

2020 Edition

Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH



CONGREGATION OF

St. Joseph

2929 NAZARETH ROAD
KALAMAZOO, MI 49048



^ Our sisters in Nazareth have been busy making hundreds of masks which they donated to local charities, including the YWCA and Ministry with Community of Kalamazoo. From left are Sisters Georgiana Simon and Janet Chadderdon, and Associate and IT staff member Laryssa Baczynski.

Together in Spirit

Greetings! During these past few challenging months, many of you have emailed, called or written in to ask, "How are the sisters doing?" Thank you for your care and concern! Our sisters who live at our Nazareth Center, as well as all around our congregation, are sheltering in place, practicing social distancing, and finding creative ways to stay active and help their communities. This includes praying for all our friends, neighbors and supporters – like YOU!

Here are just a few examples of what our sisters, associates and staff have been up to these past few months!

See
Scrapbook
next page >



^ Sisters have been gathering outside the entrances to our Nazareth Center to show support for various peace and justice issues including anti-racism and non-violence, and to advocate for voting. There was an overwhelming response of waves and horn honking from the hundreds of cars that passed by during the hours they witnessed. Photo left: Sisters Rita Ann Teichman and Pam Owens. Photo right: Sister Rose Roberts (seated), Associate Janet Frayer, Sister Christine Parks, and Michele Gossman, Director of Transformations Spirituality Center.

Scrapbook

Quarantine 2020

Associate Teresa Blundell continues to teach "English as a Second Language" to students from La Casa Guadalupana School in Detroit with the help of Zoom and Skype.



Sister Kit Kaiser makes a sign for the sisters' weekly outdoor peace witness.



Sisters Erin McDonald and Marie Benzing helped get food to struggling, elderly neighbors in Detroit.



Sisters Marie Hogan and Pat Altermatt celebrate Sunday Liturgy at their home in Detroit.



Friend of the congregation, Ruth Heyn made surgical masks which she donated to local hospitals and other agencies serving Covid 19 patients.



Sister Betsy Meagher and Michele Gossman, Director of Transformations Spirituality Center, volunteered their time to do some roadside clean up near Nazareth's Bow In the Clouds nature preserve.

Jubilee 2020

The following sisters from the founding community of Nazareth are celebrating Jubilee this year. Jubilee is the anniversary of a sister's entrance into religious life. Congratulations to all our sisters who are celebrating Jubilee from around the congregation this year!



Sister Mary Rene Poirier, CSJ

75 Years



Sister Marcella Clancy, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Katie Shanahan, CSJ

75 Years



Sister Mary Anne Dalton, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Shirley Tousignant, CSJ
(formerly Sister Elizabeth Marie)

70 Years



Sister Joyce Dropps, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Marie Benzing, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Danielle Garst, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Bernadine Gazda, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Nancy Martin, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Janet Kurtz, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Marie Roy, CSJ

60 Years

> To view sister biographies, visit us at CSJoseph.org and click on “Connect With Us”

Vocations Update

*W*e are very pleased to announce that novices Jennifer Berridge and Sarah Simmons will profess first vows with the Congregation of St. Joseph in the coming weeks. Jennifer, who is from Cleveland, will profess on July 25 at our center in Wheeling, W.Va. Sarah, who is from Kalamazoo, MI, will profess on August 15 at our center in La Grange Park, Ill. Jennifer was mentored by Sister Christine Riley and Sarah by Sister Marie Benzing. Both completed their year-long novitiate last May.

Please keep Jennifer and Sarah in your prayers as they move forward on their journey to becoming Sisters of St. Joseph!

To learn more about sisters, visit CSJoseph.org/as-a-sister



< Jennifer Berridge



Sarah Simmons >

In Memoriam



Sister Rita Berby, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on May 18, 2020, after celebrating 61 years of religious life.



Sister Elizabeth Reis, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on April 21, 2020, after celebrating 69 years of religious life.



Sister Jean Joseph Martin, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on March 23, 2020, after celebrating 94 years of religious life.



Sister Jean Kennedy, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on February 27, 2020, after celebrating 68 years of religious life.



Sister Joann DiMercurio, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on January 22, 2020, after celebrating 58 years of religious life.



Sister Maureen Martin, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on January 20, 2020, after celebrating 71 years of religious life.



Sister Helen Battle, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on January 11, 2020, after celebrating 72 years of religious life.



Sister Dorothy Doyle, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on December 3, 2019, after celebrating 78 years of religious life.



Sister Gloria Jean Zieske, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on October 23, 2019, after celebrating 73 years of religious life.



Sister Angela LaBranche, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on August 31, 2019, after celebrating 85 years of religious life.



Sister Pauline Starner, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on August 25, 2019, after celebrating 72 years of religious life.

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

Many centuries ago, our sisters took a leap of faith to work in their city to serve the needs of their neighbors. With your help we continue in this spirit today, loving and serving the needs of the *dear neighbor* in many cities and areas of the world.

Sometimes love calls each of us to trust and respond to those around us without knowing exactly how it will work out. This is especially true now, in these days of pandemic and the challenges that go along with it, and in the continuing crises of humanity and climate that exist.

Our sisters and associates are taking risks and giving voice to systemic injustice, leading with compassion and networking with others to bring about life-giving change in our communities and world. Together, with you, we stand with and for the oppressed and marginalized, and encourage each other to act with great kindness and love. We do this with faith in God and trust in the goodwill of friends like you.

Your continued donations and prayer-filled support help us bring help and hope to each and every one of our *dear neighbors* who seek our love, compassion, and service.

We extend our love and gratitude to you and wish you good health and hearts filled with hope.

Ways 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, contact **Melissa Haley O'Leary** at moleary@csjoseph.org or **216.688.3474**

Historic Window Project Nazareth Center

CONGREGATION OF
St. Joseph

The Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph in Nazareth have made plans to use stained glass windows from the former Holy Family Chapel, Fontbonne Chapel, Barbour Hall and Nazareth Academy inside the new Nazareth Center. We invite you to be a part of this special, historic project by making a charitable contribution. All gifts are welcomed and will be recognized onsite.

Windows will be used in the center's chapel as shown below, prayer room and lobby.



To make a gift, request a pledge form or learn more, please contact:

Melissa Haley O'Leary at
moleary@csjoseph.org or
216.688.3474



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Spotlight Photo



Sister Peg Parks and other sisters in Nazareth celebrated the 1st anniversary of our new center with a party! The theme was Crazy Clothing Day, and all had fun dressing up in their most colorful outfits.

 This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

What will you do
with your one *wild* &
precious life?
- Mary Oliver



Sisters of St. Joseph live their lives in service to God and others. If you have a heart for God, ministry, justice and Church, and want to make a real difference in our world, we invite you to learn more about us. We would love to talk to you!

Visit us at CSJoseph.org