#### Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania



report

ssjerie.org

## philanthropia

No doubt, from your personal observation, you Dear Sister: have noticed the necessity of a new organ for Villa

The present organ has been in service since the Maria Chapel. erection of the Villa, and by constant usage has now

really become unfit for Divine Service. Owing to the immense debt already on our

Institution, which I am endeavoring to lessen, I feel obliged to ask each Sister to help defray the expense of the new organ by giving or collecting ten dollars (\$10), to be sent to me on or before St. Joseph's Day,

This sum is not much for each, but by contributing 1909. the same you will be instrumental in promoting the honor and praises of God, and lessening the anxiety such a debt

occasions me. Yours sincerely in Christ, mother M. Ergenia

I. M. I.

faria Academy, Erie, Pa., October 7, 1909.

-operation with me in my ence to the purchase of the solicit your aid in raising am laundry at Villa Maria.

pended for laundry-work present slow method by ndry very evident.

at our Gommunity will s existence on May 24, e heart of each Sister, vit of any public dem-

ti-ipates in the sorel that this event will leed.

e, ask you to con-, in gold, to be for-

e fervent prayer you with health ace of soul.

n. Engene



Connecting with God 🛧 Connecting with You

## our mission

The mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, SSJ agrégées, and associates, is to unite all people with one another and with God by responding to the ever-changing needs of the world and serving the neighbor without distinction.

Journeys Vol. 40 No. 1, Fall 2022 © 2022 Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Inc. 5031 West Ridge Road Erie, Pennsylvania 16506-1249 Phone: 814-836-4100 Fax: 814-836-4277 Email: publicrelations@ssjerie.org www.ssjerie.org Editor: Stephanie Hall,

Director of Communications and Public Relations Contributing Writers: Jim Bird, Stephanie Hall, Dotty Hanna Photography: Tim Rohrbach Photography, Stephanie Hall, stock photos, contributed photos and SSJ archives. Printing: Printed on recycled paper by Printing Concepts, Inc.

Graphic Design: Allan H. Johnson, allanhj.com



## message from leadership

I always said I'd work on almost anything for the congregation, but please don't ask me to assist with fundraising and development. Yet, I find myself right in the middle of it as the leadership member responsible for public relations and development. My dreaded fear became a reality, but it was not as difficult as I assumed. Meeting with people who love the Sisters is a privilege, not a chore. Hearing their stories is a delight because it is an opportunity to see how our charism is lived out in varied ways.



SSJ Leadership: (L to R) Sisters Carol Morehouse, Mary Drexler, and Phyllis McCracken

We have been blessed with many women over the years who have quietly—or not so quietly—carried out our mission of unity. We honor them and give thanks for their witness to the love of God and the love of neighbor without distinction.

As we move into an unknown future, we do so with hope and trust that the God who has brought us to this moment in history will move us into a future filled with hope. We reach out to you, our friends, neighbors, partners in mission, and ask you to walk with us as we move forward, knowing that our work is not yet finished. Our God should be praised and thanked every day and our neighbor, whether near or far, needs to be served with love and grace.

We thank you for partnering with us on this journey of radical love. Blessings,

Mary Drepler, SSJ

Mary Drexler, SSJ SSJ Leadership



## called for times like these

In 2021, I gave a presentation on St. Joseph at a parish day of renewal. The premise of that talk was that Joseph developed a faith and trust in a God who could do the POSSIBLE even in the midst of situations and circumstances that seem impossible.

Hold on to that. Cling to it like an anchor when the boat of life is rocking—storms pass. Earthquakes come and have aftershocks, but the ground settles. Fires become smoldering ash, and from the ash, a sapling will rise.

Like Joseph, they listened intently and responded faithfully to God's call to serve the needs of the era and area.

Here is a truth that will level the spiritual playing field: Joseph was made of flesh and blood, just like you and me. He was called by God in a very particular time and place. He was called to listen to the prompting of God in his life and respond with steadfast obedience. As I reflect on this level of attentiveness and devotion, I can't help but think of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who stayed the course in good times and bad. Like Joseph, they listened intently and responded faithfully to God's call to serve the needs of the era and area. And they're still at it—feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, revitalizing neighborhoods, and reaching out to the most vulnerable.

That excites me in my role as chair of the Sisters of St. Joseph Mission & Ministries Foundation. Where some see impossible challenges, the Sisters see what's POSSIBLE. They inspire us with their tireless passion and invite us all to share in the call. After all, we are all here in this time and place for a reason.

On behalf of the foundation, I thank every one of you who has joined us in serving the neighbor this past year, and I encourage you to continue alongside us. Whether you say a prayer, volunteer, or make a gift, you are answering the call.

And here is my final request. No matter what is going on right now in your life, or in the life of someone you love or know, remember it is temporary. Hold on to the anchor, Christ Jesus. And know that "all things are POSSIBLE with God."

Jim Bird Chair, Sisters of St. Joseph Mission & Ministries Foundation





## philanthropy and the SSJ mission

#### by Stephanie Hall, Director of Communications and Public Relations

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph is rooted in initiating change as a response to need. Marius Nepper, S.J. described the Sisters of St. Joseph as *"Standing on tiptoe, eyes alert, ears attentive, sleeves rolled up"* because of their willingness to take on tasks others didn't. However, it wasn't always easy and they often depended on the philanthropy of others.

In its earliest form, philanthropy, from the Greek philanthropia, meant love of mankind. The meaning has evolved, but human civilization has long depended upon kindness directed towards strangers (National Philanthropic Trust). Philanthropy has always played a significant role in the Sisters' mission and service in the Erie Diocese.

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Following the Civil War, Mother Agnes Spencer wanted to use her family inheritance to purchase land and build an orphanage and convent in Meadville, PA. However, because of discrimination against Catholic immigrants, the bank refused to deal with a woman wearing a religious habit. Undaunted, she put on lay clothes and returned to complete the transaction. Soon after the orphanage and convent were established, there was a train wreck, and the sisters opened their doors to the injured. Seeing the need for a hospital, Mother Agnes received permission from Bishop Joshua Young to canvas the city seeking funds to build St. Joseph Hospital. Philanthropy was essential to the establishment and operation of Villa Maria Academy. Father Thomas Casey, Vicar General of the Erie Diocese, gave the Sisters a parcel of land and provided funds to construct a school to provide young women with a Christian education. Later, Mother Eugenia Quirk encouraged the Sisters to ask 20 relatives or friends to give five cents a week for one year, or \$2.60, and to ask an additional ten people to do the same. The money would help fund an addition to Villa Maria Academy. In addition, the donor was assured of prayers and monthly masses as long as the school stood. More than \$100,000 was collected.

The chapel at Villa Maria Academy was named in memory of Bishop John Mark Gannon's mother in gratitude for his many gifts to the sisters.

Another gift to the congregation was the former Reed estate. Mary Bateman, sister of Mother Helena Dillon, donated the property to the Sisters, and in 1938, it was blessed by Bishop Gannon and christened Maryvale. Throughout the years, It was used as an extension of the elementary school, Villa Maria Academy, and the Villa Maria Conservatory of Music. It was also home to Maryvale Pre-school. In the mid-1990s, it became a vocation/formation house and hosted novices from throughout the U.S.

Saint Mary's Home of Erie has endured because of philanthropic support. The original skilled nursing building was possible because of donations from the Erie Diocese and the community. In addition, significant gifts funded a dedicated Alzheimer's unit at Saint Mary's East (now Nightingale Nursery and Rehab Center). Numerous rooms and wings, including the chapel, library, and exercise room at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge, are named for individuals and families who have generously given to the ministry. A donor's bequest established a benevolent care fund.

In 1993, a gift from Edna Londregan allowed the Sisters to establish Bethany House ministry. Londregan donated a home in Erie with the provision it be used for ministry. At the time, there was great need

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for womens' transitional housing. The ministry was designed to help women regain self-esteem and re-enter society following treatment.

The Sisters held fairs to raise funds for the orphans at St. Joseph Orphanage. Sisters also asked family and friends for money to purchase needed items for the children. The fairs continued for many years.

Though not specifically for ministry, generous gifts also provided vacation and retreat locations for the Sisters. In 1916, Reverend Joseph M. Cauley presented the Sisters with ten acres of lakefront property near North East, PA. An additional gift helped fund the construction of a modest cottage on the property. It was named Villa Joseph in honor of the donor. In 1946, the congregation was given a nine-acre country estate in McKean, PA, from Dr. G. W. Schlindwein. The estate was named Villa Rosa in honor of his wife, Rose. In 1967, a bequest from the Estate of Thomas J. Dillon deeded a parcel and cottage across from Villa Rosa to the Sisters; it became known as Villa Regis. These gifts provided wonderful places for spiritual retreats and relaxation.

