

2018 Edition

Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH



1515 WEST OGDEN AVENUE
LA GRANGE PARK, IL

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.

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Marks Beginning of Construction on New Home For Sisters

The Congregation of St. Joseph put shovels in the ground on Thursday, June 21, 2018, to mark the official start of construction on a new home for our sisters in La Grange Park.

The new motherhouse will include 26 apartments that will offer sisters assisted living options to allow them to age in place. The new building is an addition to the campus which also includes The Well Spirituality Center, Ministry of the Arts, the Chapel, and Nazareth Academy.

“We are excited to be creating a beautiful new home for our sisters here in La Grange Park” said Sister Pat Bergen, a member of the Congregational Leadership Team. “The fact that we are building here is a resounding indication of our commitment to remain a part of this vibrant neighborhood.”

Sister Chris March agrees. “We have a long history of seeking out what is needed in the community and providing for that need,” she said. “We pray that God will continue to guide our hearts and our projects as we look for new ways to serve our dear neighbors.”

In keeping with the Congregation’s commitment to Earth and care of creation, the new building will have a solar power system and other environmentally conscious elements. In addition, much of the brick, steel and other materials taken from the deconstructed build-



Members of the Congregational Leadership Team, along with staff from our La Grange Park center and representatives from Hoffman Construction Company, put ceremonial shovels in dirt to mark the beginning of construction. Inclement weather prohibited the ceremony from taking place outdoors.

ing will be reused in other projects. “By doing all these things, the congregation is cutting its carbon footprint,” said Sister Pat. “This building is being constructed to the highest environmental standards and will have specifications for LEED Gold certification.”

Anticipated completion of the building will be in the fall of 2019. The new building will be managed by CSJ Initiatives, the senior care and property management arm of the congregation. To learn more, visit us online at www.csjinitiatives.org. ●



Jubilee 2018



Sister Rita Stalzer, CSJ

75 Years

“Our charism of living and working ‘that all may be one’ with an orientation of gentleness, peace and joy has motivated my activities and interests. For all of these blessings I am most grateful to God, my family, my congregation and those with whom I have lived and ministered.”



Sister Michele Elfering, CSJ

70 Years

“I can look back on my life with joy because of the wonderful people I have met, worked with, and shared many great adventures. Religious life has given me opportunities including yearly retreat time and the times our sisters gather for prayers. God has indeed been good to me.”



Sister Margaret (Peggy) Wessel, CSJ

50 Years

“At this Jubilee time, I feel very loved as Jesus and I look at each other. I know God has been loving me and listening as I pray for all of you. God is near. God is love and loves us all – we just have to hold on to the golden thread.”

Congratulations...

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

To view biographies, visit us at www.csjoseph.org, and click on “Connect With Us.”

School and Tutors on Wheels is now TEACH

The congregation’s long-time sponsored ministry, School and Tutors on Wheels in La Grange Park, has officially changed their name to TEACH - Tutoring English to Advance Change. The name change was the result of a discernment process undertaken by members of TEACH’s board, staff, students and tutors, along with members of the congregation, designed to determine how the free tutoring ministry could best continue to meet the evolving needs of the community.

“We recognized that the community associated School and Tutors on Wheels with its bus,” said Constantine Bitsas, TEACH’s Executive Director. “We moved away from tutoring on the bus due to many challenges more than two years ago. Once the bus was gone, we lost that identity but kept the name. As we look forward, we felt that it was time to adopt a name that reflects our present and future.”

Bitsas said that TEACH’s mission will continue to be one-on-one English literacy tutoring based on relationship-building, a sense of community, cultural mentoring, and advocacy to empower those with limited English skills to make themselves heard and understood. “Our vision is to increase our community presence and to partner with other community agencies to help empower students who are confronted with challenges,” he added.

On May 4, TEACH held their annual fundraiser which was attended by several of our sisters and associates who volunteer as tutors or serve in other capacities. In the photo above are (clockwise): Sisters Grace Sbrissa, Jeanne Oursler, Rosemary LaFlaur, Marlene Schemmel, and Michele Elfering, Associate Sue Imhoff, and Sisters Leyla Cerda, and Julie Cannon. ●

To learn more about TEACH, visit us online at www.schoolandtutorsonwheels.org.

