

# Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH



1515 WEST OGDEN AVENUE  
LA GRANGE PARK, IL



More  
photos next  
page >

## Sisters Prepare to Move Into New Home!

After years of planning and construction, we are very happy to report that the orange fences finally came down on our property in La Grange Park in April! What had been a construction site now looks like a home, soon to be filled with prayer, ministry and life.

Construction on our new home began last summer after the six-story building on the site was de-constructed. Additional updates and renovations also occurred in our other three-story building that houses The Well, Ministry of the Arts and congregational offices.

As we near the conclusion of construction and renovations, we look forward with hope to a sustainable and vibrant future. The changes to our campus will enable us to better respond to the needs of the *dear neighbor* and spread Christ's message of inclusive love, while also honoring our commitment to care for our sisters.

Our new center is a two-story, licensed assisted living residence, constructed with energy saving technology and employing solar power supplied from the roof of the new car ports. Twenty-six individual apartments,

community space on each floor, a prayer/activity room and an oratory fill our new home.

Sustainable choices in design, renovation and new construction will result in a reduction of our carbon footprint. Resulting savings will create additional resources to fulfill our commitment to addressing the needs in our community.

The oratory will be a sacred space that embraces the artistic vision of our congregation. Community rooms and sisters' apartments are beautifully furnished to ensure that each sister and her guests feel at home. The outside patio and walking path will be surrounded by a garden for the sisters to enjoy nature and God's creation. ●

### Financial contributions are welcome!

If you would like to contribute to our new home, please use the enclosed envelope. For questions or to learn more, contact Karen Herman DeMuro at 708.482.5037 or [khermandemuro@csjoseph.org](mailto:khermandemuro@csjoseph.org)

# A Peak Inside Our New Home

Our new residence is taking shape inside as well! We are excited to share a few interior photos of our new home.



*One of the fully equipped shared kitchens.*



*Sister Pat Bergen in one of the new community rooms.*



*The new lobby, waiting to welcome friends and guests.*

## Thanking the Workers

In celebration of St. Joseph the Worker Day on May 1st, our sisters honored and thanked the construction crew by treating them to lunch in our dining room. Center staff joined the celebration as we toasted and sang to the crew, some still wearing their hard hats, as they took this well deserved break. We thank you for your hard work in creating our beautiful new home!



## *In Memoriam...*



Sister Ricardo DiSanto, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on December 27, 2018, after 74 years of religious life.



Sister Dorothy Lynch, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on September 12, 2018, after 69 years of religious life.

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

# WELCOMING THE STRANGER

## On the Border

### Sisters and Associates serve the *dear neighbor* in El Paso

This past March and April, sisters, associates and other partners in mission headed south to Texas to serve at intake facilities on the U.S./Mexican border in El Paso. Their duties ranged from organizing donated clothing and supplies, preparing, serving and cleaning up meals; setting up sleeping areas; and other work that addresses essential needs of arriving refugees and asylum seekers.

Of those who served, the following sisters call our La Grange Park center home: Sisters Pat Bergen, Marlene Schemmel and Jackie Schmitz, who served in early April, and Sister Mary Jo Curtsinger, who served later that month.

“Our time working at the border has deepened our understanding of this devastating humanitarian issue,” said Sister Pat. “The incoming refugees we interacted with were thrilled just to get a meal and clean clothes after their long journeys from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. I was humbled by the incredible number of local volunteers who gave of their time and resources to assist their fellow human beings with great compassion and kindness.”



Sister Mary Jo, who served during Holy Week, was part of a Holy Thursday service where she helped bless the refugees' feet and hands. “We gave them new socks and little cups of Vaseline for their blistered lips, bruises and dry hands,” she said. “I was privileged to welcome and serve these brothers and

sisters in Christ, and pray that as a country, we can decide to do better.” ●



^ Sisters Pat Bergen, Marlene Schemmel and Jackie Schmitz prepare lunch for arriving refugees.



> Sisters Jackie and Pat receive a hug from one of the refugee children.



< Sisters Rosemary Balog, Rita Ann Teichman and Pam Owens help serve a meal during their service trip in April.



> A little boy colors on the floor with other refugee children.



^ Sister Erin McDonald in front of the wall during her second trip to the border in March.

To learn more about our immigration justice work, join us at [csjoseph.org](http://csjoseph.org) and click on ‘How We Serve’ then ‘Social Justice’



## Partnership Continues to Work For Peace

The Marquette University Center for Peacemaking (MUCP), a recipient of a grant from the Congregation of St. Joseph, gathered friends and donors in Chicago on May 22, 2019, to thank them and share the inspiring results of their generosity over the past year.