Philanthropy makes it possible for the Sisters of St. Joseph to continue responding to needs just as they did during their earliest days in the Erie Diocese. Ministries including the SSJ Neighborhood Network, St. James and St. Patrick's Havens, and Saint Mary's Home of Erie serve the dear neighbor because of donations and philanthropic support. In addition, initiatives such as the SSJ Annual Thanksgiving Appeal, Erie Gives, the SSJ Mission and Ministries Foundation Appeal, and the Mission Haiti project generate thousands of dollars in gifts each year. SSJ partners in mission—the benefactors who support these ministries and offer their time, prayers, and financial resources ensure that the SSJ mission endures.



ABOVE (top to bottom) 1) The original Villa Maria
Academy, built on land donated by Fr. Thomas Casey.
2) Maryvale, a gift from Mary Bateman. 3) (l-r) Dr. Joann
Painter with Srs. Dorothy Wilwohl, SSJ, and Mary Claire
Kennedy, SSJ. 4) The Sisters of St. Joseph and its sponsored
ministries benefit from the generosity of many each year
through Erie Gives Day. 5) A resident is welcomed in the
early days of Saint Mary's Home of Erie, a ministry that
has been supported through philanthropic efforts.



### Patron Saint of Philanthropy St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955)

Mother Katharine Drexel of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament came from an affluent family that gave generously to her congregation. She was the sole heiress to the Drexel family fortune.

The newly established federal income tax was a graduated one and led to exceedingly large tax bills for her order. Concerned about the effect on the congregation's charitable work, in 1924, she and her family successfully lobbied Congress to establish what was known as the Philadelphia Nun Provision. The provision allowed anyone giving 90% of their income to charity for the previous ten years to be exempt from paying income tax. Ironically, she was the only U.S. citizen who qualified for the provision. According to "Sharing the Bread in Service: Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament 1891-1991 — Volume 1," the "Philadelphia nun provision" was essential to the operation of the order in the years after the provision became part of the law. Although the Philadelphia Nun Provision no longer exists, it is credited as the precursor to the present-day charitable deduction.

## news

## laudato si' action plan updates

On the fifth anniversary of his encyclical, Laudato Si' (On Care for our Common Home), **Pope Francis** launched the **Laudato Si' Action** 

**Platform**. He challenged everyone to create a seven-year plan to work toward seven integral ecology goals. We are in the process of creating our plan and have participated in various educational webinars and a thorough self-assessment. As a result, we realize that energy efficiency is always a priority whenever we make changes or improvements. Our participation in the Erie 2030 project and our commitment to cut our carbon footprint in half by 2030, have given us a good start in achieving the goals of the Laudato Si' Action Plan. In the next several months, we will develop a plan to address

## LAUDATO SI' Action Platform

each goal. Working toward these goals will not be a changein direction for the community, rather a deepening of purpose.

## ssj unity award

Each year, the **Sisters of St. Joseph** present the Unity Award to an outstanding **Villa Maria Academy** senior. The **Unity Award** is given to the student who best exemplifies living the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Nominations are submitted by VMA faculty and staff. **Sr. Mary Drexler** presented this year's Unity Award to **Margaret Mary McGovern** '22.

## with heartfelt thanks

#### Another successful Erie Gives Day 2022

Special thanks to everyone who supported the Sisters of St. Joseph and our sponsored ministries. Collectively, the Congregation and ministries received 681 donations for a total of \$88,332 - and that's before the prorated match from The Erie Community Foundation and its generous partners. On Erie Gives Day and throughout the year, your acts of love change lives. You feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. You build community in inner-city neighborhoods. You welcome the immigrant. You stand with, support, and most important – love our dear neighbors. Thanks for all you do on Erie Gives Day and every day. If you missed out on Erie Gives Day but would still like to donate, visit www.ssjerie/.org.

Sister Mary Drexler (I) presenting Margaret Mary McGovern with this year's Unity Award

## we remember deaths

#### Sisters

Sister Mary Rose Romeo Formerly Sister Mara Joseph January 19, 2022

Sister Mary Kevin Palazzetti December 11, 2021

Rebecca Ann Costa, SSJ Formerly Sister Josita September 5, 2021

Ann Donohue, SSJ Formerly Sister Mary Timothy August 29, 2021

For Sisters obituaries or to make a memorial gift, visit **www.ssjerie.org**  Associates Mary Margaret Jones *August 5, 2022* 

Dolores Miller *June 15, 2022* 

George D. Dufala, Sr. January 19, 2022

Linda Gier November 22, 2021

Barbara Schlosser November 10, 2021 Celebrations!

## Sisters jubilarians

**75 YEARS** Rose Marie Chisholm, SSJ James Francis Mulligan, SSJ

**70 YEARS** Ann Patrice Murnock, SSJ Mary Arnold Tann, SSJ Ricarda Vincent, SSJ

More information about our Jubilarians is available at **ssjerie.org**  Celebrate *SSJ Associates* Milestone Anniversaries

**40 years** Elaine Clyburn Patricia Marshall

**35 years** Kirsten Beall Diana Mikula Margaret Reinwald

**30 years** Margaret Alloway Patricia George Ginny Hughes Donna Nicholas Uta Smith Patti Sullivan

### 20 years

Rebecca Flynn Stephanie Hall Suzanne O'Connell Mary Lou Rathers

### 15 years

Marga<mark>ret McCrarey</mark> Marlene Scully Ann S<mark>emler</mark>

10 years

Jodi Andres Frank Mozdy Elaine Mozdy Brandon Vogt

5 years

Stephen Branton Tina Branton Joan Fels Marvin Ridgeway Clarice Sidun

### Celebrate *SSJ Employees* Milestone Anniversaries

**20 years** Cynthia Olesky

**15 years** Cynthia Polesnak

### 5 years

Janice Barron Marcia Calabrese Sister Mary Fromknecht Susan Hoag Sheila Mack Jessica Perez

## drawing strength from the community



by Sarah Packard, Trips for Kids National Chief Storyteller and Communication Volunteer. Reprinted with permission.

Bikes were an important part of Margarita Dangel's life at a young age. Growing up in Kirchheim/Teck, Germany, she experienced bikes being used for transportation. She remembers her female high school math teacher biking to work each day or even the elderly going shopping with their bikes. Bikes in Germany have been an integrated means of transportation. Margarita credits these experiences with instilling in her a lifelong respect for the bicycle and a deep appreciation for bike repair and maintenance.

Perhaps that's why Margarita is the perfect person to manage the bike program with the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network in Erie. The organization's Pedal Mettle program, which enables youth to earn a bike after attending a workshop to learn about bike repair, safety, and maintenance, utilizes Trips for Kids resources and programming. The bike recyclery operates by word of mouth, served 402 children, and has given away 547 bikes for free in its seven years of operation.

"We have the perfect location," Margarita shares. "We open our garage doors and have a big sign that says 'Bike Program' so everyone walking by can see what's going on. It's one of the few programs that's been able to thrive throughout the pandemic."

And it is not just kids participating -- adults have also benefited from the program.

"For many immigrants in the area, our earn-a-bike program is the first step toward having transportation," explains Margarita.

Veterans and the homeless can also participate, with Margarita typically asking for three hours of volunteer work in exchange for a bike. The program has expanded to include a recyclery, with more than 200 used bikes currently in the shop; during the pandemic, the volunteer group dwindled to four but is going strong again with 11 volunteers.

Throughout it all, bike repair remains a

constant focus -- for both youth and adult participants of the program.

But Margarita's responsibilities do not end with the bike program. As the Neighborhood Network site director, Margarita's days are busy and full of diverse experiences organizing community gardens, building relationships with neighbors through neighborhood programs or community events, and listening and caring for those in need. All the while, Margarita works to conduct outreach and networks to link people between services. ())

The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Since 2018, the neighborhood network has also been a recipient of more than **\$162,700** in **SSJ Mission & Ministries Foundation** grant funding. Thanks to our donors, lives are being changed in inner-city Erie neighborhoods.

> "If there's a flat tire, kids will throw the bike away - unless they have the knowledge to fix it," Margarita Dangel

## around the table

"Much more happens at a meal than satisfying hunger and quenching thirst. Around the table, we become family, friends, community..."

Fr. Henri Nouwen may have penned these words, but an amazing group of Meadville area neighbors delivers on them. These generous neighbors – individuals, organizations, groups, clubs, and schools – have made it their mission to feed the men at St. James Haven every night.

