

Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH



3700 EAST LINCOLN STREET,
WICHITA, KANSAS

Students Partner with Sisters and Dear Neighbor Ministries to tackle childhood poverty in Hilltop

Before graduating 8th grade at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School in Wichita, students complete what is known as a Culmination Project. Usually these projects consist of traditional research and writing on topics of social concern. Childhood poverty was the topic given to students Alex and Gabe, who chose to think outside the box by getting involved in the community.

Alex and Gabe met with Kit Lambert, CSJ Associate and Executive Director of Dear Neighbor Ministries, to discuss how they could help support the children of Hilltop, one of the poorest neighborhoods in Wichita. It was decided that these two 8th grade students would raise funds to purchase shoes for children who live in Hilltop, and participate in many of the children's programs offered by Dear Neighbor Ministries.

The boys learned a lot about childhood poverty through research, but they learned and benefited far more from their experiences meeting and interacting with the youth of Hilltop and participating with them in the children's activities offered by Dear Neighbor Ministries on a weekly basis. Alex and Gabe also had the opportunity to deliver meals with Sister Ann Catherine Burger to the home bound in Hilltop.

Seeing firsthand the need in Hilltop inspired the boys to work very hard to raise money and make a difference in the lives of others. In three weeks, Alex and Gabe raised enough funds to purchase 30 pairs of children's shoes, with additional funds being given to Dear Neighbor

Ministries to provide for future purchases of shoes as the need arises.

Alex and Gabe are an inspiration and an example of our mission of unity at work, as they modeled love, compassion and hope for our *dear neighbors* in Hilltop. ●



Alex and Gabe with Sister Ann Catherine Burger (and her well-known golf cart) delivering meals to the home bound in the Hilltop neighborhood.

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./Mexico 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, Sister Mary Catherine Sack calls our Wichita center home. She along with Silvia Munoz, a friend of the congregation, served from late March through early April.

Firsthand reports from those who served has deepened our understanding of this humanitarian issue. “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,” said Sister Pat Bergen (pictured above right). “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 Curtsinger (left), 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 I 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 Margot Eder and Marcella Clancy with CSJ Associate Jan Henderson in El Paso.



< 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 and click on ‘How We Serve’ then ‘Social Justice’

NEWS AND UPDATES



Celebrating Our Dear CSJ Associates

On May 5, two new CSJ Associates were welcomed to the Congregation of St. Joseph during a Mass and commitment ceremony held in the Chapel of our center. After a year-long formation process, Augustina Correa Arce-Cox and Amy Fernandez-Paris (above, left) said YES and joined as our newest associates. During the event, 5, 10, 15 and 25-year associates were also celebrated for their ongoing commitment to living the mission of the Congregation of St. Joseph. ●

*Above, second photo from left, 5-year Associates Benny Harris, Karen Tones and Robert McGregor.
Above, third photo from left, 10-year Associates Bill Gress, Janet Miller and Patricia Andra.
Above, far right photo, 25-year Associate Dan Urenda.
Left, 15-year Associates Marla Dahlgren, Peggy Kitchens and Rita Boyle.*



Sisters Wear Orange for Non-Violence

On June 7, sisters in Wichita wore orange for National Gun Violence Awareness Day to stand in solidarity with victims of gun violence, and to show support for greater gun control through legislation. To learn more about this annual movement, why we wear orange and what you can do to help, visit wearorange.org. ●



Sisters Support Lights For Liberty

On July 12, our sisters observed the national Lights For Liberty event in response to our nation's unjust and inhumane immigration policies. Participants lit candles in silent vigil for all those held in U.S. detention centers to bring light to the darkness they endure. ●

*Far left, Sister Mary Ellen Loch and CSJ Associate Forrest Ehmke witness at the public event.
Left, Sisters Suzanne Daniels, Margaret Nugent and Doris Vigneaux witness in our center chapel.*

Jubilee

2019

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



Sister Ann Diskin, CSJ
(Sister Margaret Ann)

80 Years



Sister Margaret Ellen Isenbart, CSJ

75 Years



Sister Connie Robles, CSJ
(Sister Consolata)

70 Years



Sister Patricia Mae Stanley, CSJ
(Sister Mary George)

70 Years



Sister Teresa Waner, CSJ
(Sister Daniel Marie)

70 Years



Sister Rita Marie Thissen, CSJ

70 Years



Sister Mary Clare Doebel, CSJ

70 Years



Sister June Horning, CSJ
(Sister Robert Marie)

60 Years



Sister Gracelyn Soignet, CSJ
(Sister Bonaventure)

60 Years

Survivors of domestic abuse and Wichita Police enjoy annual StepStone Summer Picnic



This past June, sponsored ministry StepStone kicked off the summer with their annual fishing trip and picnic. StepStone helps women and children who have been victims of domestic violence find security, self-sufficiency and a life free of fear and abuse by providing safe, affordable housing, support services and advocacy.



