

Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM MOUNT ST. JOSEPH



137 MOUNT ST. JOSEPH ROAD,
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

Congregation looks forward with **New Leadership; New Vision**

In a spirit of great joy and anticipation, nearly 300 sisters, associates, staff, and other partners in mission of the Congregation of St. Joseph came together for our Chapter meeting April 2-7, 2018, in Chicago, with many more joining by live-streaming from our centers and homes.

Community members elected the congregation's new leadership team who will serve a five-year term beginning in August. The newly elected team is a group of multi-talented women who are deeply committed to furthering

the mission of unity in today's world. They are (below right, clockwise from top) Sisters Marie Hogan, Sallie Latkovich, Pat Warbritton, Jacqueline Goodin, and Kathy Brazda. Please join us in welcoming our new team and in gratitude for the amazing leadership of our current team. ●



Clockwise from top: Sisters Paula Terese Pilon, Maria Francisca Izawa, Theresa Pitruzzello and Erin McDonald mug for a selfie; Chapter 2018 workbook; current leadership team members Sisters Rita Ann Teichman and Jeannie Masterson help open the proceedings; our newly elected leadership team; and members vote to affirm our new directional statement.

Life at The Mount

There is always plenty of activity going on at Mount St. Joseph and with our sisters who live there. Below are just a few examples of what our sisters and associates have been up to recently...



Sister Ruthann Scherer Assumes New Role

After retiring from nursing in 2015, Sister Ruthann Scherer, a native of Centerville, MN, having lived and ministered in Crookston, MN. for many years, moved to Wheeling. During the past few years, Sister Ruthann volunteered at Liza's Place, Valley Hospice Care Center South, and in the fall of 2017, assumed the role of Coordinator of Community Life at Mount St. Joseph. Her new role enables her to work closely with the sisters to assist with their needs as well as coordinate their day-to-day activities and events. "I am happy here in Wheeling and love the beauty around me, especially the deer, birds, and sunsets," said Sister Ruthann. "It is truly a joy to work so closely with the sisters who continue to be so welcoming to all who enter into our lives. I am grateful to be able to live and work in community with these amazing, faith-filled women."



Sister Mary DiDomenico - Volunteer Extraordinaire!

Sister Mary DiDomenico has much to celebrate this year! She was honored on April 16, 2018, at Wheeling Hospital's Annual Volunteer Dinner. Sister Mary provided a whopping 1,500 hours of volunteer service to the hospital this past year alone. Last year, which was her first year volunteering at the hospital, she was named "Rookie of the Year," making her an honoree two years in a row! Sister Mary is also celebrating her 70th Jubilee as a Sister of St. Joseph this year (see page 4). Jubilee is the name given to the anniversary of a Sister's entrance into religious life. Congratulations, Sister Mary, on both of these achievements!



Congregation Participates in **United Nations Commission**

The Congregation of St. Joseph was once again well represented at the United Nations 62nd Commission on the Status of Women. This year's meeting focused on the status of rural women, especially with the goal of gender equality and reducing violence against women. Attending this year were, from left to right, Sisters Mary Ellen Loch and Rose Ann Hefner, and Associate Judith Wilkinson. Sister Mary Ellen sees the Congregations' attendance at the Women's Conference as essential to our justice work in other areas. "The violence and suppression of women all over the world, the discrimination that many face and the lack of respect for women and their gifts effects many of the issues we are working so hard to eradicate," she said. "Human trafficking, poverty, domestic violence, and many others are all issues that disproportionately affect women around the globe."

Anti-Racism Workshop Explores History of Institutional Racism, Provides Diversity Training

Almost 50 sisters, associates, staff, and friends, including many from Wheeling, participated in “Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism,” a workshop held May 9-11 in Cleveland. The workshop was facilitated by Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training, an organization whose mission is to dismantle systemic racism within institutions and build anti-racist multicultural diversity through training.

From left to right are: Sister Judith Ann Teufel, staff members Erica Gump and Cindy Albert, and Sisters Barbara Kupchak and Carmella Campione.



ST. JOSEPH RETREAT CENTER



Participants make Peace-Meal Bread with the help of Sister Mary Clark, CSJ (far left). Bread-making workshops are offered yearly at St. Joseph Retreat Center. Check our website for future dates.



A group participating in “All for One and One for All: Kinship and Caring for Creation,” a Lenten program sponsored by St. Joseph Retreat Center and Catholic Charities of West Virginia.