According to Samantha Stump, executive director of St. James Haven, this wasn't always the case.

"When I started in 2018, Wesbury United Methodist Retirement Community and Meadville Medical Center were our main sources of food donations for meals. Then COVID hit, and those arrangements were understandably suspended. So after cooking meals onsite for months, I reached out through Facebook requesting meals, and the response was overwhelming." "We are blessed to be able to serve a hot, nutritious meal nightly. We also send a lunch with the working men and have snacks available in the morning before they leave and in the evening before bed," she continued.

More often than not, donors drop the meal off before 6 p.m., but some community members stay and share a meal with the guests.

"Each of our guests comes to our doors broken and in desperate need of love and acceptance," Samantha explained. "Receiving this from our staff, volunteers, and donors means as much as the meal, if not more."

Unlike many homeless shelters, St. James Haven offers a "guarantee."

"Most shelters operate on a first-come, first-served basis nightly – with no bed guarantee. Once our guests check in the first night, a bed is held for them every night as long as they show up. This is a huge weight off their shoulders, which allows them to focus on rebuilding their lives without wondering when they'll eat or where they will sleep," Samantha added.

"We are the landing pad where they can be assured there is a place to lay their head at night and know they will have a hot, nutritious meal when they get here. We set them up for success by encouraging them to save money while with us to prepare for independent living. Our model is to house them and connect them with other social service agencies that will help them find jobs, housing, and support for other issues,



*Volunteers arriving at St. James Haven, in Meadville.* 

including addiction if they are interested."

"I have seen some amazing transformations in the lives of our guests. And it all starts with the basics – food, shelter, and acceptance, made possible by loving neighbors," she adds. "It's proof that love goes a long way."

St. James Haven is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Since 2018, St. James Haven has received more than **\$110,000** in **SSJ Mission & Ministries Foundation** grant funding. Thanks to our donors, lives are being changed in the Meadville area.





**Dr. Chris Clark,** president and chief executive officer of AHN/Saint Vincent Hospital, was elected to the board in April 2022. Before taking the helm at Saint Vincent, Dr.

Clark served as a family physician, senior vice president of medical affairs, chief quality officer, and director of medical education at Saint Vincent, and medical director for Highmark Inc.

Chris holds a medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and a master's in health administration from Penn State University. Chris also serves on the board of directors for Penn State Behrend, Erie Catholic Preparatory School, the United Way, VNA of Erie County, the Erie Downtown Development Corporation, and the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership.



## Also elected in April was the **Hon. Ernest DiSantis**,

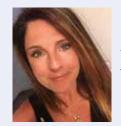
retired president judge of the Erie County Court of Common Pleas. Judge DiSantis earned his undergraduate degree

from Gannon University and his J.D. from the University of Akron Law School. Before being

#### welcome board members

elected to the bench, he served as deputy attorney general, first assistant district attorney, and assistant U.S. attorney.

Ernie – as he's asked us to call him – has a long history of volunteerism in the Erie community. He served as president of St. George's School Board and on the Parish Council. In addition, he held board or committee positions with Erie County Rape Crisis, the House of Healing, Stairways Behavioral Services, Emerge 2040, and the JEM Foundation.



#### Meghan Fuhrman,

Meghan, a science teacher with Millcreek Township School District/ McDowell Intermediate High School, is rounding out the

slate of new foundation trustees.

After earning a biology degree from Penn State Behrend, Meghan committed her life to education. For years, Meghan taught alongside the Sisters of St. Joseph at Villa Maria Academy. At VMA, she served as a science teacher, department chair, director of the student assistance program, and dean of students. In addition, she has experience as a gifted support teacher and caseworker.

### SSJ Mission & Ministries Foundation Board

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#### SSJ Mission & Ministries Staff

Dotty Hanna Cathy Fresch Executive Director

ch Campaign Manager/Major Gift Officer

Carol Hermann Carleen Onuschak Development Associate Staff Accountant

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## one job

Believe it or not, we have one job – many responsibilities, seemingly endless pressures and too little time – but one job. "Love one another as I have loved you."

It sounds simple enough, but to love like Jesus is radical. It's transformative. It's a come-as-you-are, no boundaries kind of love. It's given freely to friends, family, neighbors, strangers, and especially "others" – those who live or believe differently, or who live on the margins of society. It's action, not emotion. And it has the power to change everything.

Radical love has always been at the heart of the Sisters of St. Joseph ministries. Love inspired us to build orphanages, hospitals and homes for the elderly. It moved us to teach, to counsel, to feed and to shelter. And today, it inspires us to respond to the ever-changing needs of our neighbors – especially the lonely, the hungry, the homeless and those worn down by poverty and limited opportunities.

## many responsibilities

This work has never been ours alone. Since the very beginning, friends like you have loved – and served – right alongside us in every ministry. And our work is far from done. That's why we encourage you to keep up the good work. Welcome the stranger. Include the excluded. Offer a smile or extend a hand up. Volunteer or say a prayer. Whatever you choose, know that your act of radical love will change lives.

We also ask you to consider a gift to the Sisters of St. Joseph Mission & Ministries Foundation. The challenges of the past few years have heightened the needs of our dear neighbors. And our resources — especially those required to care for our aging sisters — will be exhausted long before our work is done.

To make a gift, visit us online at www.ssjerie.org or use the enclosed envelope. Your gift, of any size, is an act of love that will help more than you know.

## With Gratitude –

Someone once said, "Blessings come in many ways, but the best come as friends." We couldn't agree more.

Again in 2021, we were humbled by the many good friends who furthered our ministry through prayer,

presence, and financial gifts. Due to this outpouring of support, we are acknowledging all donors by name only. Listing donors by area of giving would take many more pages and many more dollars in printing and mailing costs. And we're sure you'd rather we spend all we can serving the neighbor.

Whether you made one gift or several, whether you supported our work or the care of our sisters, please know that we are truly thankful. You bless us beyond measure.

### 2021 Benefactors

#### Monica Abbate

in memory and in honor of the Sisters of St. Joseph and members of the Abbate family

#### Vickie and Don Abbott

in memory of Carol Quinn Portenier Judith Abel

in memory of William Reiser

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in honor of the Most Rev. Bishop Donald Trautman

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in memory of Benny Dabrowski



in memory of our parents, Leona and George, our brother, Jack and our sons, Brian and Dave

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#### Nancy Babarsky

in memory of Linda Moody and Ralph F. Babarsky Sr.

Mary Lou Babay

in memory of John Babay and Cindy Hess

Ann M. Bach in honor of James Bach, II, on

his birthday Debbie Baer

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in memory of John Stephen Balzer

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in memory of Sr. Patricia and Sr. Raymond Marie Bohrer, SSJ

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\*deceased



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in honor of Donald Swift

Alfred L. Benedict in honor of Sr. Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, SSJ Nancy Benedict

in memory of Al Benedict

Jill and William Bengel

**Rita and Ron Bennardi** 

in memory of Michael Ross and Sr. Ann Donohue, SSJ, and in honor of Mary Jo and Dale Callahan

#### Kara Bennett-Van Dyke

Lois Benoit in memory of Edward Rohrbach

Edith Benson

in momony of (

in memory of Sr. Mary Kay McNelis, SSJ, and in honor of Olive Benson Wilson

#### **Edward J. Bensur**

in memory of my mother, Mary F. Benson, and my wife, Mary E. Benson

#### Edmonda Berarducci

Valerie and James Berchtold

Arnold E. Bergquist\*

**Rosemary Bernato** 

in memory of Mary and Frank Bernato

Karlynn and Eugene\* Bernhard

in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. Petrusch and Mr. and Mrs. E. Bernhard

#### Karlynn Bernhard

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(I-r) Sr. Joseph John McDonald, Mary Jo Cherry, Nelle Cherry, and Sr. Mary Irene Lunger.

**Mary Jo Cherry** 

...extended family

## **Donor** Profile

#### It all started with a simple lunch.

Mary Jo Cherry's search for a college brought her to Erie. She was taught by the Sisters of Mercy in DuBois, Pa., so, of course, she planned to visit Mercyhurst College. But, in addition, she decided to look at Villa Maria College.

"Mom, dad, and I went to Villa first," she recalled. "We were at lunch with Sr. Lucille, Sr. Lucy, and Sr. Teresina, when Sr. Lucy, who was from St. Marys, said, 'Shall I tell them who I am?""

"Then she turned to my father and said, 'I'm Lucy Woods, Paul Woods' sister.' And my father, a long-time friend of Paul's, shouted, 'Well, Lordy sake!"

