

Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM MOUNT ST. JOSEPH



CONGREGATION OF

St. Joseph

137 MOUNT ST. JOSEPH ROAD
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

Together in Spirit

Greetings from Mount St. Joseph! During these challenging days we find ourselves in, many of you have called, emailed, or written us to ask, "How are the sisters doing?" We thank you for your care and concern! Our sisters in Wheeling and all around our congregation are sheltering in place, practicing social distancing, staying active and doing whatever they can to help the community. That includes praying for all our friends, neighbors and supporters - like YOU!

Although the center is still currently closed to visitors, sisters have found creative ways to stay connected to one another, continue in their ministries and prayer, and support their dear neighbors. Here are just a few examples of what our sisters, associates and staff have been up to these past few months!



Sister Barb McCartney, Patient Representative at St. Francis Hospital in Charleston, leads the hospital staff in prayer.



Sisters Mary Ann Rosenbaum (above), Kathleen Durkin and Carmella Campione baked and sent cookies along with a message of appreciation to health care providers at Wheeling Hospital. Sister Mary Ann works in Pastoral Care at the hospital.



Sisters Mary Clark, Peggy Sinnott and Joan Singer give the Mount St. Joseph Serenity Garden beds a good spring cleaning!

See Scrapbook next page >

Scrapbook

Quarantine 2020



Sisters Kathleen Durkin and Carmella Campione, and others, witnessed for peace and racial justice.

Associate Kathy Jeffers with a peace pole she has in her back yard.



Sister Barb Kupchak enjoys a slice during a pizza party the Mount St. Joseph kitchen staff had for the sisters.



Sister Mary Clark enjoyed a day of baking bread with other sisters, which they shared with everyone at Mount St. Joseph!



Sister Ellen Poche blesses Sister Christine Riley to end evening prayer at their home in Wheeling.



Sister Peggy Sinnott joined other sisters for a fun afternoon of gardening! They planted Thyme, Oregano, Parsley, Marjoram and Sage, all of which will be used for cooking, once grown.

Jubilee 2020

The following sisters from the founding community of Wheeling 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 Gabriella Wagner, CSJ
85 Years



Sister Maria Porter, CSJ
(formerly Sister Maria Goretti)
70 Years



Sister Mary Florence
Burke, CSJ
75 Years



Sister Eva Marie Schlag, CSJ
70 Years



Sister Anna Marie Cole, CSJ
70 Years



Sister Barbara Kupchak, CSJ
(formerly Sister Pauline)
60 Years



Sister Mary Alice
McMaster, CSJ
(formerly Sister Rita Catherine)
70 Years



Sister Marguerite
O'Brien, CSJ
60 Years

To view biographies, visit us at CSJoseph.org and click on "Connect With Us"

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.

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

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, our compassion, and our 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



You are invited...

...to join the Friends of the Sisters of St. Joseph!

The Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph live and work that all people may be united with God, one another, and all creation. We'd love for you to join us in that mission as a member of the **Friends of the Sisters of St. Joseph**.

Our new Friends organization was formed to provide opportunities to support the ministries and the spirit of the sisters through prayer, service and collaboration.

We hope friends like you will help us showcase the sisters' important work in our community and help expand and retain the sisters' relationships.



It's easy to become a Friend! Simply send your name, address, email address and phone number to:

Amy Anderson, 137 Mount St. Joseph Rd., Wheeling, WV 26003, or email her at aanderson@csjoseph.org, or call 304.232.8160, ext. 146

We hope you will join us today!

ABLE Families

During the past several months of social distancing, many of the ministries within the congregation's Mission Network have had to find new ways of connecting with and serving their clients. ABLE Families in Kermit, W.Va., has met this challenge and then some.

Since 1994, ABLE (Affirming, Believing, Learning and Empowering) has helped families in the rural Tug Valley area of northern Mingo County who are caught in the net of poverty. They focus on women and children, who often suffer the effects of poverty most severely.

Because most of what ABLE Families provides are in-person services and programs, almost everything they do has had to be restructured. "We would normally be having summer camps for kids on-site all summer," said Marlene Spaulding, Executive Director of ABLE Families. "Due to COVID, we will instead be preparing and delivering what

we call 'brain boxes.' Each week for six weeks, we will provide children a box that provides educational activities for the children to do at home. The themes will change weekly so the kids stay engaged."

However education is only a part of what the children who came to ABLE Families after school program and summer camps came to depend on. "We also greeted the kids with open arms and provided a healthy meal," she said. "Although we can't currently hug them due to social distancing, I wanted to make sure the kids knew they could still depend on us to meet their needs. So we started preparing and dropping off meals to the kids' homes. When we saw a little boy holding up a paper sign in his window saying 'thank you' with a heart on it, we knew our efforts were worth it."

Marlene says she is looking forward to re-opening ABLE Families. "I hope the children and families we serve can get back to some sense of normalcy soon," she said. "I also hope they feel loved and supported, the same way they would if they could be with us in person."

Learn more at ABLEFamilies.org

St. Joseph Retreat Center

Although Mount St. Joseph is still currently closed to outside visitors, that hasn't stopped St. Joseph Retreat Center from continuing to minister to its friends and the community.

Anna Marie Troiani, St. Joseph Retreat Center Executive Director, said she has been challenged to look for alternative ways to minister to the people who come to the center for programs and retreats. "I am constantly challenged to think outside the box and come up with new ways of reaching people," she said. "We have continued a few of our programs online via Zoom in order to stay connected. I also do daily inspirational Facebook posts, and provide opportunities online for people from our center and other retreat centers across the congregation to plug into."

She added that she also writes emails and hand-written notes to clients and people living in local care facilities, and makes phone calls to those she knows live alone or have no access to the internet. "I want to let them know they are being thought of during this challenging time."

One of the retreat center's programs that has moved online is the Drum Circle. "Starting in July, we will be drumming together via Zoom once a month," she said. "Some folks use drums, but others use everyday items found in their homes.

Pots and pans, wooden spoons, boxes – pretty much anything that makes noise!"



The center's Knitting Circle has also been busy. They have been knitting together every two weeks via Zoom and also on their own toward a common goal – to make lap blankets for those in care facilities, and hats, scarves, cowl necks and masks for hospital staff.

"Although we would love to be together in person, we have found ways to be connected and hopefully spread some cheer, love and blessings," she said.

"We are all in this together!"

Learn more at StJosephRetreatCenter.org

Vocations Update

Novices Ready to Profess First Vows



< Jennifer Berridge



Sarah Simmons >

We are pleased to announce that novices Jennifer Berridge and Sarah Simmons will both profess first vows with the Congregation of St. Joseph this summer.

Jennifer, who is from Cleveland, will profess at Mount St. Joseph in July, and Sarah, who is from Kalamazoo, MI, will profess in August at our center in LaGrange 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! •

Learn more about our vocations program at CSJoseph.org/as-a-sister

In Memoriam...

Sister Eileen Marie Sinnott, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on May 30, 2020, after celebrating 55 years of religious life.



Sister Brigetta Forde, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on December 25, 2019, after celebrating 75 years of religious life.



Sister Kathleen Schiffer, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on November 13, 2019, after celebrating 55 years of religious life.



Sister Ellen Teresa Coughlin, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on September 5, 2019, after celebrating 72 years of religious life.



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



137 Mount St. Joseph Road
Wheeling, WV 26003-1762

Spotlight Photo



This plaque marks the spot where our first sisters arrived in Wheeling at Heritage Point, on the banks of the Ohio River.

 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