Special Project

All gifts will be acknowledged on a special plaque in or near the chapel.



We Need Your Help!



In 1967, Sister George Ellen Holmgren's beautifully designed stained glass windows were completed and installed along two walls of our Chapel in La Grange Park. Sister George Ellen studied stained glass artwork from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, and earned a Master of Art degree in Florence, Italy.

Inspired by the philosophy of Jesuit priest Teilhard de Chardin, Sister George Ellen wove the story of natural evolutionary theology into the twelve Chapel window panels using glass from all over the world. Completed and dedicated in 1968, the windows are translucent so that we can experience the flow of the world outside and not be separate from it.

The stained glass windows and Chapel with its iconic shape quickly became a focal point of not just our center, but the La Grange Park neighborhood. Fifty years later, it remains so.

Before ground was broken on our new home in June (see story on page 2), it was decided that the Chapel would be transitioned to Nazareth Academy for their use once our sisters move into their new home, which will contain a smaller, right-sized Chapel. The congregation conducted an inspection of the stained glass windows recently which were showing signs of damage and decay. It was found that there is significant deterioration occurring to the windows, including broken glass, cracked solder joints, separation of reinforcement bars from the windows, and cracked and distressed lead. The added element of intense

heat buildup from direct exposure to the sun has taken its toll. Numerous attempts to repair the windows in place have occurred, but this is no longer a viable option. In order to save the windows, the decision was made to remove them and have them sent to a professional restoration firm who is currently in the process of repairing and restoring them.

PROJECT COSTS

There are a total of 12 bays of windows, and each bay costs **\$25,000** to remove, repair, restore, and re-install for a total cost of **\$300,000**. While this is a significant amount, we are well on our way to reaching our goal!

WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP?

Please help by donating to the **Chapel Window Restoration Project!** With your support, our Chapel will continue to be a sacred space for the community for years to come. All donors who give a gift will be included in the Chapel's Perpetual Prayer Book and acknowledged on a plaque in the area of the Chapel.

To make a special donation to the **Chapel Window Restoration Project**, detach the envelope and indicate the amount you wish to give on the designated line.

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS SUPPORT!**

Legacy of the Lacemakers

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

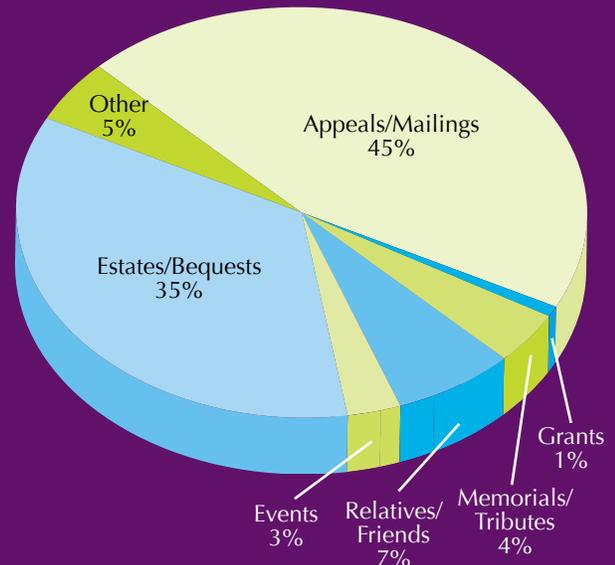
There are many ways you can help ensure that our mission, ministries, and outreach continues now and into the future, including through your prayers, direct annual gifts, membership in our Circle of Friends monthly sustaining donor circle and through your will and estate plans as part of our Heritage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

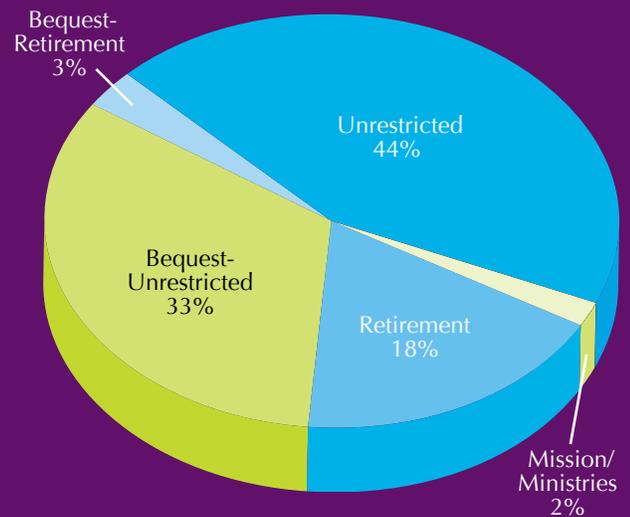
Please consider remembering the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph when making your estate plans. Please feel free to call or email us. We would be happy to assist you with any questions or information you might need.