"It was like home ... and we all agreed it would be Villa."

Like most college students, Mary Jo knew that this would be the start of building her life's work. What she didn't realize was that the Sisters of St. Joseph would help her build a family – and, in the process, become cherished members of her extended family.

Mary Jo's lifelong commitment to education took her away from Erie. Still, she always returned between earning degrees – a bachelor's from Villa Maria College, a master's from the University of Maryland, and a doctorate from Kent State University. First, she taught at Villa Maria College; then, she was director of Maryvale. Finally, she served as dean of the College of Education, a joint program between Villa Maria and Gannon.

These roles, of course, made Mary Jo a member of the SSJ family, but that's not the best part of the story.

In 1983, Mary Jo decided that she wanted to adopt a child. After much prayer, she contacted Catholic Charities and was placed on the waiting list. Four years and a month later, she got the call. "I received the call on Monday, and on Tuesday, I went to Erie to meet Nelle," she said. "I walked up to the third floor of the old motherhouse, and there she was, with Sr. Joseph John."

Nelle was nine months old and had been in the loving care of her foster mothers, Srs. Joseph John McDonald and Irene Lunger, for two months.

Sr. Joseph John McDonald holding Nelle Cherry after her christening. Nelle is one of more than 120 infants cared for by Sr. Joseph John during her 20 years as a foster mother.

Two weeks later – when it was time to bring Nelle home – one of the sisters cautioned Mary Jo. "Be ready," she said. "We don't talk to Joseph John on the days when she places a baby. They are her heart."

That day would not end Nelle's relationship with the sisters. Mary Jo and Nelle visited often.

Mary Jo reminisced. "I would carry her up the stairs at the motherhouse and ask, 'What do you have to do, Nelle?' And she would say 'kisses!' And as soon as they heard her voice, all the sisters' doors would open."

"She'd yell, 'Joe John, I'm here!' then barely get her hugs and kisses in because Sr. Irene would be waiting with a chair on wheels to roll Nelle up and down the hallway."

For Mary Jo and Nelle, family is forever.

"We don't get back often anymore, but the sisters who taught me, taught with me, and were a part of Nelle's life will always be family," she said.

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in memory of Lonnie Grobson and in honor of Sr. Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ

Erin and Joseph Grogan in memory of David Healy Carol and Francis Grolemund in memory of Sr. Mary Albert Yates, SSJ Karen and Harold Grove in memory of Bettie and Jack Heintz

**Cynthia and David Grucza** 

in memory of Joseph C. Bonarigo Sr.

#### **Melissa and Joseph Grucza**

**Theresa and David\* Guelcher** 

in honor of all the wonderful Sisters of St. Joseph who taught throughout the years

Linda and John Guenther Joyce Gunter

in honor of Sr. Moira Sullivan, SSJ

#### David J. Gustafson

in memory of Sr. Lawreace Antoun, SSJ Rev. James Gutting

in honor of the Sisters of St. Joseph and my grandparents Rose Ann and John Gutting

Teresa Guyton

in memory of John M. Guyton Mary and Charles Guzowski in memory of Sandy Demchak Karen and James Haas

Linda and William Habursky in memory of Winifred and Leonard Fetzner

Kathleen and William Hagen Jennie and Christopher Hagerty in honor of the Sisters of Mercy

Rev. Raymond W. Hahn in memory of Ruth and Raymond Hahn

#### **Mary Alice and Robert Haibach**

in memory of Ida and Aloise Stumpf, and Genevieve and Elmer Haibach

Mary E. Haines in memory of William E. Haines Katie and Harold Hakes

in memory of Sr. Mary Kay McNelis, SSJ Judith and Donald Halcom in honor of Sr. Nancy Sonnenfeld, SSJ

Madeline and Daniel Hall

in memory of Sr. Rebecca Ann Costa, SSJ Mary Hall

#### **Richard Hall**

L.D. Waterson

in memory of Sharron Lee Hall and Marjorie Carroll Carolyn Hammer Edward L. Hammer Leroy Hammond Mili and Thomas Hanes Elizabeth and James Hanigan Mary and John Hanke in memory of Michael Bross Dotty and Bill Hanna in memory of Sallie and John Law Mary and Donald Hannah Kathie and Alan Hannibal Mary Ann Hannon in memory of Owen V. Hannon and

#### Sandra and Daniel Hanstine

in memory of Dolly Smith, Bob Smith, Catherine and Charles, and in honor of Aaron, Kim, Lee, Jasmin, Cassie, Ben, and all the Sisters of St. Joseph

#### **Maureen Haraczy**

in memory of Kathy Haraczy

Jeffrey Hardner in memory of Trish Hardner

Norbert H. Hardner Foundation

vorberen. Haraner i bandacion

Patricia Hardner

Michelle and Patrick Harkins

Beverly Harrity in memory of William Reiser, Theresa Baniszewski and Chuck Harrity

Francis J. Hart

Margaret Hart in memory of Jim Hart

Julie Hartmann in memory of Sr. Ann Donohue, SSJ Alicia Harvey

Julia and Gerard Hasenhuettl

Mark W. Hasenohrl Joseph Hathaway in memory of Nancy Hathaway Rebecca Hauser

Linda Havrilla

in memory of William Reiser

Joyce and Francis Hayden

Patricia and Edward Hayes in memory of Evelyn and John Condon

Madeline Hayes

Sheila and Scott Hayes in memory of Rosemarie and Samuel Hayes

Suzanne Haynes Sr. Michele Healy, SSJ

Judith and Charles Heid

Karen A. Hein

in memory of James A. Hein Sandra and Robert Heinlein Jean and John Heintzel Patricia and John Held Mary Held-Manley in memory of Robert E. Held Amy Helmer Renee and Allen Hemme Deborah and Steven Henderson

#### **Candy Henry**

in memory of Sr. Rebecca Ann Costa, SSJ Patricia C. Henry

in memory of Jeanne M. Costa and all deceased Costa family members

#### **Mary Ann and Dennis Herbert**

in memory of Audrey Weindorf Straub and Charles Straub, and in honor of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the military, our country and honest politicians

#### **Phyllis and Robert Herbstritt**

in memory of Edith R. Alberico, Mark D. Alberico and R.G. Herbstritt

#### **Kathleen Herman**

in memory of deceased members of the Zimmer family and in honor of Sr. Millicent Zimmer, SSJ

**Carol and James Hermann** 

Frank Herrmann

Sr. Mary Herrmann, SSJ

Mary Lynn and Joseph Herrmann

**Pam and Charles Herron** 

#### Kathryn Hershock

in memory of Vittoria and Victor Aiello, and Dorothy and Joseph Medvid

Joan Hersperger

#### Alice H. Herzing

in memory of Francis J. Herzing Jr.

Joanne and Stephen Herzing

in honor of Sr. Susan Herzing, SSJ

Julie and Scott Herzing

#### Sr. Susan Herzing, SSJ

Rita K. Hessley

in memory of Agnes Hessley Higham Denise A. Hetherington

#### **Kathy and Christopher Higgins**

in memory of Srs. Ann Donohue, SSJ, and Joyce Lowrey, SSJ, and in honor of Srs. Mary Fromknecht, SSJ, Nancy Fischer, SSJ, Marianne Stuckert, SSJ, and all the sisters who ministered at Notre Dame School

#### Becky and William M. Hilbert Jr.

in memory of William M. Hilbert Sr. Joseph M. Hilbert

in memory of Sr. Rebecca Ann Costa, SSJ The Joseph M. Hilbert Fund of the Erie Community Foundation Martha Hilbert

#### **Carol A. Hilbrich**

in memory of Daniel Hilbrich, and in honor of Megan Overfield and Sr. Veronica Mittal, SSJ

#### Jeffrey L. Hileman

Jeffrey Hill

William J. Hill

in memory of Dorothy Hill

#### **Mary Hintenach**

in honor of Julie Rice

#### **Kimberly and William Hitchcock**

in honor of Sr. Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ

#### **Kathleen Hixenbaugh**

in memory of Gary Hixenbaugh, Mary and Raymond Tronski, Donald B. Tronski, Joe Tronski, Fr. Scheifer, and in honor of the Tronski family

