

# Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM MOUNT ST. JOSEPH



137 MOUNT ST. JOSEPH ROAD,  
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

## Building COMMUNITY for PEACE



For five days in June, students gathered with sisters at Mount St. Joseph to take part in our annual Community Builders for Peace, a program sponsored by the Congregation of St. Joseph that empowers young people to actions that foster peace and justice.

At the end of the week, each school team created a justice project that they will take back to their respective schools and implement over the course of the next year and beyond. Each team has a young adult mentor to whom they will report back to on the progress and results of their projects.

The students, from Nazareth Academy in La Grange Park, IL, Maria Reina Academy in Puerto Rico and Wheeling Central Catholic High School, were immersed in the mission and spirituality of the congregation and also in ministry. That included working in the fields of Grow Ohio Valley, preparing a meal at House of Hagar (Catholic Worker House and Soup Kitchen), learning about the dangers and toxic results of coal mining, and playing with children at the Fun Raiser Ministry Project.

Sisters who participated in the week and worked with the students were Sisters Mary Ann Wyllie, Leyla Cerda, Jackie Schmitz, Kathleen Durkin, Rosie Hefner, Pat Bergen and Kathy Sherman.

We are so proud of these students who came together to learn leadership skills, reflect on our mission of unity, and complete much needed service at local organizations. ●



^ Sisters Pat Bergen, Kathy Sherman, Leyla Cerda and Jackie Schmitz work the fields with students at Farm 18, one of the community gardens of Grow Ohio Valley.

< Far left, Sister Kathy Sherman and students help prepare a meal at House of Hagar.

< Left, Isabella Sliwka holding a bag she silk screened for House of Hagar.

# AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

*Sisters of St. Joseph* have been ministering in Wheeling and surrounding areas for over 165 years as educators, nurses, social workers, spiritual directors, parish and hospital chaplains, and more. In recognition of and gratitude for this long standing presence and service to the community, our sisters were recognized this year by the following:



## Diocese of Wheeling/Charleston

In April, sisters were presented the Bishop's Cross award by the Diocese of Wheeling/Charleston. During the dinner, a video was shown that included interviews with Sisters Mary Palmer and Carmella Campione, and included several people who shared their memories and experiences of the sisters as educators. We thank the Diocese of Wheeling/Charleston for this recognition and award! ●

< Standing from left are Sisters Carmella Campione, Molly Bauer and Joan Kreyenbuhl, Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine, Sisters Mary Palmer and Kathleen Durkin. Seated from left are Sisters Christine Riley, Judy Teufel, Nancy White, Joyce Ann Waltz and Janice Landwehr.

## St. Vincent de Paul Parish and School

In March, sisters were celebrated by St. Vincent de Paul Parish and School in Wheeling at their Greenbacks Dinner. Many of our sisters taught at and served at both the school and parish for many years. The tables were filled with photos of sisters in the earlier days of ministry, and the program included the line: "Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall, Sisters of St. Joseph have done it all!" We thank St. Vincent de Paul for this recognition! ●

> Standing from left are Sisters Alicia Marie Weiskircher, Doris Crinkey, Mary Palmer, Kathleen Durkin and Janice Landwehr. Seated from left are Sisters Christine Riley, Judy Teufel, Joan Kreyenbuhl and Joyce Waltz.



## Catholic Charities of Wheeling

In March, sisters were presented the Charity in Action award by Catholic Charities of Wheeling. Sisters of St. Joseph have been ministering in Wheeling for over 165 years as educators, nurses, social workers, spiritual directors, parish and hospital chaplains, and more. They founded a variety of ministries including Catholic Charities of Wheeling. We thank Catholic Charities of Wheeling for this recognition and award! ●

< From left are Sister Ruthann Scherer, Associate Kathy Riley, and Sisters Mary Alice McMaster, Christine Riley, Helen Skormisley, Kathleen Durkin, Mary Palmer, Marguerite O'Brien, Joan Kreyenbuhl and Jane Harrington.

## The *Plight* of the *Monarch*

*Did you know...*

...that 1 out of every 3 bites of food you eat is there because of pollinators like the Monarch Butterfly? Did you also know that every fall, the Monarch's migrate 2,500 miles south to Mexico, and then make the trek back north in the spring, passing directly over West Virginia?