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.

In Memoriam...



Sister Roseann Eck, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on January 31, 2018, after 70 years of religious life.



Sister Margaret Halligan, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on January 14, 2018, after 69 years of religious life.



Sister Lorraine Ruh, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on January 11, 2018, after 76 years of religious life.



Sister Lorraine Mark, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on December 1, 2017, after 62 years of religious life.



Sister Bonaventure "Bonnie" Hill, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on September 17, 2017, after 82 years of religious life.



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

PEACE AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Sisters Join With Students to End Gun Violence



In June, several of our sisters attended the **Peace March and Rally** at St. Sabina's Catholic Church, which brought the community together to raise awareness of, and help bring an end to, gun violence in Chicago. Attendees included Cardinal Cupich, students from Parkland, Fl., singer Jennifer Hudson, and hip hop artist Chance the Rapper. Members of Chicago Strong, a coalition of students committed to being part of the solution to end gun violence, helped organized the powerful event. Seen here from left to right are Sisters Pat Bergen, a member of our Congregational Leadership Team, Julie Cannon, Pat Murphy, who is a Sister of Mercy, and Pat Murray, and Kathy Sherman. ●

Marquette University's Center For Peacemaking

Congregation of St. Joseph Associates Mary Jo Hazard (center) and Jim Boyd (far left), along with Sister Grace Sbrissa (right center), recently visited the the **Marquette University Center for Peacemaking** in Milwaukee, Wi., an organization that has received funding from the Congregation's Generous Promises Grant Fund. While there they met with Sherri Walker (left center), the Peace Works Program Coordinator, and got to witness instructor Tim Jefferies (far right) teach a Peace Works class to a group of fifth grade boys. "Can you imagine fifth grade boys saying that their favorite classes were Values, Empathy, Forgiveness, Managing Anger, and Honesty/Integrity?" said Mary Jo. Those are just a few of the concepts that are taught at the center. Sister Grace commented on the Center for Peacemaking's constant attempt to expand and deepen their mission of unifying love. "To put it succinctly," she said, "they get it!" Mary Jo agrees. "The partnership of the Congregation of St. Joseph and The Marquette Center for Peacemaking is creating systemic change for youth, faculty and communities which inspires me and makes me proud," she said. "We are truly all ONE!" ●



Sister Jean McGrath Says Goodbye to St. John Fisher School

Sister Jean McGrath, CSJ, is retiring after 32 years as principal at St. John Fisher Elementary School in Chicago. After graduating from what was then called Rosary College (now Dominican University), Sister Jean's first job was teaching second grade at Divine Infant School in Westchester. She also taught at St. Paul High School, a short-lived experimental school in the Archdiocese, then became principal of St. Hugh Elementary School in Lyons. When she learned about an opening at St. John Fisher, near her home parish of St. Cajetan, she agreed to take the position, figuring she'd stay about three years. "Thirty years later, here I am," she said. A sign in honor of Sister Jean McGrath hangs on the corner of 103rd and Fairfield outside St. John Fisher School. We thank you for your years of service to the community, Sister Jean, and wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement! ●



1515 West Ogden Avenue
La Grange Park, IL 60526

Spotlight Photo



Sisters joined students from Nazareth Academy on April 20, 2018, for an Anti-Violence Peace Event in observance of the 20th Anniversary of the Columbine school shootings, and in remembrance of the many student lives lost to school violence since then. The event was student planned and led, and included a prayer service, walk-out and break-out sessions.

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For information on upcoming workshops, retreats, featured programs, spiritual direction, healing services, yoga and more, we invite you to visit us online at **CSJtheWell.org**, or call **708.482.5028**.

The Well Spirituality Center, a sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph, is committed to strengthening, healing, and calling forth the inherent wholeness of Earth, our human community and all creation.