St. Joseph Retreat Center is a non-profit ministry located at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling. We serve the community as a means of extending our mission of loving unity to which we, the Sisters of St. Joseph, are called.

We offer a variety of retreats, programs and workshops year-round, and welcome people of all faith traditions. Through our programming and natural, peaceful environment, the retreat center is a place where groups and individuals may nourish their spirit and spiritual lives. In addition to programs, workshops and retreats, we also offer spiritual direction, Reiki, therapeutic massage, and other wellness options.

To learn more, please check us out online at:

www.stjosephretreatcenter.org

(our 2019 programs will be available online in January)

or on **Facebook** at **Saint Joseph Retreat Center**

Or contact us at:

saintjosephretreatcenter137@gmail.com

304.232.8160 ext. 112

We hope to see you soon!

JUBILEE 2018



Sister Mary DiDomenico
(Sister Mary Esther)

70 Years

"I am so appreciative of my 70 years as a Sister of St. Joseph. They have been filled with many blessings and great relationships on many journeys. I have also been blessed with the support of the sisters in my community and my family. What more can I ask for?"



Sister Eileen Marie Sinnott

70 Years

"I concentrate my ministry on praying for and inviting young men and women to consider the priesthood or religious life as their future. Hopefully, the Call of Christ will once again be ignited...It gives me great joy and spiritual satisfaction to experience the growth of the love of Jesus in the hearts of all those who are discerning."



Sister Mary Alice Girrens

60 Years

"Living and ministering in Wheeling has been a wonderful experience. It's been a great opportunity to get to know new people and see a new part of the country. I think it's also been a way of contributing to the life of the new congregation in this new capacity. I have had many wonderful opportunities through the years to serve the people of God, neighbors, family and friends. This service has brought me great fulfillment."



Sister Jane Harrington
(Sister Mary Miriam)

60 Years

"What I really want to celebrate is God's goodness to me over these 60 years. Looking back over these years, and further back to those years growing up, I am awed at God's graciousness, patience, persistence, and sense of humor. I celebrate with gratitude all those people who have revealed the face of God to me in touching and unexpected ways, and most especially the sisters and associates of the Congregation of St. Joseph."



Sister Joan Singer
(Sister Paula)

60 Years

"I am grateful for the many blessings of the past 60 years, especially for God's love and faithfulness in my life. I am also grateful for the many people who have journeyed with me, and I look forward to the adventures of the years to come."

Congratulations

to these and all 40 sisters who are celebrating Jubilees around the congregation this year!

To view full biographies, visit us at www.csjoseph.org, and click on "Connect With Us" then "Jubilarians."

Sisters to Host 30th and Final Spaghetti Dinner and Craft Sale

The end of an era is near. On Sunday, November 4, 2018, the 30th and Final Spaghetti Dinner and Craft Sale will be hosted at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling. The annual event benefitting the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph is a local tradition that has served thousands of Ohio Valley residents over the past 30 years.

“It takes 240 pounds of pasta, 150 gallons of spaghetti sauce, 260 pounds of homemade sausage, and over 3,500 hand-rolled meatballs to feed the over 1,000 people who come each year,” said Sister Marguerite O’Brien, event co-chairperson and a member of the Congregation Leadership Team. “The sisters are so grateful to all of our generous sponsors and the many area businesses for donating all of the food, supplies, or funds that made this event possible over the years.”

Sister Maria Porter, event co-chairperson, has spearheaded the event since the very first one thirty years ago. “I was part of the group that started the first spaghetti dinner,” Sister Maria explained. “Many of our volunteers through the years have gone to heaven, and I miss them, but we still have a small group that have been with us since the third dinner, including Chuck Wagner and Jim and Mary Ann Powell.” Waneta Acker, who passed away in November of 2015, was also a big part of the event’s success since the beginning. “I am amazed at how successful the dinner has become,” said Sister Maria.



Preparing for the 30th and Final Spaghetti Dinner and Craft Sale are (from left): Sister Crafters Mary Alice Girrens, Marguerite O’Brien, Mary Ann Rosenbaum, Kathleen Durkin, and Gabriella Wagner. Not pictured is Sister Joan Singer.

“I would have never guessed in the beginning that we would one day be serving 1,200 to 1,300 dinners every year!”