#### **Carol and Thomas Hoffman**

in memory of Sr. Rebecca Ann Costa, SSJ, and William Reiser

#### **Kathleen and James Hoffman**

in memory of Ruth and Arnold Meyer, and Marie and Joseph Hoffman

#### **Mary Hoffman**

#### Sharon and Stephen Hoke in memory of Marion Hoke and in

honor of Sr. Mary Carol Hoke, SSJ Glenn Holland

in memory of Judith Holland

#### Sylvia C. Holland

in memory of deceased teachers Ruth and Stephen Holmes

in memory of Sr. Kathleen Kirsch, SSJ

#### Jo Ann and William Holtz

in memory of Kathleen Holtz

#### Catherine Holzwarth

Joanne Homicz

**Diane and Deacon Edward Horneman** 

#### Julie A. Hovis and Lew Schaaf

#### Sharon E. Howard

in memory of Srs. Lucy Woods, SSJ, and Mary Julia Scully, SSJ, and in honor of Srs. Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ, and André Feulner, SSJ

#### Sr. Martha Howick, SSJ

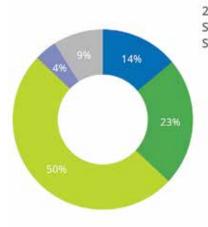
**Lisa Howland** 

in memory of Luduvina and Ed Rossi and in honor of Joan Rossi

#### Madeline and John Hromyak

Esther E. Hubert in memory of Kathleen Hubert

## Financial Report



2021 Gifts to the SSJ Mission & Ministries Foundation Supported

- Homelessness
- Hunger/Food Insecurity
- Care of the Sisters
- COVID

Inner-City Neighborhood Programs

#### Jessica Hubert

in honor of Fr. Jerry Simmons The Hudson Group Mary and Ronald Huff in honor of Sr. André Feulner, SSJ

Mary V. Hughes

**Maureen and Jerome Hughes** 

#### Louise and Eugene Humenay

#### **Mary Frances Humenay**

in memory of Betty Humenay and in honor of Gene, Bernie and Roni

Wendy and George Humes in memory of Mary Ann and Delwin Cox, and in honor of Leah Humes and her prison ministry

#### Maureen M. Humphreys

in memory of John E. Humphreys Sr. Darlene Hurst

**Elizabeth Hutchinson** 

#### Maureen and Leonard Huya in memory of William Reiser

Floyd Hyatt

in memory of Rosanne Hyatt Rosanne\* and Floyd Hyatt in memory of Sr. Marie Claire Kearney, SSJ Charles Jannello

in honor of Sr. Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, SSJ

#### Infinity Resources Inc. Nancy and Robin Ingols Insurance Management Company/ The Bloomstine Family Fund of the Erie Community Foundation Ron Intrieri

in memory of Marilyn Intrieri

Laura and Mark Izzo

**Rev. John Jacquel** 

Darlene and Thomas Jagodzinski in memory of Sr. Mary Kay McNelis, SSJ

Mary Ann Jankowski

June Janson

Deborah and William Jaruszewicz

Jiffy Print Inc.

Joe's Gym

Linda M. Johnson

Lori Johnson

Ada and Michael Johnson

#### Min Johnson

in memory of Roszan Trohoske and Frances Sokolowski, and in honor of Joseph Santone

#### Theresa E. Johnson

in memory of Connie Monahan and deceased members of the Kennedy family

#### **James Johnston** in memory of Sr. Mary Joan Beauseigneur, SSJ **M. Judith Johnston** in memory of Sr. Mary Joan Beauseigneur, SSJ Sr. Ann Marie Joint, SSJ **Kathleen Joint and James Zeitler** in memory of Theresa Baniszewski **Eileen G. Jolls Barbara Jones** in memory of Robert E. Jones **Krista and Brian Jones** in memory of Danielle and Sophia Jones **Marlene Jones** Mary Margaret Jones\* in memory of Helene and Clarence Jones **Rose Jones** Mary Jordano in memory of Jackie and Dominick Jordano **Carol Joyce** Nau and Larry Justus in memory of Sr. Marilyn Terwilliger,

in memory of Sr. Marilyn Terwillige SSJ, and Patty Terwilliger

**Colleen Kacprowicz Rita and Gary Kahle** Linda and Frank Kaleta Walter Kalista in memory of Casimira Kalista Suan Kaliszewski and Ron Norman in memory of Sr. Ann and Sr. Christine Patricia and Daniel Kalivoda Mary Kay and Dave Kalivoda in memory of Sr. Mary Kay McNelis, SSI **Thomas E. Kalkhof** Marjorie A. Kaminsky Mona and Jay Kang **Mary Karien Sahakian** in memory of Zora Karien **Dolores M. Kase** in honor of Sr. Josette Marie Gocella, SSJ Kathryn Kase/The Jeffrey Cohen **Charitable Gift Fund** Joan Kautsky in memory of my brother, Robert Kautsky, and Cynthia (Michael) Ayers, VMC '71 Lisa and Thomas Kaveney **Annie Kaverman Rev. Charles Kaza Dorothy Keane** in memory of Michael J. Keane and Sr. Elise Ann Haener, SSI **Dorothy and Howard Keil** in memory of Dorothy Fratus Campbell Virginia and Anthony Keim in memory of Robert, Catherine and Francis Keim Julie M. Kelley in honor of Sr. Lucille DeStefano, SSJ Sandra and John Kempisty **Susanne Kempisty Phyllis Kempter** in memory of Mary Ann Lynch Nickerson, and in honor of all VMC girls Alice Kendziora in memory of Kenneth Kendziora and Sonny Cronauer **Ellen and Jon Kennedy** Sr. Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ Mary and John Kennedy **Rebecca and Thomas Kennedy Family Fund** 

**Kenneth Kensill** in memory of Mary Kensill **Cynthia Kerchoff Mary Kathleen Kern** Joan Kessler in memory of deceased family members **Margaret Kessler** in memory of William Kessler **Mary Jane Kidd** in honor of Sr. Mary Fromknecht, SSJ Janet Kiehlmeier and William J. Conway **Mary Ann Kiehlmeier** in memory of Sr. Narcise Reasbeck, SSJ **Carol and Larry Killian** in honor of Fr. Leo J. Gallina **Rev. Neil Kilty** Jennifer M. King **Kathy and Bruce King** in memory of Art and Pete Aiello, and Sr. John Frances Aiello, SSJ **Geraldine and Tom King Kathleen Kinzig** in memory of Jo Ann Chrostowski and in honor of Sr. James Francis Mulligan, SSJ **Jane Kirk** in memory of Jack Kirk **Agnes Kirsch** in memory of Sr. Kathleen Kirsch, SSJ **Mary and Edward Kissell Jeanette Kitch** in honor of Srs. Mary DePaul Sabella, SSJ, and Mary Carol Hoke, SSJ **Sandra and Douglas Kitts** in memory of deceased members of the Kitts and Wasiesky families **Nancy Klaus** in honor of Sr. Margaret Frank, SSJ **Midge Klebes Antonetta and Don Kleps** in memory of Jerry Griffin **Catherine and J. Patrick Kloecker** in memory of deceased members of the Kloecker and Diefenbach families **Joseph E. Kloecker Renee A. Kloecker** in memory of William Reiser and Francis V. Kloecker Jr. Siobhan Kobal **Carol and Richard Koehler/The Richard and Carol Koehler** 

Joseph J. Kohler, III **Koldrock Waters Inc.** Rev. Thad T. Kondzielski **Angie Kontur Rev. Gerald J. Koos Maureen and Alan Koseff Paige Kostelnik** in memory of Sr. Ann Donohue, SSJ **Mary and Edward Koster Stephanie Kotoski** Joan Kowalewski in memory of Bob Kowalewski **Mary Kowalik** in memory of Christopher Gott and deceased members of the Agnes Kowalik family Rosanna Kozlowski **Karen and Ronald Krahe Denise Krainski** in memory of Linda Gier **Katherine Krainski Mary Lou Krantz** in memory of George A. Krantz Jr. **Ann and Gerald Kraus Jacqueline and Robert Kraus** in memory of Sr. Dorothy Hartleb, SSJ, and her sister, Angela **Rev. Henry L. Krebs** in memory of deceased members of the Hilbert and Wurst families **Ruth Kredovski\*** Elaine M. Krepcho and Martin M. Krepcho **Rev. Daniel Kresinski** Hope and Ambrose Krieg in memory of Sr. Rose Anne Fedorko, SSJ **Rev. Henry A. Kriegel Rev. Jude Michael Krill, OFM** in memory of Sr. Rebecca Ann Costa, SSJ **Carla S. Krott** Lucy Krupicz in memory of Janet Liebler Plavcan **Rev. William Kuba** in memory of Sr. Joanne Crawford, SSJ Lynn and Deacon Dennis Kudlak **Barbara and Robert Kuhn Kathleen Kuhn** in memory of Richard Kuhn, MD Linda and Stephen Kuhn **Mary Ellen Kuhn** 