These creatures are as necessary to the food chain as they are beautiful, but sadly, they are in trouble. Their numbers are down 90% of what they were in 1992, and the milkweed plant population, which is indispensable to the Monarch, is also down 90%. Milkweed is the only source of food for the monarch caterpillar, but these plants are rapidly disappearing due to land development and the widespread spraying of weed killer.

Never ones to stand idly by, our sisters, associates and staff in Wheeling decided to do something to help the Monarchs. A plot of land at Mount St. Joseph is being planted with milkweed and other pollinator attractors such as wildflowers. This habitat is one of many being planted around the country by conservationists and regular folks alike who understand the importance of these creatures to our sustainable food chain, and also to preserving one of God's endangered creatures. ●



< Sister Kathleen Durkin with Jose Taracido of the University of California at Pennsylvania planting the new Butterfly Habitat at our Wheeling Center.



^ St. Joseph Retreat Center hosted a Butterfly Encounter Program in June led by Heather Tokas (far left), founder of the West Virginia Monarch Butterfly Day and creator of the West Virginia Monarch Butterfly State Festival. Attendees learned about and identified different butterflies and experienced an interactive butterfly tent!



# Life at The Mount

There is always lots going on at Mount St. Joseph with our sisters who live there, staff who work there, and associates and friends who visit. Here are just a few examples...

## Donor Appreciation Mass & Brunch

On May 19, 2019, we celebrated our many friends and supporters at a special Liturgy of Thanksgiving at Mount St. Joseph. Father Michael Nwokocha was the celebrant for the over 100 in attendance. Following Mass, Sister Christine Riley expressed our appreciation on behalf of the congregation. "Your loving kindness helps us to support our sisters working in ministry, as well as help our retired sisters," she said. "Your gifts also help us to support our ministries that tend to the vast needs of our *dear neighbors*, including Holy Family Child Care and Development Center and St. Joseph Retreat Center in Wheeling and ABLE Families in Kermit."

After Mass, a delicious brunch was served where sisters, associates and staff mingled and chatted with our friends and supporters in a spirit of fellowship and gratitude. We thank all our donors, including those who attended this event, for their presence and ongoing support! ●



^ Clockwise, Sister Gabriella Wagner (center), with her brother and sister-in-law, Chuck and Pat Wagner, was recognized during the Mass. Sister Gabriella celebrated her 101st birthday on July 9 and her 80th Jubilee as a Sister of St. Joseph in 2015.

Dr. Judy Romano, Sisters Mary Palmer and Caroline Benken, and Maria McKelvey.

Sister Anna Marie Cole, Kathleen Sokol, Eve Brill and Lucille Otte.

Sister Mary Alice McMaster (standing) with Janet Jaquay and Joan Pack.

Father Michael Nwokocha celebrates Mass.



## Celebrating Friends

Sisters gathered recently to thank and celebrate our good friends, the Jesuit Priests, for their many years of friendship, collaboration and support. It was a lovely evening of togetherness, appreciation, and of course, cake!



## Knitting Circle

This past winter, St. Joseph Retreat Center hosted a six-week knitting class of experienced and not-so-experienced knitters who created simple hats and scarves to donate to local charities who provide assistance to the homeless in our community. This “knitting circle” of women created and distributed many items to House of Hagar (Catholic Worker), Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center and the Wheeling Soup Kitchen. This is just one of many offerings of St. Joseph Retreat Center which provides opportunities to learn a new skill, for personal and spiritual growth, and to serve the *dear neighbors* in our community. To learn more, visit us online at [stjosephretreatcenter.org](http://stjosephretreatcenter.org).



## *In Memoriam...*



Sister Mairead Scanlon, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on April 15, 2019, after celebrating 73 years of religious life.



Sister Berenice Burkle, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on March 28, 2019, after celebrating 76 years of religious life.



Sister Mary Alice Girrens, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on March 12, 2019, after celebrating 61 years of religious life.



Sister Maria Joseph Corbett, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on December 21, 2018, after celebrating 74 years of religious life.

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

# Jubilee 2019

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



Sister Rita Marie von Berg, CSJ  
80 Years



Sister Mary Ellen Clark, CSJ  
60 Years

Sister Caroline Benken, CSJ  
70 Years



Sister Karen Kirby, CSJ  
50 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"

## Spaghetti Dinner Wrap-Up

### Thanks for the Memories...

For 30 years, the **Annual Spaghetti Dinner** held at Mount St. Joseph was a wonderful tradition in the community and a cherished event by our sisters, associates and staff.