In addition to the delicious homemade dinner, the final event will also once again showcase crafts and baked goods made by sisters as well as their family and friends. The crafters include Sister Gabriella Wagner, who is celebrating her 100th birthday this July! Sister Gabriella is one of the long-time crafters, who each year spends many days prior to the dinner sewing stuffed animals for the craft sale, which are always a popular item.

“We invite everyone to come on November 4 and celebrate this final spaghetti dinner with us at Mount St. Joseph,” said Sister Marguerite. “It will truly be a bittersweet day for us as we say goodbye to this long-standing tradition.” ●

In Memoriam...



Sister Carol Hannig, CSJ

We remember Sister Carol Hannig, CSJ, from the founding community of Wheeling, who entered into eternal life on August 23, 2017, at the age of 73 years, after celebrating 55 years of religious life in the Congregation of St. Joseph. We commend Sister Carol to your prayers.

We
*Remember
and Celebrate*
the lives of all our sisters
who passed away
this year.

West Virginia Auxiliary Celebrates

165th Anniversary of Sisters in Wheeling

Celebration is the theme for the West Virginia Auxiliary of the Congregation of St. Joseph in 2018 as it recognizes the 165th anniversary of the arrival in Wheeling of the Sisters of St. Joseph from Carondelet.

The Auxiliary has been raising funds to meet special needs of the sisters of the congregation at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling for 28 years, according to Tammy Poppe, Auxiliary president. This year, in conjunction with the 165th anniversary of the congregation's service to the community, the Auxiliary's activities will include a 165+ Club featuring monthly monetary drawings, a Summer Cash Raffle, as well as its premier event, the annual Gala and Reverse Raffle in October.

"Plans are underway to make this year's Gala extra special in recognition of the arrival in 1853 of the sisters to Wheeling. Their contributions to the community in education, health care, and other involvement have been remarkable," Poppe said.

Congregation Grant Helps Bring Yoga and Job Skills to Incarcerated Women

Sister Jane Harrington (inset) recently attended the graduation of eight women incarcerated at West Virginia State Prison for Women, who completed the rigorous curriculum to become certified yoga instructors. Not only can they now teach in prison, but upon release, will leave with a valuable, marketable skill. A grant from the Congregation's Generous Promise Grant Fund supplied the women with a yoga mat, a binder of resources, and accessories to help get them started. Laotong Yoga instructors Sue Julian and Barb Steinke took it from there, teaching the women to become instructors during one full weekend each month for a year. Sister Jane,



From left: Sister Mary Palmer; Lisa Werner, Auxiliary Treasurer; Sisters Christine Riley and Mary Ann Rosenbaum; Tammy Poppe, Auxiliary President; and Lynn Comerci, Auxiliary Board Member.

The Auxiliary's efforts over the past 28 years have resulted in the purchase of items that have supported the comfort and care of the sisters residing at Mount St. Joseph, including a golf cart that allows the sisters more access to several areas of the property. Funds were also used to install sidewalks and a marble and concrete base for the statue at the sisters' new section at Mount Calvary Cemetery, new landscaping at the commemorative site of the sisters' arrival in Wheeling located at Heritage Port, a new table and chairs for the sisters' second floor kitchen, new outdoor furniture, and a new audio system for the chapel and downstairs meeting room to accommodate sisters who are hearing impaired. The Auxiliary's efforts also partially funded a new handicap-accessible prayer labyrinth at Mount St. Joseph which was completed last year. ●



who sponsored the grant proposal, said, "The goals of this program, which include nurturing peace, wellness, justice, and compassion, resonated with me because they are so much a part of the mission of the congregation. I felt privileged to be there to support these women - both the teachers and the students." To learn more, visit www.laotongyoga.org ●

Legacy of the Lacemakers

The legacy of caring and the mission of the Congregation of St. Joseph were begun by our first six Sisters in LePuy, France, more than 360 years ago, and continue today because of the support provided by you - our faithful donors and friends.