Susanne Kuligowski in memory of Sr. Mary Kevin Palazzetti, SSJ **Deacon Kevin Kunik** Kathleen V. Kuntz in memory of Deacon Robert Kuntz **Martha and William Kurtzhals** in memory of Sr. Carol Wilcox, SSJ, and in honor of Marti Kurtzhals **Patricia and Edward LaCastro** Frank J. Lackovic in memory of Catherine Lackovic **Noreen and Steven Lafuria** Mary Lee and David\* Laird **Patricia Laird** in memory of Sr. Rebecca Ann Costa, SSI **Judie Lamberton Cathy Lamont** in memory of Sr. Ann Donohue, SSJ, and in honor of Sr. Margaret Pellerite, SSJ Mary T. Lamp **JoAnne and Stephen Landini** in memory of David Healy Mary and Urban Lariccia Janice L. Larréy in memory of Srs. Kathleen Kirsch, SSJ, Mary Kay McNelis, SSJ, Rebecca Ann Costa, SSJ, and Martin Larréy, and in honor of Srs. Lucille DeStefano, SSJ, and Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, SSJ Larry's Central Market **Becky and John Lascuola Christine and Mark Lashinger** in memory of Mary and George Lashinger **Que and Frank Lasky Susan and James Latham** in memory of our parents Susan Latimer Donahue **Charles Lattanzi Katherine and Carl Lauer Peggy and Daniel Laughlin Margaret Laukaitis** in memory of Sr. Mary Kay McNelis, SSI, and Lillian Laukaitis **Christine Laythe** Virginia Lazorchek Linda and Patrick Leary **Barbara and B.J. Lechner** 

**Christopher Lechner Carol LeCorchick** in memory of Rita and Jim Dougherty, and William Reiser **Mary Ellen and Norman Ledwin Barbara and Scott Lee Charla Leemhuis Margaret and David Lefaiver** in memory of James E. Fromknecht Lois and Joseph Legnasky in memory of Mary Agnes and John Legnasky **Bonnie Lehman** in memory Vera Hubicz Sara L. and Jeff Leon **Kristin and Joseph Leone** in memory of Sr. Ann Donohue, SSJ **John Lesko** Patty and Thomas Lesniewski **Frances and John Letterio** in memory of Joseph Cuzzola and Quirino Letterio Jane and Howard Levin **Steven Levy Barbara J. Lewis\*** Jody Lewis Mary Grace and Lawrence Lewis in memory of Sr. Kathleen Blair, SSJ **Patricia and Sidney Lewis** in memory of Rita C. Nerz, VMA '57 **Kathleen and Thomas Lieb** John M. Lindsav in honor of Sr. Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, SSJ **Maggie Link** Mary Jo Lipani in memory of Sr. Mary Alice Reed, SSJ, and Fr. Paul Schill Anne-Marie and Todd Liszka **Cynthia and Barry Locke Douglas Loesel** Loesel-Schaaf Insurance Agency Inc. **Thomas J. Loftus** in honor of Sr. Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, SSJ **Deacon Francis Lombardo Mary Kay Long** in memory of Sr. Marie Rosaleen Hart, SSJ **Patricia and Carl Longnecker** Jenean Lord

**Barb Lorei Denise Lorei** in memory of D.J. Lorei **Marilyn Losapio** Irene and F. Brady Louis **Lower Eastside Sports Center** in memory of Mary Grace Lattanzi Jean Lowrey in memory of Sr. Joyce Lowrey, SSJ, and in honor of all the Sisters of St. Joseph **Carrie and Robert Lowther** in memory of Leona and Bob Lowther Josie and Al Lubiejewski **Susan and Mark Lucas Rita Lucas Kathy Luschini** in memory of deceased members of the Gianoni and Luschini families LeaAnne and Raymond Luzier **Barbara and John Lye** in memory of Jay Lye **Rita and Robert Lyle** Judith Lynch in memory of James T. Lynch **Mary and Patrick Lyon Gary Lyons** Patricia MacArthur **Sheila and Timothy Mack Shirley Mack Kim and Robert Mackowski** in honor of Sr. Mary Fromknecht, SSJ **Eileen MacKrell** in memory of Jean and Joe MacKrell Mary Jane MacKrell **Georjann Maclean** Angelia M. Madalena Joan Magistrella **Gale and Gary Magyar** Andrea and David Maille **Barbara and William Makarowski** in honor of Muffy Makarowski **Dolores Makowski** in memory of Nancy Makowski **Maleno Property Management Gerry Malinowski Margaret Mallin Tina and Michael Malpiedi** in memory of Joseph Martone

#### **Rev. John Malthaner**

in honor of those who lost loved ones during the pandemic, especially those who were unable to visit loved ones **Mary Margaret and James Malue Carol and George Mamrak Anne and Howard Manasse Thelma Manendo** in memory of Louis Manendo **Cindy and David Mangiaracina** in memory of Sr. Rebecca Ann Costa, SSI, and Jeanne Costa, and in honor of Sr. Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, SSJ **Patricia and Thomas Mangold Deacon John L. Manley** in memory of Carol Manley Sr. Catherine Manning, SSI **Rev. Robert A. Manning** in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Manning and in honor of Sr. Catherine Manning, SSJ Kathleen J. Mannino in honor of my sons, Tony, Matthew and Tim, and in memory and honor of all the Sisters of St. Joseph -- especially those from St. Anne's, Villa Maria Academy and Saint Vincent **Connie and Luther Manus Christopher Maras Gerri Marino** in memory of Theresa Baniszewski **Patricia and Robert Markham Richard J. Markiewicz Harry Markopolos Patricia and James Marnella Carol and Dave Marsden Dorothy Marsh\*** in memory of Sr. Andrea Bennett, SSJ **Patricia and Richard Marshall Robert Marshall** in memory of Suzanne Zollinger Marshall **Rev. Dennis A. Martin** in memory of Sr. Rebecca Ann Costa, SSJ **Mary and James Martin** in memory of Sr. M. Eunice Carlos, SSJ **Joseph Martone** in honor of C.F. Brown **Patricia Martone** 

Michelle and Joseph Martucci

**Phyllis Mashyna and Matt Lebowitz Raymond Massing** 

in memory of Mary Grace Lattanzi **Judy and Patrick Mastrian** 

in memory of Florence Mastrian **Marion Mateicka** 

in memory of Dolores and John Thomas and in honor of the VMC Class of '74

**Loretta and Richard Matha** 

in memory of Marie and Louie Morelli **Mary Jo Matheis** 

Matthew J. Hauser & Associates Inc.

in honor of the sisters who taught at Sacred Heart, Prep, VMC and Gannon, and those who served at Saint Vincent Hospital

**James B. Mattis** 

in memory of Sr. Marie Paul Ashworth, SSJ

**Barbara and Joseph Mattis** 

Sandi and John Matts

in memory of Sr. Joan Thomas, SSJ, and Marian Thomas

Donna Maycock in memory of Dick Maycock **Jeffrey Mayer Patricia Mayer** in memory of Annemarie Buki and Stella Brozowski **Rev. Richard Mayer Kathleen Mays** in memory of Elizabeth and Henry Hart Vanessa Mazza in memory of Mary Klemen Kathleen A. McCabe Joan McCain in memory of deceased family members **Kathleen McCarthy McCarty Printing Co. Karin and Richard McCormick** Sr. Phyllis McCracken, SSJ **Tina and Ward McCracken** in memory of Srs. Joyce Lowrey, SSJ, and Joan Thomas, SSJ Margaret J. McCrarey in memory of Robert McCrarey Sue and Geoffrey McCreary Margaret McCurdy in memory of Donald McCurdy

**Gini McDermott** 

Jane McDonald

**Karen McEnery Carolyne and Kevin McEnery** Lynn McEnery-Clapp in honor of Villa Maria Academy Barbara and John McGaughey in memory of Sr. Rebecca Ann Costa, SSJ **McGill Power Bell & Associates, LLP Kathleen and Jeffrey McGovern** Jean and James McGuinness in memory of Elizabeth Carlin Irwin **Patricia McGuinness** in memory of Anna Marie and John Heher, and Deacon Jim McGuinness **Dennis P. McGuire Carol and Robert McKiernan** in memory of Mary Agnes Grant **Carla and Jonathan McKrell** in memory of James McKrell **Elizabeth McLaren Eileen McLaughlin** in memory of Sr. Kathleen Kirsch, SSJ Patricia E. McLaughlin **Richard McLaughlin** in memory of William Reiser Sheila McLaughlin in memory of Sr. Ann Donohue, SSJ Susan McMahon **Joyce McNally Barb and Jim McNamara Gladys and David McNelis** Nancy and Peter McNelis in memory of Sr. Mary Kay McNelis, SSI Ellen and Mark McNerney in memory of COVID victims and members of the Marshall and McNerney families **Brenda and Namon McWilliams Karen and David Mead** in memory of Nikki Font **Diana L. Meanor Kathleen and James Meko** in memory of Marjorie Carroll **David V. Mendicino** in memory of Barry Sturm and Josephine "Jo" Barber **Tina Mengine James Menkhaus** in honor of Sr. Michele Healy, SSJ Pam and Steven Mennen

