

2020 Edition

Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH



3700 EAST LINCOLN STREET,
WICHITA, KANSAS

Together in Spirit

Greetings from Mount St. Mary! During these past few challenging months, many of you have emailed, called or written us to ask, “How are the sisters doing?” Thank you for your care and concern! Our sisters in Wichita, 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 is just one example of what our sisters have been up to these past few months!



^ Sisters at Mount St. Mary decided to help out their community and those who care for them by sewing hundreds of hand-made masks to donate - a wonderful protection for sisters and staff. Clockwise from the top are Sisters Martina White, Connie Beiriger and Agnes Lero. Sisters Margaret Nugent, Bertina Korphage and Irene Regan also contributed their talents.

Jubilee 2020

The following sisters are celebrating Jubilee in Wichita 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 Dorothy
LeBlanc, CSJ
*(formerly Sister
Mary Andrew)*

75 Years



Sister Janelle Ann
Brittain, CSJ
(formerly Sister Michaela)

60 Years



Sister Eula
Linnebur, CSJ
*(formerly Sister
Helen Marie)*

70 Years



Sister Rose Monica
Donnelly, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Elaine
Dufresne, CSJ
*(formerly Sister
Mary Edward)*

70 Years



Sister St. Joseph
Wakabayashi, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Guadalupe
Martinez, CSJ
*(formerly Sister M.
Guadalupe)*

70 Years



Sister Mary Magdalene
Hayashi, CSJ

70 Years



Sister Patricia Ann
Regan, CSJ
*(formerly Sister
Mary Sheila)*

70 Years

To view sister 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.

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: Pat Milenius, Director of Advancement pmilenius@CSJoseph.org or 216.688.3477



Residential space now available!



We invite you to join us in a truly unique living experience.

A limited number of apartments at Mount St. Mary have recently become available to lay men and women who are interested in a different kind of living experience. If you are looking for assisted or independent living, or skilled and short term rehabilitation residence in a warm and friendly community environment, we invite you to consider joining us. Our residents enjoy:

- Wellness facilities and programs
- Daily mass and prayer offerings
- Newly constructed suites
- Volunteer opportunities
- Exceptional dining
- Beautiful grounds

We welcome and look forward to hearing from you!

For more information, contact Michael Rajewski at 316.686.7171 or mrajewski@csjinitatives.org.

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 >

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

Life at The Mount

It's All Fun and Games!

Sisters and caregiver staff have been coming up with creative ways to stay busy and have fun during the past few months of sheltering in place. Here, they enjoyed a game night together. From left are Sister Margaret Ellen Isenbart, Kayla Hutchison who works in Marian Hall, Sister Dorothy LeBlanc and Sister Jean Louise Diskin.



Grandpals Window Visit

Our sisters recently enjoyed a visit “through the glass” by a local 5th grade class who come every month to visit them. In order to keep everyone safe, this visit was the first to be through the windows, so our sisters prepared by making signs and pictures which they used to decorate the windows throughout the community. The students, their parents and siblings, and their teacher all showed up to say ‘We Love & Miss You’ to our appreciative sisters.

In the Pink

On June 23rd, sisters enjoyed a “Pink Party Social” in the dining room to celebrate National Pink Day. The sisters, dressed in varying shades of pink, enjoyed pink balloons and other decorations, and pink treats from the dietary staff including pink lemonade and pink cookies. Looks like everyone was tickled pink!



Serving the Dear Neighbor

Ministries find creative ways to adapt to “new normal”

StepStone and Dear Neighbor Ministries, both members of the congregation’s Mission Network, have found creative ways to continue to serve their residents and clients during the past several months of COVID-related challenges.

StepStone helps women and children who have been victims of domestic violence find security, self-sufficiency and a life free from fear and abuse, by providing safe and affordable housing, support services and advocacy.

Kit Lambertz, Executive Director for StepStone, said the past several months have been particularly challenging for those they serve. “Our residents and outreach clients were already working to start or adjust to a new life before the pandemic hit,” she said. “COVID just added to the challenges. So we immediately started working to adjust our strategies so that we could continue to meet the needs of domestic violence survivors.”



One example is how StepStone’s child counselor has modified play therapy by utilizing video conferencing. “She plays Jenga and Candyland with the kids over video calls, and asks them to take her on video tours of their homes,” said Lambertz. “Sometimes they show her their most prized possessions. They have adapted to this style of counseling much quicker than we anticipated.”

In addition, StepStone advocates have been visiting clients and taking walks with them in our community garden, while safely maintaining social distancing. “This helps to lessen survivor’s feelings of loneliness and isolation,” Lambertz said. “Our staff has also put together and dropped off food supply packages to StepStone residents, to provide the extra food needed as a result of children being home from school.

To learn more about **StepStone**, visit stepstoneks.org or follow on Facebook.



Staff of Dear Neighbor Ministries and StepStone

For almost 20 years, **Dear Neighbor Ministries** has provided emergency and outreach assistance to residents of the Hilltop Neighborhood, many of whom are elderly and low-income families with children. The impact of COVID has been particularly difficult for them, explains Brenda Wasinger, Director of Development for Dear Neighbor. “The economic and social impact of the past few months has been devastating,” she said. “We have made several changes to our programming and services so that we could continue to provide for residents who count on them.”

One such change was to their annual Summer Camp. “This year, our Summer Camp for Hilltop families had to happen in their homes,” she said. “Families received an activity kit and tutorial DVD with instructions on how to get the entire family involved in fun craft projects. Adults and kids alike were able to share their talents, step out of their comfort zone and play!”



Another adaptation happened this past Easter. Because the Kansas stay-at-home order was still in effect, the traditional Hilltop neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt was cancelled. So Dear Neighbor Ministries’ staff and others provided Easter baskets filled with candy, games, and fun craft activities for families to do at home. “The families loved it and were so appreciative,” said Wasinger.

To learn more about **Dear Neighbor Ministries**, visit dearneighbor.org or follow on Facebook.

In Memoriam



Sister Rita Berby, CSJ

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

Sister Joseph Marie Loh, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on March 16, 2020, after celebrating 63 years of religious life.



Sister Catherina Takahashi, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on February 9, 2020, after celebrating 52 years of religious life.

Sister Agnes Joseph Wachter, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on February 6, 2020, after celebrating 77 years of religious life.



Sister Julie Sheatzley, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on January 17, 2020, after celebrating 60 years of religious life.



Sister Ann Catherine Burger, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on January 4, 2020, after celebrating 79 years of religious life.

Sister Diane Leary, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on December 10, 2019, after celebrating 63 years of religious life.



Sister Tonimarie DeBar, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on November 20, 2019, after celebrating 68 years of religious life.

Sister Alfreda Roets, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on August 30, 2019, after celebrating 68 years of religious life.



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



CONGREGATION OF

St. Joseph

3700 East Lincoln Street
Wichita, KS 67218-2099

Spotlight Photo



Sister Judith Ann Shimek shows off her green thumb and some seriously cool sunglasses while planting a flower and radish garden this year outside Marian Hall where she lives.

 This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

We Invite You!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WELLNESS FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

WARM & FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

NATURAL SURROUNDINGS

DAILY MASS

EXCEPTIONAL DINING



A limited number of apartments are now available at Mount St. Mary for women and men to join us in independent or assisted living, or skilled and short term rehabilitation residence. If you are interested in a different kind of living experience and want to learn more, contact Michael Rajewski at 316.686.7171 or mrajewski@csjinitiatives.org.