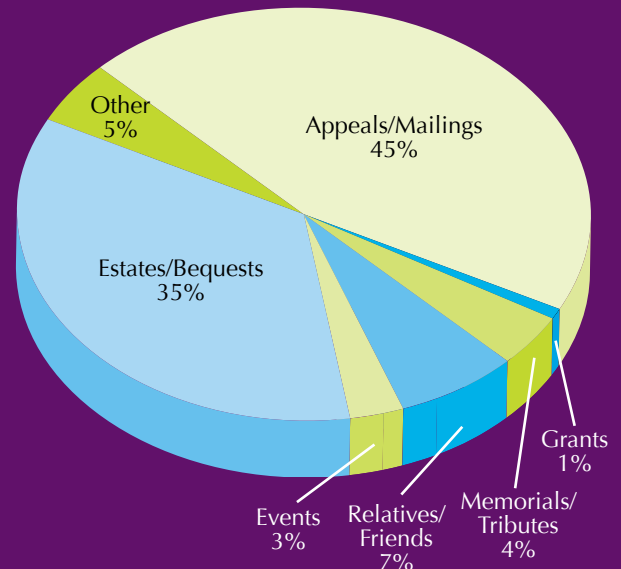
There are many ways you can help ensure that our mission, ministries, and outreach continues now and into the future, including through your prayers, direct annual gifts, membership in our Circle of Friends monthly sustaining donor circle and through your will and estate plans as part of our Heritage Society.

Planned gifts are easy to set up and can be mutually beneficial to both you and the sisters. Your gift to us through your estate, will, life insurance policy or a charitable gift annuity automatically enrolls you as a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph Heritage Society. Leaving a legacy gift to the sisters will enable you to support the sisters in their mission for generations to come and to assist the retired and infirm sisters as they live out their lives in prayerful simplicity.

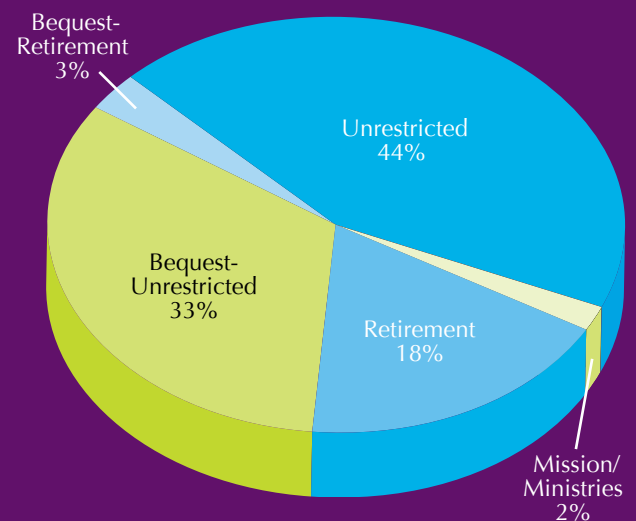
Please consider remembering the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph when making your estate plans. Please feel free to call or email us. We would be happy to assist you with any questions or information you might need.

Annual Giving Report

Revenue Sources



Donor Designated Uses



*This reporting documents the sources and designated uses of the charitable donations received by the Congregation in 2017. This includes the gifts received by the Congregation that are designated to some of our sponsored ministries while gifts sent directly to our ministries are not included here. We rely on the generous support of our benefactors and openly share how gifts received on behalf of the Sisters of St. Joseph are used.

To learn more, please contact Pat Milenius at pmilenius@csjoseph.org, or call 216.252.0440. You can also visit us online at www.csjoseph.org/make-a-gift.



137 Mount St. Joseph Road
Wheeling, WV 26003-1762

Spotlight Photo



Each year Sisters (religious and biological) Peggy and Eileen Sinnott entertain family that visit from Ireland. Shown here during a recent visit, the family members are (bottom row from left) Pauline Byrne and Mary Kehoe; (middle row from left) Leo Sinnott and Sisters Peggy and Eileen Sinnott; and (top row from left) Elizabeth Whelan and Tony Whelan.

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Upcoming Events...

Annual Associates and Sisters Meeting

September 7-9, 2018
Mount St. Joseph

The Simple Care of a Hopeful Heart

Dr. Robert Wicks
Saturday, September 29, 2018
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Mount St. Joseph Chapel

Auxiliary Gala

Thursday, October 4, 2018
Wheeling (location TBD)

30th (and final) Spaghetti Dinner and Craft Sale

Sunday, November 4, 2018
Mount St. Joseph

Advent Evening by the Fire

Thursday, December 6, 2018
7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Retreat Center

Advent Day of Reflection

Saturday, December 8, 2018
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Mount St. Joseph Chapel

Auxiliary Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, December 9, 2018
Wilson Lodge,
Oglebay Park

For more information, call
304.232.8160

Reservations are required for all events.