

interim

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

Volume 42, Issue 5

May 2024

Good Shepherds

This past Sunday, we celebrated what is referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. In my email today, I received a note from a former colleague at Villa Maria Academy. It was short, but powerful.

She said, "I was thinking of you on Sunday at Gannon's 10 a.m. Mass when Father was talking about the Good Shepherd and he asked, 'who do you know in your life who has been a good shepherd?' You were the first person I thought of. Thank you for all you have done for me and so many other students and families!" My friend said very little, but her words gave me a great feeling of joy and affirmation as I began my day today.

For whom have you been a good shepherd? Who has been a good shepherd in your life? Reflect on what it means to be a good shepherd or the recipient of a good shepherd's kindness. Let someone in your life know how they have brought Good News to life in your life.

May the Good Shepherd bless you,

Sr. Mary
Sister Mary



Charism/Mission Directional Statement

Conscious of the Holy Spirit's presence, we commit to live more fully the Gospel message; to further develop wholesome relationships among and beyond ourselves; to move beyond our comfort zones; to live the charism so that others may experience the love of God at this moment in our history.

Governance/Leadership Directional Statement

Conscious of the Holy Spirit's presence and believing that governance is an expression of our mission, we commit to exploring and creating a governance model which may include Sisters, Associates, and Agrégées. We commit to sharing responsibility, and communicating with trust, compassion, and acceptance.

Connecting with the Past *by SSJ Agrégée Betsy Wiest*

When the weather gets warmer, one of my favorite activities is cleaning veterans' gravestones. Each Monday a group of us gather at the Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors Home and get to work on the task.

Cleaning gravestones brings to light the idea of interconnectedness between the past, present, and future. These soldiers died and were buried, but even in death, they give purpose.

As I clean, the

soldiers connect with me across the centuries. I bring to life, once again, their names and a little of who they were. I become part of their story and they become part of mine.

As I clean each

stone, I pray for the soldier. It is incredibly satisfying to transform an unreadable stone into one that is not only legible, but renews the memory of the buried soldier. To date, this group has cleaned approximately 200 gravestones. There is much more work to be done as there are more than 1,500 gravestones in that cemetery alone.

If you would like to help with this project, please contact me at either 814-881-6088 or betsy.wiest@ssjerie.org



Before cleaning After cleaning

MISSION: POSSIBLE!

On the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, we celebrate our dedicated Employees

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Mission Integration Coordinator

In 2007, employee representatives from each department: food service, housekeeping, maintenance, Marycrest, and administration, began meeting regularly with Sister Leonie Shanley and me to write an employee mission statement. On March 13, 2008, all employees were invited to a formal ceremony where the SSJ Employee Mission Statement was presented and subsequently accepted. A few revisions were made to the original statement in 2012.

SSJ Employee Mission Statement

Inspired by the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the employees of the Sisters of St. Joseph establish an environment of unity and mutual respect that characterizes our daily interactions with each other, the Sisters, neighbors, and all who visit here, thus reflecting the unifying love of God and neighbor.



Employees with Milestone Anniversaries

25 years

Ferisa Alihodzic

20 years

Robert Hilliard

15 years

Marija Buljiubasic

Kimberly Dinges

Carol Hermann

Rebecca Hower

Victoria Pangratz

Bill Winarski

10 years

Anthony Cuneo

5 years

Sylvia Hower

Paul Morris

Mary Pickens

Each year, our employees and volunteers gather for a special luncheon on May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, to celebrate SSJ Employee Mission Day. Service pins are awarded to employees with milestone years of service.

We are blessed to have such a wonderful staff and volunteers who work **with** us. For them, work is more than a job, it's a mission. I have always said this about our employees and volunteers. I have experienced this blessing for many years, especially recently. I am sure most or all of you can say the same.

As we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, we celebrate our wonderful staff and volunteers. I wish to thank each of them on behalf of our SSJ family. They reflect our charism of unity, and they live our mission of reaching out to the dear neighbor without distinction. Our employees truly do make **SSJ Mission Possible!**

Don't Put Old Medications in the Trash or Toilet

In the spirit of being environmentally conscious, Here are some sites that offer year-round collection of medications. You no longer have to wait for certain collection dates. If you want to search other areas in the U.S., [click here](#).