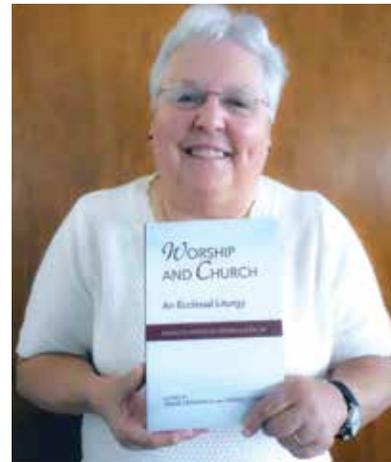
CSJ Associate Mary Jo Hazard spoke at the event about the partnership between the congregation and MUCP, and how it has been mutually beneficial in extending our mission of unity via the Peace Works Program. “We share a common purpose - to bring peace to our country and our world,” she said. “The congregation’s grant was used to teach conflict resolution in local schools, encourage research efforts by faculty and students and develop strategies for peacemaking. We are immensely blessed and grateful for the congregation’s ongoing support.”

Pictured from left to right are MUCP staff members Lynn O’Brien and Sherry Walker, CSJ Associates Jim and Bea Boyd and Mary Jo Hazard, Sister Jackie Schmitz, CSJ, and Dr. Terrence Rynne, founder of the Center for Peacemaking. This past April, Dr. Rynne was awarded the 2019 Humanitarian Award from the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation in Washington, DC, for his work in conflict resolution and peacemaking. The Center for Peacemaking has worked to improve quality of life and reduce crime in Milwaukee’s inner city. ●

Learn more about the Center for Peacemaking and the Peaceworks Program at [marquette.edu/peacemaking/](http://marquette.edu/peacemaking/)

## In the News...

*In May, Sister Kathy Brazda, a member of our Leadership Team, traveled to Rome to attend the International Union of Superior Generals (IUSG). Over 800 women religious leaders from 80 different countries were present. A highlight of her time at the Vatican was a private audience with Pope Francis.*



*Sister Sallie Latkovich, a member of our Leadership Team, recently published “Worship and Church: An Ecclesial Liturgy,” a collection of essays in honor of her friend and colleague, Father Jerry Austin, OP. It is available from Paulist Press and Amazon.com.*



*Employees at our La Grange Park center were recently recognized for 5, 10, 15 and 20 year work anniversaries during a special St. Joseph the Worker Day celebration in May. Standing, from left to right are: Dorothy Wilkinson, Christine Arellano, Barbara Boyd, Mike Bellovich, Bridget Spurduto, Janet Owens and Simona Istrate. Seated, from left to right are: Paulette Dudley, Judy Jarosik and Susan Jonas. Congratulations to all, and thank you for your service!*

# SUPPORTING EDUCATION

## Sisters Support TEACH

On May 4, 2019, sisters attended the annual benefit gala for TEACH (Tutoring English to Advance Change), a sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph. TEACH works toward systemic change in society by empowering English language learners to build their strengths and effective use of their voice. TEACH also provides one-on-one tutoring for U.S. citizenship exam preparation, and works to ensure inclusion of those typically excluded, under-represented or undervalued. TEACH was founded in 1993 by the sisters to help the growing immigrant population's inclusion into the community, in fulfillment of our spiritual mission, "That All May Be One." ●



^ Clockwise from top left, Sisters Kathy Sherman, Terry Middendorf, Mary Southard, Michele Elfering, Maria Hill and Judy Sikorski.

< From left, Sisters Jean McGrath, Marlene Schemmel and Jeanne Oursler.



## Sisters Join With Students in Puerto Rico for Mission Week

This past March, Sisters Pat Bergen and Kathy Sherman traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico, to spend time with students, faculty and staff at Academia Maria Reina during their Mission Week. The theme of the week was "We Are One: The Fire and Joy of the Mission," and Sisters Pat and Kathy had no trouble sharing their joy and passion for our mission. Academia Maria Reina is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, NY. ●

## Celebrating St. Joseph Day at Nazareth Academy

In June, sponsored ministry and next door neighbor Nazareth Academy hosted the annual CSSJ Student-Leadership Conference. Students, faculty and staff from Saint Joseph Academy in Cleveland and St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge traveled to Chicago to join with Nazareth Academy students, faculty and staff to immerse themselves in the mission and spirituality of the Congregation of St. Joseph. We are so proud of our three sponsored high schools! Nazareth Academy thanks the following sisters who took part in the day for their time and enthusiasm: Sisters Kathy Brazda '74, Celeste Cotter, Carol Crepeau '57, and Pat Murray '80. Sisters Terry Middendorf '60, who serves as Academic Dean (pictured top), and Marianne Race '59, who serves on the Board of Trustees (pictured bottom), were thanked for their continued leadership and presence at Nazareth Academy with flowers from Student Council. ●



# Jubilee 2019

Jubilee is the anniversary of a sisters' entrance into religious life.