#### **Ruth and Paul Mercier** in memory of Sr. Margaret Joseph Mokes, SSJ **Christine and Robert Merrer** in honor of Srs. Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ, and Marianne Stuckert, SSJ **Deacon Joseph Messina Karen and Michael Messina Cathy and Richard Mester Doreen Metz Ed Metzger** Susan and William Meyer **Carol and Paul Michael** in memory of Sr. Carol Wilcox, SSJ, and in honor of Sr. Peggy O'Brien, SSJ Cecelia Michelotti **Eileen Miehl Madeline Miele** in memory of Sr. Peggy Balizet, SSJ Joanne and Joseph Mifsud **Franca and Gary Mihna Gretchen and Robert Mikelonis** Laurie and Kevin Mikielski Marilyn Mikkelsen in honor of Sr. Millicent Zimmer, SSJ Diana A. Mikula in memory of John J. Mikula **Nancy Milkowski Betty and Richard Millard Carolyn and Patrick Miller** in memory of Sr. Michaela Fox, SSJ **Cathy E. Miller Deanna and Richard Miller** in memory of William Reiser Joan M. Miller **Karen Miller Kelly P. Miller** in memory of Donald Knarr and Thomas J. Miller **Mary Miller Patricia A. Miller** in memory of Thomas J. Miller and **Donovan Derochers Stacey and Christopher Miller** in memory of Thomas J. Milller **Carol and Patrick Mingarelle Deborah and John Mingey Constance and Frank Minichelli**

**Judy Minichelli** 

Lillian and Robert Minichelli

in honor of living and deceased members of the Minichelli and **Rufini families** 

#### Linda and Thomas Mish

in memory of Srs. Rebecca Ann Costa, SSJ, and Peggy Ballizet, SSJ, and all sisters who made our grade school education a treasured memory

**Evelyn D. Miskiel** in memory of Jeanen Hall **Barbara Mitchell** in memory of Sr. Marie Paul Ashworth, SSJ **Josephine and Earl Mittelmeier** 

in memory of Catherine Pirrello and Kelly Mittelmeier

**Lisa and Mark Mittelmeier** 

#### **Mary Mobilia**

**Carolyn Mohr** 

in memory of William Reiser

**Peggy Montag-Liebel** in memory of Beranar Montag

**Kelly Montefiori** 

#### **Angela and Louis Monti**

in memory of Fortunata and Carmelo Mobilia

#### Patricia A. Montifiori

in memory of Ben Montifiori

#### **Julianne and Christopher Moore**

**Rita and Charles Moore** 

in memory of Sr. Mary Kay McNelis, SSJ Lien Moorehead

in memory of Sr. Marie Eileen Moyer, SSJ, and in honor of Sr. Martha Ann Rinderle, SSJ

#### Mary E. Moroco

#### **Mary Morris**

in memory of all deceased Sisters at Villa Maria and in honor of Mildred Heubel

#### Mary A. Mosher

in memory of Francis V. Kloecker and deceased members of the VMA Class of '55, and in honor of Sr. Mary Carol Hoke, SSJ

#### **Julianne Mosora**

#### **Betty Motsch**

in memory of William H. Motsch **Maureen and James Motter** in memory of Mary A. Motter

#### Joanne Mowrey

in memory of Sr. Lawreace Antoun, SSJ Harriet J. Moyer **Patricia Moyer** 

#### in memory of Shirley Izbicki

**Elaine and Frank Mozdy** 

in memory of Pam Mozdy-Allen and Sr. Kathleen Kirsch, SSI

#### **Carolyn and James Mraz**

Kathleen and Henry Mroczkowski

in memory of Margaret and **Richard Bohrer** 

**Cynthia and Daniel Muccio** in memory of Amy Lund

#### Mary E. Mullen

in honor of my niece, Susan Roessner, for 70 years of love and kindness William Mullen

in memory of Joann Mullen **Patricia and Thomas Mundy** in memory of Dorothy and Del Tully **Municipal Revenue Services Debbie and Michael Murnock Mary and Thomas Muroski Ellen and Curtis Murphey David J. Murphy Dorothy Murphy** in honor of the Zoom Cyber Circle of Friends 2021

#### **Patricia Murphy**

in memory of Sr. Rebecca Fogelbach, SSJ

#### Joan Murray

#### **Patricia Murray**

in memory of Sr. Marie Eileen Moyer, SSJ, and in honor of Sr. Martha Ann Rinderle, SSI

#### Anne and Thomas Murtagh

in memory of Jonathan Pears

#### Nancy and James Musarra

in memory of Marian Scolio Musarra

#### **Deborah and Donald Musolff Thomas Myers**

in memory of my mother Mary Alice and Dennis Nagosky **Marie Namey** 

> in memory of Victoria and Michael Namey

#### Mary M. Narus

**Darlene and Dennis Natale** in memory of Thomas E. Shaw

**Bea Natale and Timothy Natale** Kathy Ann and Angelo Natalie **National Fuel Gas Company Foundation** matching gift on behalf of Jeffrey Felix Lisa and Timothy NeCastro Vicki and Gerard NeCastro Mary Alvce Nelson Irene and John Nemergut **Richard J. Neuer New Directions Healthcare Mary Jo and Vincent Newara Rita and Donald Newell Iudith Newlin** in memory of James Conners Suzanne Newman **Lisa Nicklash** in memory of Sr. Clarice Ritzel, SSJ, and deceased members of the Nicklash family, and in honor of Ana Nicklash **Mary Lou Nicoletti** Theodore J. Niebauer Jr.

in memory of Winifred and Theodore Niebauer Sr, and Sr. Lois Marie Niebauer, SSJ

Nancy and Robert Nielsen

in memory of Theresa and Ben Reeger and Sr. Leonella Gingenbach, SSJ

Jean M. Nies

Eileen and Peter Nill Richard Noonen\*

in memory of Joanne Noonen and Sr. M. Gerarda Tiernan, SSJ

#### **Northwest Trust Services**

#### **Mary Jane and John Novalis**

in memory of Sr. Rose Anne Fedorko, SSJ, Mary Fedorko, and Veronica and John Novalis, and in honor of Francis Fedorko

Norman J. Novello\*

**Mary Lou Noyer** 

Carla Noziglia in memory of Eileen Murphy Miller Sally and Paul Nunes in memory of Bob Bille and Jerry Uht Eileen and James O'Brien Nancy and Jeffrey O'Brien Sr. Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ

Maximilian J. Obuszewski

#### **Rev. Terry Odien**

in memory of Fr. Patrick Engel Rev. Mark O'Hern

**Elizabeth and Karl Ohmer** 

in memory of Sr. Mary Albert Yates, SSJ, and in honor of Sr. Marilyn Zimmerman, SSj

Frank Ohmer in memory of Kristin Anderson and

Steve Ohmer

JoAnn Ohmer in honor of Sr. Marilyn Zimmerman, SSJ Marlene Ohmer in honor of Sr. Marilyn Zimmerman, SSJ Mary L. Ohmer

in memory of Sr. Rebecca Ann Costa, SSJ Nettie and Thomas Ohmer in memory of Ann and Bob Ohmer, and Sr. Rebecca Ann Costa, SSJ

Penny and Joseph Ohmer in honor of Sr. Marilyn Zimmerman, SSJ

Sheila and Tim Ohmer Marlene Okel

in memory of Sr. Joyce Lowrey, SSJ Theresa Olcese

in memory of Ella Marie Olcese Bledsoe Ruth and Arthur Oligeri

in memory of Marian Gleisner Marie Olon in honor of Sr. Geraldine Olon, SSJ Daniel J. Olson

Judith and John Oncea

in memory of Emily Taylor Mary Ann and Alan O'Neil

Barbara A. Onofrey in memory of Joseph Onofrey, Johanna and John Halas, and

Jackie Halas Marge and Deacon Ronald Onslow

in honor of Sr. Rebecca Ann Costa, SSJ Sr. Maria Onuffer, SSJ Robert Onuffer and Miriam R. Thomas Carleen Onuschak