TOPS PHARMACY

712 W 38TH STREET
1702 EAST 38TH STREET

GIANT EAGLE PHARMACY

2501 W 12TH ST
4265 BUFFALO ROAD

CVS PHARMACY

410 EAST 12TH STREET
3800 PINE AVE

PHARM SV – AHN Saint Vincent

232 W 25TH ST

THE LANE DRUG COMPANY

163 WEST 26TH STREET

WAL-MART PHARMACY

1825 DOWNS DRIVE
2711 ELM STREET



Exciting news!

As one of five SSJ sponsored ministries, the Sisters of St. Joseph Mission & Ministries Foundation now has its own website and Facebook page! Join us for Foundation news and updates.

Visit our website: www.ssjmmf.org

LIKE our Facebook page

[SSJ Mission & Ministries Foundation](#)

Living Laudate Deum *The Pope's Apostolic Exhortation* ***How the clothing you wear is harming the planet!***

Did you know:

- People buy 60% more clothing than they did 15 years ago and keep them only half as long.
- 69% of the fabrics we wear are made of oil-based plastics.
- Each time we wash our clothes, thousands of tiny plastic particles are discharged into the water.

- Globally, 500,00 tons of microfibers are deposited in oceans each year from our washing machines.



What you can do:

- Choose clothing that is made from wool, linen, hemp, or organic cotton.
- Purchase a washing machine with a microfiber filter.
- Only wash clothes when they are dirty.
- Consider buying second-hand clothes from a thrift shop.

SSJ Community Calendar

We are trying out a LIVE SSJ Community Calendar (Planned & Important Dates). This means that the calendar will update in real-time whenever Cass makes a change. You should continue to follow the procedure for EVENT PLANNING/ROOM REQUEST. Cass will post the information on the calendar. If something is missing or needs to be changed, send an email to: calendar@ssjerie.org

[CLICK HERE to view the calendar.](#)



Interested in contact with the Sisters?

If you would like to do one-on-one visits with Sisters at the CLC, please contact Norma Hiller at norma.hiller@ssjerie.org or (814) 836- 4151 with your interest, availability and contact information.

Associates' News and Happenings

Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, Associate Director

Prayers

Please remember in your prayers the repose of the souls of **Associate Uta Smith** who died on April 13, **Associate Patricia DeVore** and mother of **Associate Deborah Maciak**, who died on April 14, and Mary Julia Kathryn Schodt, daughter of **Associate Judy Lynch** who died on February 26. May Eternal Light Shine Upon Them O Lord! May they rest in your peace. Please remember in prayer all their families at this most difficult time. Also remember all the Sisters, Associates and Agrégées and their family members who are currently dealing with health issues.

Candidate Retreat

Sister Rosemary O'Brien will facilitate our candidate retreat on Saturday May 4, 2024, at the SSJ House of Blessing. Please

keep the candidates in your prayers as they discern making a commitment as an Associate. We thank **Sisters Clare Marie Beichner and Susan Herzing** for their generous hospitality.

HELP! HELP! HELP! Directory Updates.

Recently I discovered that many Associate phone numbers in the SSJ Directory were either disconnected or incorrect. If you no longer have a land line, and are only using a cell phone, please let us know and make sure we have your cell number. If you have a new number, please let us know that, also. Likewise, I was unable to email some Associates as email addresses are not correct or have been discontinued, please keep us updated with your current email address.

Many Thanks!

Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to make our first Fellowship Sunday a successful endeavor. If you were unable to join us, we hope you can make it to our next one on Sunday August 25, 2024, beginning with the 9:00 a.m. liturgy.

What's Happening in Your Corner of the World?

Recently I spent some time calling Associates regarding their recommitment. I had several enjoyable conversations in the process. It was great to reconnect with so many, especially those who are no longer in Erie. I also learned that several Associates had been hospitalized or are dealing with health issues. Please keep us informed of these situations so that we can keep you in our

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**Associates, Sisters, and Agrégées
Please join us!**
An Afternoon Social in the Park
June 12, 2024
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
430 West 19th Street, behind the SSJNN
There is parking on both sides of the street.

Meet the staff of the SSJNN and learn about their work and projects. Tents, tables and chairs will be available. If you'd like, donations of the following items are greatly appreciated: spaghetti sauce and noodles, laundry soap (med. Size), Walmart and Dollar Tree gift cards, gallon-size drinks for the soup kitchen, juice boxes and individual Gatorade bottles. If you can't attend the event, but would like to donate, drop items at the CLC or the SSJNN prior to the event. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.