Sister Ann Terese Reznicek, CSJ  
70 Years



Sister Joellen Sbrissa, CSJ  
60 Years



Sister Mary Schaefer, CSJ  
60 Years

## *Congratulations*

to these and all 50 sisters who are celebrating Jubilee from around the congregation this year! To view biographies, visit us at [csjoseph.org](http://csjoseph.org), and click on "Connect With Us"

## Special Project Update

Thanks to the generous support of so many of you in the community, we were able to completely restore the stained glass windows in our Chapel back to their original beauty. Earlier this year, we held a special Mass of appreciation to thank our friends and donors for their continued support, during which the new windows were blessed.

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



# Legacy of Caring

The legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph that began with six women in LePuy, France more than 360 years ago continues today because of support from donors and friends like you. Your faithful prayers and generous financial gifts help ensure that our legacy of caring continues to touch the lives of countless individuals and families each year.

We are grateful for our annual donors, Circle of Friends members, and our Heritage Society members who have remembered the Sisters and the Congregation of St. Joseph in your will and estate plans. Our mission and vision are enriched through your commitment.

## You Can Help

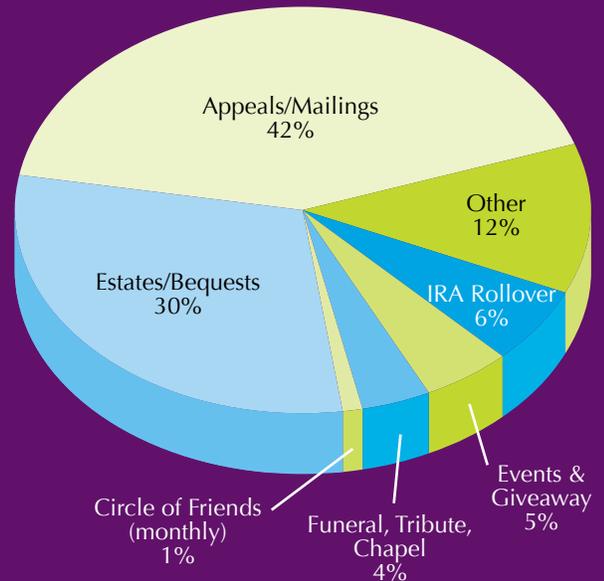
- > Use the enclosed envelope or make a gift online at [csjoseph.org/make-a-gift](https://csjoseph.org/make-a-gift)
- > Make monthly gifts and become a member of our **Circle of Friends**
- > Make a legacy gift through your will or estate and join our **Heritage Society**

## For more information:

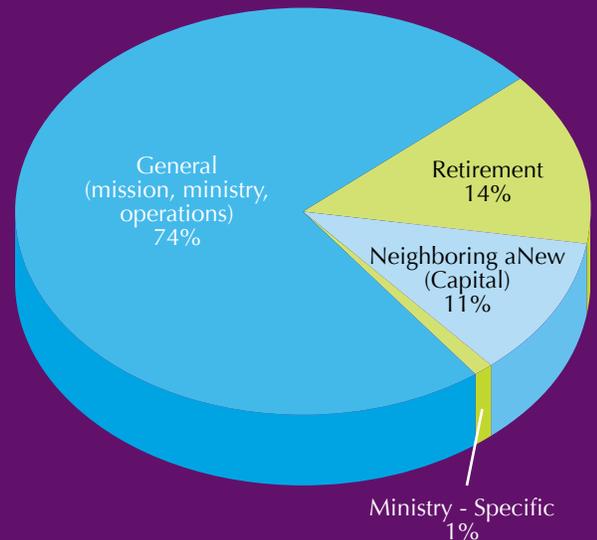
Pat Milenius, Director of Advancement  
[pmilenius@csjoseph.org](mailto:pmilenius@csjoseph.org) or 216.252.0440

## Annual Giving Report

Revenue Sources



Donor Designated Uses



\*This reporting documents the sources and designated uses of charitable donations received by the Congregation of St. Joseph in the 2018 fiscal year. This includes gifts received that are designated to our sponsored ministries. 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 are used.



1515 West Ogden Avenue  
La Grange Park, IL 60526

## Spotlight Photo



*Sisters Sister Therese Marczyk and Mary Schaefer help draw the winning ticket at our annual Giveaway drawing in March. Watch your mailboxes early next year for the 2020 Giveaway mailing. GOOD LUCK!*

## Connect With Us!



Share with us on Facebook at Congregation of St. Joseph



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Sign up to receive our sister-written blog, *Beyond the Habit*



Sign up to receive our bimonthly eNewsletter. Visit our homepage at [csjoseph.org](http://csjoseph.org)



Sign up to receive our biannual magazine *imagineONE*. Go to [csjoseph.org](http://csjoseph.org), click on "Connect With Us"



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](http://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.

## Join Us For Service Day!

Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, October 12, 2019**, when we will once again host our annual day of service. Details on service locations, times and how to sign up will be shared on [csjoseph.org](http://csjoseph.org) once finalized (end of summer), so check back and join us as we give back to our community!