We want to thank all who came each year to support us and this event. Know that we carry you and our many fond memories in our hearts and prayers!



## *Thank You Wheeling!*

# 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

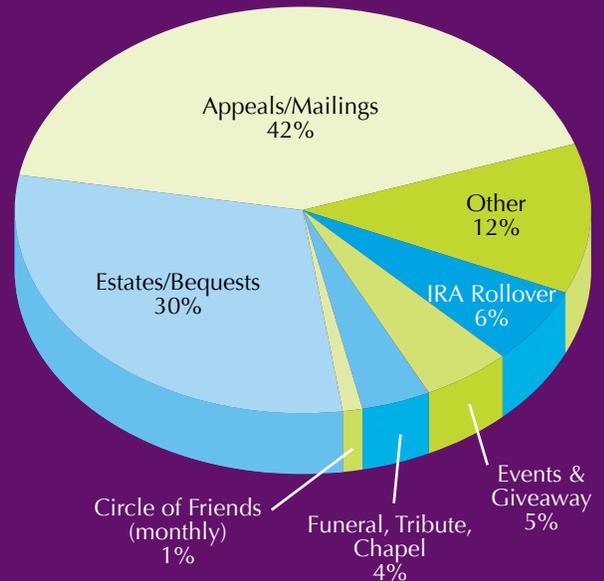
- > Use the enclosed envelope or make a gift online at [csjoseph.org/make-a-gift](https://csjoseph.org/make-a-gift)
- > Make monthly gifts and become a member of our **Circle of Friends**
- > Make a legacy gift through your will or estate and join our **Heritage Society**

## For more information:

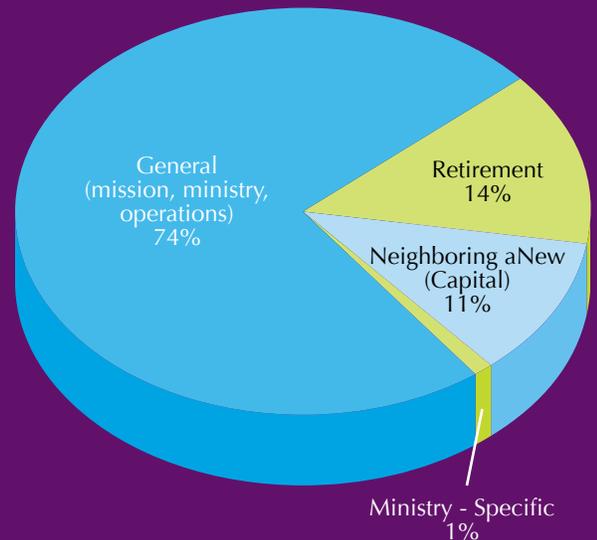
Pat Milenius, Director of Advancement  
[pmilenius@csjoseph.org](mailto:pmilenius@csjoseph.org) or 216.252.0440

## 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.



137 Mount St. Joseph Road  
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## Spotlight Photo



*We welcome Rose Mathes (center) who recently joined us as Coordinator of Community Life at Mount St. Joseph. Rose stepped in for Sister Ruthann Scherer (right), who retired earlier this year. She works closely with Center Administrator Cindy Albert (left) to keep things running smoothly at the Mount. Welcome Rose!*

## Connect With Us!



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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) and click on "Connect With Us"

## St. Joseph Retreat Center

Upcoming Programs, Retreats and Events

**Meditative Practices:  
A Mind-Body Approach  
to Healing**

Saturday, August 24, 2019  
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Annual Associates and  
Sisters Meeting**

September 13-15, 2019

**Apalachian Dulcimer  
Music: Well Loved Folk  
Songs, Poems & Stories**

Monday, September 23, 2019  
1:00 p.m.

**Soul Collage Retreat:  
Follow the Path of My Life**

September 27-29, 2019

**Living in the Present  
Moment Retreat**

October 18-20, 2019

**Art as Prayer: Dollmaking  
Retreat**

November 2-3, 2019

**Dreams: Speech of the  
Soul Retreat**

November 8-9, 2019

**Advent Evening by the Fire**

Thursday, December 5, 2019  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

For more information or to register, visit us online at [stjosephretreatcenter.org](http://stjosephretreatcenter.org)