StepStone staff, volunteers and officers from the Wichita Police Department gathered alongside survivors for a fun day of fishing, relaxation and food.

This event allows police officers to interact with survivors, especially children, in a relaxed environment. The officers and volunteers, including Sister Lois O'Malley (left), helped those

who had never fished before bait hooks, cast lines and take fish off hooks for those lucky enough to have caught one. There was always great excitement when a fish was caught, whether it was 2 or 12 inches. No one seemed to mind that each fish caught was thrown back into the pond.

Those who didn't want to fish could sit and relax near the pond, fly a kite, play catch, or simply climb the playground equipment. The relaxing day ended with lunch and promises to come back next year. ●

To learn more about StepStone and how you can help, visit stepstoneks.org, or follow on Facebook.



Sister Rose Ann Wolke, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Mary Catherine Sack, CSJ

40 Years



Sister Arlys McDonald, CSJ
(Sister Mary Karen)

40 Years



Sister Christine Ujii, CSJ

40 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, and click on "Connect With Us"

In Memoriam...



Sister Virginita Hearing, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on July 20, 2019, after celebrating 73 years of religious life.



Sister Rose Helen Burger, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on December 22, 2018, after celebrating 72 years of religious life.



Sister Patrice Joyce, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on July 7, 2019, after celebrating 73 years of religious life.



Sister Veronice Born, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on November 30, 2018, after celebrating 72 years of religious life.



Sister Helen Barrett, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on May 27, 2019, after celebrating 65 years of religious life.



Sister Patricia Brandner, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on November 24, 2018, after celebrating 74 years of religious life.



Sister Bertrand Lieux, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on April 9, 2019, after celebrating 71 years of religious life.



Sister Mary Immaculate Healy, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on August 4, 2018, after celebrating 68 years of religious life.



Sister Mary Alice Girrens, CSJ

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

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

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

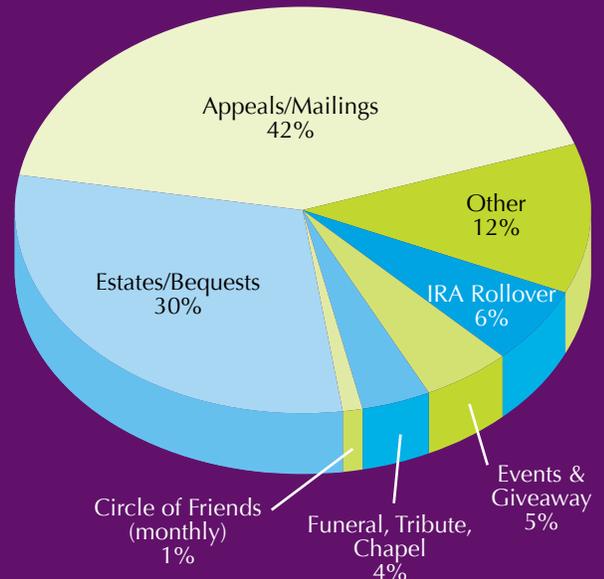
- > Use the enclosed envelope or make a gift online at csjoseph.org/make-a-gift
- > Make monthly gifts and become a member of our **Circle of Friends**
- > Make a legacy gift through your will or estate and join our **Heritage Society**

For more information:

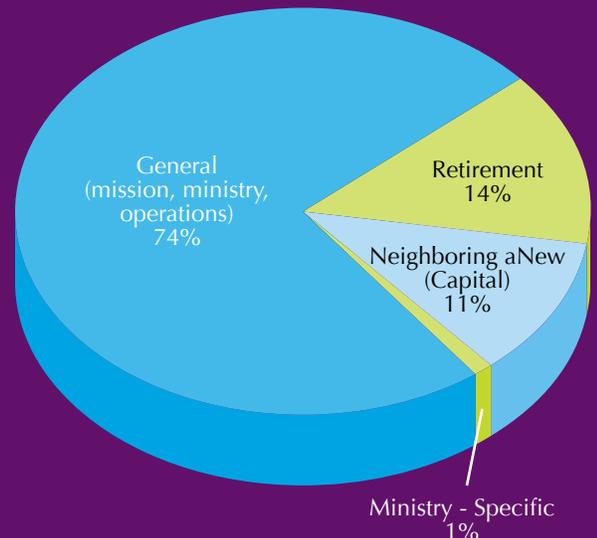
Pat Milenius, Director of Advancement
pmilenius@csjoseph.org or 216.252.0440

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.