Save the dates!
May 4, 2024
Holy Collage Workshop
June 12, 2024
SSJNN Afternoon Social
August 3, 2024
Associate Picnic
August 25, 2024
Fellowship Sunday
September 8, 2024
Liturgy and Associate Welcoming
September 14, 2024
State of the Heart, a presentation by Sr. Ricarda Vincent

Synodality is Alive and Well Clare Marie Beichner, SSJ

This month, I am sharing the summary Synod Report from the Diocese of Erie that was compiled from the listening sessions over the last few months. This summary report was sent to the USCCB to be part of the regional and national reports that will be sent to the

Vatican this summer.

Thank you for your continued prayers as the Synodal approach is implemented at every level of Church.

[Click here to access the report.](#)



Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Or go to eriercd.org and click on the Synod link.

Associates' News and Happenings

(Continued from page 4)

prayers. Feel free to call me anytime — I would love to hear from you (814-823-1182).

Associate Shirley Byers from

Meadville shared that she became a proud great, great grandmother for the second time. Congratulations Shirley!

On the Road

Associate Nancy Donnelly and I will be traveling to Meadville for lunch with the Meadville

area Associates on Thursday, May 2. I hope all of the Meadville Associates will be able to join us. You'll be hearing from Nancy soon.



News from St. Patrick's Haven

Spring Into Action!

What better way to kick off this season of renewal than by spreading some love and cheer to those in need! You can support St. Patrick's Haven by donating items on our *spring-cleaning* list. And hey, if you're a coffee lover like me, why not put some *spring* into our guests' steps by donating items from our coffee supply list?

Spring-Cleaning Supply List

- Laundry Soap (pods, liquid, powder)
- Dishwasher Soap (pods, liquid, powder)
- Bathroom Cleaner
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Latex Cleaning Gloves
- Kleenex

Coffee Supply List

- Coffee (ground, regular)
- Sugar (bags or canisters)
- Creamer (powder, canisters)



Allegheny Health Network recently recognized Dr. Pete Kroemer (center) for his work in the healthcare field. The recognition included a donation to the charity of his choice, which was St. Patrick's Haven. Dr. Kroemer said he chose St. Patrick's Haven because he was moved by the Haven's impactful work. Pictured with Dr. Kroemer are Dr. Chris Clark (right) and Shelby Folga, St. Patrick's Haven executive director. The board and staff of St. Patrick's Haven are grateful for this gift.



"We recognize that our formation involves the development of the total person for the sake of our mission. As a Congregation and as individuals we are responsible for continuing the process throughout our lives."
 Constitutions of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

Retreat Opportunities

The **2024 Conference Retreat** at the the SSJ Community Living Center is scheduled for **October 6-12**. Sister Mary Rowell, of the Canadian province of the Sisters of St. Joseph, will facilitate the conference/guided retreat. Many may remember her retreat with us in July 2022, "Hospitality of the Heart."

Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center, a sponsored ministry of Sr. Ardath's community, the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, offers many experiences for weekend and weeklong retreats and programs:

- ◆ **Conference Retreat:** *Teilhard's Cosmic Images of God.* Sun., June 9-Thurs., June 13, 2024.
 Presenter: Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, PhD.
- ◆ **Weeklong Individually Directed Retreat:** Sun., June 16 – Sun., June 23, 2024
Spiritual Directors:
 Ardath Blake ,HM
 Sharon Cahill, HM
 Donna Clark
 Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ
 Dave Roncolato

Weeklong Individually Directed Retreat:

Sun., Sept. 8 – Sun. Sept. 15, 2024.

Spiritual Directors:

Ardath Blake ,HM
 Sharon Cahill, HM
 Donna Clark
 Fr. Mark Nowak
 Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ
 Roseanne Oberlietner, CSJ
 Dave Roncolato

- ◆ **Weekend Individually Directed Retreats:** Fri., Oct. 4 to Sun., Oct. 6, 2024.

For further information, visit the website at vmesc.org or call 724-964-8886.