Christine and George Opron Margaret Orchard in memory of Mary Lou Orchard

Joe Orengia Rev. Phillip M. Oriole

#### Fidelis and Edward Orr

in memory of Vera and Donald Willis, and Donna Willis Brown

**Richard Orzepowski** 

in honor of Sr. Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, SSJ Ronald J. Osiecki

in memory of Joyce Osiecki Susan and James Oskin Osteopathic Cardiology Associates, LLC

Christine Ostrowski

Mary Ann and Edward Overfield/The MAO Charitable Trust

Mary Kay and Merle Owens in honor of Sr. Millicent Zimmer, SSJ Susan and Dennis Packard

in memory of Srs. Agnes Clare Krepcho, SSJ, and Seraphim McCafferty, SSJ

Rev. Walter E. Packard in honor of Sr. Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, SSJ Erin and Michael Paglione

in memory of Sr. Mary Ellen Dwyer, SSJ Mary Beth and Daniel Pais

in memory of Sr. Mary Ellen Dwyer, SSJ

Sr. Colette Palmer, SSJ

in memory of deceased Sisters of St. Joseph and their family members, and in honor of Sr. Mary Fromknecht, SSJ

#### Dorothy and Douglas Palmer

in honor of Sr. Colette Palmer, SSJ **Herb Palmer** in memory of Constance M. Palmer Shauna Pandolfino in memory of Margaret Deter Corraine (Sr. Camilla) **William Pangratz Philip Papotnik Joseph Parlak** Audree A. Parr in memory of Sr. Ann Donohue, SSJ Partnership of Women Religious Inc. Mary and Gary Pasqualicchio **Rev. Gregory P. Passauer** in memory of Emma and Willard Passauer **Suzanne and John Pastorini Charles Patterson** in memory of Andrea Patterson **Anna and Wade Patton** in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Nelson



## Pathways to Wellness

Thanks to a grant from the **Catholic Sisters Initiative** of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, SOAR! (Support Our Aging Religious) is launching Pathways to Wellness. We are delighted to be one of 14 congregations selected to participate in this pilot program. While still in the early phase, we are moving forward with a program that will provide wellness opportunities for our sisters, including videos, seminars, and ZOOM presentations, and by hiring a wellness coordinator who will engage our sisters with new ways of moving forward and collaborating. In addition, grant funding opportunities will also be available to participating congregations.

**Loretta and Timothy Patton** 

**Elvera Payne** 

Linda Payne

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in memory of Marie J. Pears

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in memory of Sr. M. Adrianne Pelkowski, CSFN

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in memory of Bob Penner

Laurene and Tom Peterman

#### Jean Petersen

in honor of Sr. Marianne Stuckert, SSJ

#### **Jacqueline and James Peterson**

in memory of Sr. Gertrude Marie Peterson, SSJ

#### Jean M. Peterson

in memory of Sr. Gertrude Marie Peterson, SSJ, Thomas Peterson and deceased members of the Peterson family, and in honor of the Sisters of St. Joseph

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#### **Betty and Sam Petruso**

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#### Joyce Pfadt

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in memory of Carol, Dolores and Chester Pietrowski

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#### **Janet and Joseph Pilewski**

in honor of all the good news at Holy Rosary

#### **Carol and Joseph Pillitteri**

in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brownyard and Mr. and Mrs. Carmen Pillitteri, and deceased members of the Brownyard and Pillitteri families

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#### **Anne Pirrello**

**Mary Frances Pirrello** 

#### in memory of William Reiser

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in memory of Margaret (McGinnis) Burton, VMC '59, Lucille Christopher, VMC '57, Sr. Ann Donohue, SSJ, VMC '65, and Mary Frances Sweterlitsch, VMC '59

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in memory of our aunt, Sr. Marie Claire Kearney, SSJ, and in honor of Sr. Rachael McGuire, SSI

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**Mary Rinderle** 

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in memory of Sr. Kathryn Connolly, SSJ

in memory of Michael J. Rhone and

in honor of Sr. Marilyn Zimmerman, SSJ

in memory of Frank and my parents

in memory of Marjorie Carroll

Domeracki, SSJ, and in honor of

in memory of Srs. M. Clemenza Mazzei,

honor of Sr. James Francis Mulligan, SSJ

SSJ, and Doloretta Thorn, SSJ, and in

**Dianne and Dennis Ringwelski** 

in memory of Sr. Antonia

Sr. Colette Palmer, SSJ

**Rev. Gerald Ritchie\*** 

**Rose Rizzi** 

Sr. Mary Kevin Palazzetti, SSJ

in memory of Tomas and Sr. Mary

in memory of our parents, Mary and

in memory of Glenn W. Pratt and Sr. Caroline Extein, SSJ

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#### Joan Savoy

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in memory of Bernard, Rita and Gina Scalzo, and Alice Davis, and in honor of my parents, baby sister and grandmother

#### Carmelita M. Schaaf

in memory of Chuck Schaaf, June Smith, and Srs. Ann Donohue, SSJ, and Mary Kevin Palazzetti, SSJ

Joan M. Schaaf

in memory of James H. Schaaf Rosemarie and William Schaaf

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in memory of Mary and John Schell, and Carl Tulanko

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*in honor of all the women who taught and formed young lives* 

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in memory of my mother, Catherine, and all of her Schrock sisters and brothers; my wife, Norene and Srs. Regis Schrock, SSJ, Damion Schrock, SSJ, and Generosa Schrock, SSJ

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in memory of all deceased sisters

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in memory of Cynthia Manna

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in honor of Sr. Marilyn Zimmerman, SSJ

Jane Zimmerman

in memory of deceased members of the Zimmerman and Mooney families

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in memory of Eleanor Niewiedomski, Sr. Miriam Fuhrman, SSJ, and Zeline Euler, SSJ associate

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SOAR! – Support Our Aging Religious

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The Dr. Sambasivarao and Dr. Bharathi Voora Fund of the Erie Community Foundation

### **Gifts In Kind**

AHN/Saint Vincent Hospital Bombas Giving Program Erie Parking Authority Gannon University GFS – Gordons Food Service Metz Culinary Managment Wegmans

## thanksgiving donors set a new record

## **Our Thanksgiving donors are AMAZING!**

For 33 years, we've asked, and you've answered. But in 2021, you answered with a resounding, record-shattering **\$82,406** – a 15 percent increase over our previous (2020) record of **\$72,000.** 

Of course, it's great to set a new record. But what's truly remarkable is the impact of these gifts.

Thanks to nearly **700 generous donors** and **97 volunteers**, the Sisters delivered **1,100 holiday meals** on Thanksgiving Day and distributed more than **\$65,000 to 44 area organizations** that fight hunger and poverty throughout the year. Our plans for this year are not quite complete. But, again, COVID and public health concerns will determine whether we offer in-person dining.

But this we know – for the **34th consecutive year, the Sisters of St. Joseph** will serve Thanksgiving meals to our dear neighbors in need. And with your help, we'll feed more, raise more and distribute more funds to fight hunger year-round.

To make an early gift to the **2022 SSJ Thanksgiving Fund**, visit us at **ssjerie.org.** 





Connecting with God 🛧 Connecting with You

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# smart move

### Avoid taxes on your retirement account

Do you have a retirement account? Smart move! Many people wisely take advantage of tax incentives to contribute to IRAs, 401(k)s, and similar plans. But did you know there are considerable tax advantages to making charitable gifts with retirement plan assets?

The IRS considers any remaining balance left in your retirement account untaxed income. If you bequeath that balance to your heirs, the IRS will subject it to income and estate tax.

You have options to reduce this potential tax hit without depriving your loved ones. You can create a meaningful legacy by naming a nonprofit organization, such as the Sisters of St. Joseph Mission & Ministries Foundation, as the beneficiary of your retirement plan and using other tax-advantaged assets to make gifts to children and family, and friends. A nonprofit organization won't pay income tax on the distribution (nor will the plan balance be included in your taxable estate). In addition, your heirs can receive more of your estate because the tax-advantaged assets you leave to them will not be subject to income or estate taxes.

And when you name the foundation your retirement plan beneficiary, 100% of the funds will support a cause you care about – the sisters' ongoing ministries to neighbors in need or the care of our aging sisters. So whatever you choose, it's a great way to maximize your assets and make a powerful impact.

We'd love to talk more about ways to leave a legacy. If you'd like to have a conversation, please contact **Cathy Fresch** at **814-836-4253** or **cathy.fresch@ssjerie.org.** ())

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