilbert** and the following associates: **Valerie Carlson, Sandy Filippi, Gretchen Durney, Joanne Sprickman, Jane Zawacki and Paul Wilkoz** who gave their time and energy to help at the Drive-thru last Saturday. We also want to thank all the sisters, associates and agrégées who drove through to make donations to the SSJNN. Your generosity and kindness are appreciated, and your donations will help many dear neighbors who are in need.



*Heartfelt THANKS from the SSJ Neighborhood Network for all who contributed with the drive thru donation event on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>! We are so very grateful for the support! On behalf of our neighbors served, thanks for the difference you have made and God Bless!*

### Associate Advisory Committee

Due to the pandemic, our associates and sisters serving on the Associate Advisory Committee extended their term an extra year or two. They will be completing their terms in May. We are extremely grateful to **Sisters Marjorie Adams and Veronica Mittal and Associates Sandy Filippi, Cynthia Gruzca, and Donald Swift** for their service and dedication.

### St. James Haven Drive-thru

The last of our Drive-thrus which will help our sponsored ministry, St. James Haven in Meadville, will be held **Saturday June 11, 2022 from 10:00 -11:30 a.m.** According to Samantha Stump the following items are needed: coffee Creamer, sugar, snacks, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, air freshener, travel size deodorant, tall kitchen size garbage bags, ziplock bags - gallon and sandwich size.

### What is happening in your part of the world?

I really enjoyed my phone conversation with **A. Karen Grove** the other day. Since I have not heard from her for a while, it was great to get caught up with what is happening in her part of the state.

### Candidate Sessions

We will resume candidate formation sessions this fall. If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming an

associate, please let me know or have them call me at 814-823-1182. I will be holding an information session with all those who are interested during May.

### Attention Knitters and Crocheters

We have been filling quite a few requests for Prayer Shawls and we are down to our last ten shawls. We are particularly in need of unisex colored shawls. Your help with this special ministry is greatly appreciated. Shawls can be dropped off at the administration building or at the front desk of the CLC.

### Your Valuable Input is Needed

**May 19, 2022  
7:00-8:00 p.m.**

The SSJs have been working with a consultant (KEB) regarding our future. KEB has requested a short meeting via ZOOM with associates and agrégées to gather their input.

[ZOOM link](#)

Meeting ID:

818 7144 9381

Passcode: 406864



**Directory changes**

**Associates Hal and Charlotte Sheldon**

Delete landline.

**Sisters Carol Morehouse and Nancy Prenatt** have

terminated their landline and are only using cell phones.

**Sr. Carol: 814-450-2017**

**Sr. Nancy 814-450-2719**

## Hospitality of the Heart



### SSJ Summer Conference Retreat with Sr. Mary Rowell

#### July 11-15, 2022 SSJ Community Living Center

(Begins Monday, July 11 with 9:00 a.m. Liturgy and concludes Friday, July 15, at 4:00 p.m.). Hospitality is at the very

heart of creation, faith, and our CSSJ spirituality. During this time of retreat, we will rest in the mystery of divine hospitality, pray with its gifts, seek its expression in a world that calls us to be, above all, a people of God's presence. In prayer and contemplative reflection, we will immerse ourselves gently in the free space that defines hospitality, encounter the openness of God, embrace hospitality as personal wholeness, seek anew the heart of our call that moves us always to expansive and emergent love and hope as an unknown future unfolds.

We look forward to welcoming our retreat facilitator, Sr. Mary Rowell of the Canadian province of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Sr. Mary Rowell has been a Sister of St. Joseph since 2004. At Villa St. Joseph, Sister Mary is engaged

in retreat facilitation, spiritual accompaniment and she is deeply engaged in the ecology ministry at the Center. She teaches theology at Regis and St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. Sister Mary is also the Vocation and First Formation Director for the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada. Before entering the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada, Sister Mary worked as a nurse and nurse educator in England and later in ophthalmological and blindness prevention programs in Southeast Asia, China and the Indian sub-continent. She is also a clinical bioethicist. Sister Mary has a bachelor's degree in philosophy, a Master's in Medical Law and Ethics and a doctorate in Theology.



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.

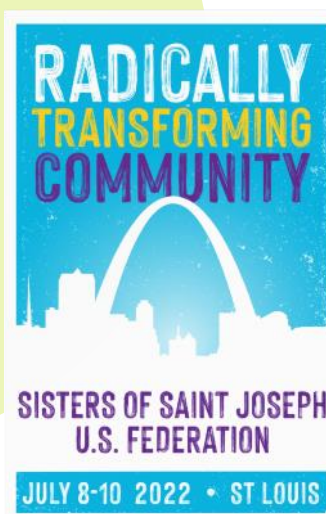
## Justice Lead Up to Event 2022

**Tuesday, May 3  
7-8:30 pm ET**

Join U.S. Federation JPIC Coordinator, Lisa Cathelyn, as she leads this event which features organizations doing work around criminal legal reform across the United States. It'll be a perfect introduction to Event 2022's justice action and will allow you to learn more about the injustices of the criminal "justice" system and learn from folks who are working to change it.

**\*\*\*This programming is open to all. You do not need to be registered for Event 2022 to attend\*\*\***

[CLICK HERE to register.](#)



### Want to learn more about Event 2022?

[Click here](#) to watch this informational video.

Be sure to visit the [Federation website Event page](#) for more information and regular updates.