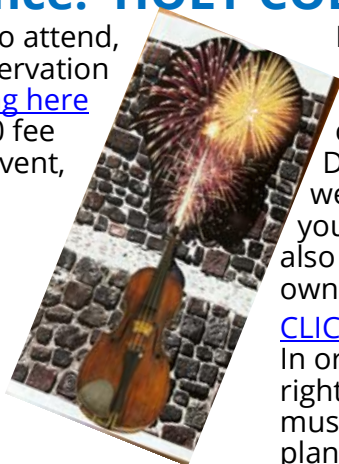
Notre Dame Retreat House Retreats. Canandaigua, NY

- ◆ "Courage, Wisdom, and Compassion: Lessons from Visionary Lives."
 Presenter: Gilliam Ahlgren. June 23-28, 2024.
- ◆ "Praying with Pope Francis".
 Presenter: Fr. Chuck Frederico, SJ.

Phone: 585-394-5700
nlynch@notredameretreat.org
www.notredameretreat.org

Last Chance: HOLY COLLAGE

If you wish to attend, secure your reservation online by [clicking here](#) and pay the \$10 fee the day of the event, or make a reservation by mailing a check (payable to SSJ Associates) to Sr. Ann Marie Capello, 5031 West Ridge Rd, Erie, PA 16506. Reservations must be received by April 30.



If you plan on attending, please begin to compile pictures or images that capture your attention. Don't try to figure out why... we will do that together once your collage is complete. We also ask that you bring your own scissors.

[CLICK HERE to RSVP](#)

In order to ensure we have the right amount of supplies, we must have RSVPs if you are planning to attend.

Holy Collage
Saturday, May 4, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
CLC Gathering Space
Fee for the event is \$10 to cover the cost of materials.

SSJ Neighborhood Network News

Our Youth Workforce program is underway! This is the first work experience for 10 teens of the group. They received their very first paycheck last week! We are blessed to also welcome back 6 teens from last year. Our crew is excited to start the growing season and get ready for our first Farmer's Market day on Monday, June 24. Donations of individual snacks and drinks, and especially individual Gatorade powder or gel, are being accepted for our urban farm teen crew.



ssj community May Birthdays

- 1 A. Carol Hermann
- 2 A. Rebecca Flynn
- 2 A. Rose Jones
- 6 A. Mary Ann Jankowski
- 6 S. Michele Healy
- 8 S. Martha Howick
- 9 A. Marlene Lyda
- 14 A. Francine Ballard
- 15 A. JoAnne Sprickman
- 16 A. Wendy Sadlier
- 17 S. Marilyn Zimmerman
- 18 A. Thomas Hoffman
- 18 S. Phyllis McCracken
- 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
- 30 A. Debra Hamilton



Sharing Eclipse Experiences

The day after the eclipse, the Sisters gathered to share eclipse stories and their thoughts about the experience. They also enjoyed eclipse cookies!



Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

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Erie, PA 16506-1249

Phone: 814-836-4100

Fax: 814-836-4278

E-mail: publicrelations@ssjerie.org



Connecting with God + Connecting with You

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The Call to be a Multi-issue Voter!

For more than 50 years, the organization *Network* has been advocating for justice. I participated in a webinar titled, *Informed, Engaged, and Committed* as part of its 2024 election training series. The first session covered the importance of being a multi-issue voter. I'd like to share with you some of the highlights of the training. *Network* operates out of three core values centered around a "just society."

1.) A just society includes everyone and values people over the accumulation of profits.

2.) A just society ensures that all people have what they need to live dignified lives.

3.) A just society recognizes that we live in an interconnected world.

Based on these values, it is immoral to allow a single issue to outweigh candidates' positions that harm immigrants and asylum seekers, low-income families, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, and the environment. By focusing on a single issue, it allows other social sins to continue unchecked, like economic exploitation, racism, xenophobia, and environmental destruction.

Network encourages all people of faith to embrace an expansive inclusive agenda of political priorities instead of a narrow one. To help us know

by Deb Seng, SSJ Social Justice Coordinator

we are voting for a candidate who promotes the common good, an "Equally Sacred Checklist 2024" can be found by clicking [Equally Sacred 2024 Drafting \(networkadvocates.org\)](https://networkadvocates.org).

Please share the checklist with as many people as you can. If you are interested in participating in this 4-part training, *NETWORK* is repeating it in May. Go to [Networklobby.org](https://networklobby.org), click on **Act Now**, and then **2024 Election Training series**. You will see at the bottom the dates in May that are offered. The training is FREE and it is a wonderful resource for educating yourself as a faithful voter.