## where's the justice?

### Book Study

There is a new faith sharing book called *Creation at the Crossroads* by Edward J. Ciuba. The JPIC team would like to start a group to study each of the 12 chapters. The group would meet once a month. Each session would contain scripture, sections of *Laudato Si*, prayer, reflection, faith sharing, and practical ideas for protecting and caring for the Earth. The time and place is yet to be determined. If you think you might be interested, please [click here](#) to fill out a short

survey. When we see who might be interested and when the best time to meet would be we will let everyone interested know. If you have any questions please call Deb Seng at 814-836-4246 or email at [Deb.Seng@ssjerie.org](mailto:Deb.Seng@ssjerie.org).

### Help for Ukraine

Thank you to all who donated to the Ukraine fund. We will be sending a check to the Catholic Relief Services for over \$5000.00.

### Green" up your morning

- Take your fitness routine outdoors. Outdoor walking, running, or cycling cuts down on the CO2 released into the atmosphere since you are eliminating the drive to the gym. Don't forget to use a reusable water bottle to hydrate.
- Conserve water in the shower, every minute you cut off saves about two gallons of water.

## Laudato Si Goals



## Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 23rd a group of sisters, associates and agrégées started the day with a prayer service in the Chapel. Mother nature cooperated and we were able to clean up around the labyrinth and all the way out to the road. A real surprise occurred as we were about to round the corner and head west at the street, a group of bikers who do a clean up of a two mile strip met us right there. They had already cleaned the area we were going to. We had an extra garbage bag and they were running low so we gave them our bag and headed home. A very welcome blessing.



# 15th Annual SSJNN Guess That Tune Gala

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Bayfront Convention Center



For the first time since 2019, the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network will be hosting its 15th Annual Guess That Tune Gala in-person on Saturday, May 7th at the Bayfront Convention Center! (Portions of the event will also be available virtually for those unable to attend.) All proceeds from the gala fund our mission to provide leadership, advocate for local residents, and partner with the broader community to develop opportunities for personal growth and neighborhood revitalization.

Join in the fun along with hosts Drs. Caitlin and Chris Clark, live music from the Gem City Jazz Ensemble, and an unforgettable music trivia game with emcee Raychel Adiutori and pianist Michael Malthaner!

A few more volunteers are needed for this high-energy, in-person event. Please contact Lora at 814-897-6901 if interested. Volunteers must be vaccinated.

Baskets will each have a value of \$200-\$250 and will be displayed at the CLC from May 2-5 for those who are unable to attend but wish to purchase chances. Please contact Sr. Catherine Manning at 814-528-8834 or Gretchen Gallagher Durney at 814-454-7814 x 210 or [gdurney@ssjnn.org](mailto:gdurney@ssjnn.org) with questions.

Individual tickets, corporate sponsorships, and virtual ticket options are now available: <https://www.ssjnn.org/gala/>

**THANK YOU so very much for your support of SSJNN ministries!**

## ssj community May Birthdays

- 1 A. Carol Hermann
- 2 A. Rebecca Flynn  
A. Rose Jones
- 6 S. Michele Healy  
A. Mary Ann Jankowski
- 8 S. Martha Howick
- 9 A. Marlene Lyda
- 14 A. Francine Ballard
- 15 A. Joanne Sprickman
- 17 S. Marilyn Zimmerman
- 18 S. Phyllis McCracken  
A. Thomas Hoffman
- 19 A. Mary Ellen Brown
- 20 S. Margaret Pellerite
- 21 A. Rosmari Graham
- 22 A. Irene Danko
- 23 A. Jodi Andres
- 25 A. Susan Colvin
- 26 A. Lisa Austin
- 30 S. Linda Fusco  
A. Debra Hamilton

## 2022 Directed Retreats

*offered by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston*

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston are offering a program of Directed Retreats this summer along with other trained directors at Glastonbury Abbey, 16 Hull Street, Hingham, MA.

A Directed Retreat includes an individual, daily meeting with a director focusing on the retreatant's experience of God and help in discerning the interior movements of the Holy Spirit during the previous day's prayer and entirety. Within an atmosphere of total silence, there is time for personal prayer, exercise, rest, and liturgy.

For more information on this year's summer retreats, [click here.](#)



**If you have any questions, please email:**  
[spiritual.ministries@csjboston.org](mailto:spiritual.ministries@csjboston.org)  
or call 781-227-4730

*The Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston are grateful to the monks at Glastonbury Abbey for their warm welcome and eagerness to collaborate in these directed retreats.*

## Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

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WWW.  
SSJERIE  
.ORG

## Important Healthcare Legislation

*by Deb Seng, SSJ Social Justice Coordinator*

Two bills are coming up for a vote in the PA House and Senate: House Bill 225 and Senate Bill 225. These bills both address healthcare issues that affect us all. They are designed to improve the prior authorization system, and they address the problems with step therapy or fail first.

Prior authorizations require a physician to request health insurer approval of a prescription drug or other health care services before care can be provided. Fail first, also known as step therapy, requires patients to try, and fail, with one or more drugs selected by the insurance company before having access to the preferred drug recommended by their physician.

This one-size-fits-all approach to controlling health care costs undermines and burdens providers and may

lead to unnecessary delays or denials of care. It can also contribute to patients' declining health as they await authorization or go through the "try and fail" process. Currently, there is no required timeframe for prior authorization, nor a clear step therapy exemption process.

These bills would ensure that prescribers have access to a more efficient system and would establish a timeline for the process. They would ensure that fail first protocols are based on clinical guidelines developed by independent experts and would establish a framework

for exemptions.

Prior authorization and fail first are often applied to patients living with a wide range of diseases and chronic conditions like cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, arthritis, MS, lupus, Crohn's, heart disease, and mental illness. These bills have

bipartisan support. Ask your Senator and

Representative to vote YES for these bills

when they come to the floor. I will let you know when this occurs. Health care decisions should be made by

providers and patients and this legislation would help to

ensure that.

