

Lending a Helping Hand

Each year, the **Congregation of St. Joseph** partners with and supports ministries and non-profit organizations that make a real difference to so many people in our community. This past year, the needs were even greater due to pandemic-related issues such as job loss, income and food insecurity, illness and mental health issues, technology challenges, and others. Below are just a few examples of support we extended this past year here in the Wichita area.



Holy Name Catholic School

The Congregation of St. Joseph was happy to support Holy Name Catholic School in Coffeyville, Kansas, this past year with funds for technology related expenses that helped to keep students learning during the pandemic and beyond.

The school was able to purchase a subscription to an online book provider that gave students access to thousands of books while the school library was closed due to COVID. They were also able to purchase an online version of their religion book so the students could continue their Catholic faith education. Now that students have returned to the classroom and are using the internet more, and on many different devices, the funds also helped install additional Wifi access points at the school to ensure every student can access the internet when needed. Above, **Sister Janelle Ann Brittain**, who teaches 4th grade religion, checks student Ellie Campbell's work. Sisters of St. Joseph have served at Holy Name School since 1917.

To learn more about Holy Name Catholic School, visit us at HolyNameCoffeyville.org/school.

The Lord's Diner

The Lord's Diner is a not-for-profit ministry that provides an evening meal, every day of the year including holidays, to anyone who is hungry, at three locations and through food trucks. Like many charitable organizations, the Diner saw an increase in demand during the pandemic, as well as the need to transition from dine-in to carry-out meals. The Congregation of St. Joseph, a long-time supporter of the Diner, was happy to help by providing additional funding through a special COVID-19 grant.

To learn more about The Lord's Diner and how you can help, visit us at TheLordsDiner.org.



Sisters and Associates pose with The Lord's Diner Executive Director, Jan Haberly (center) during one of the Congregation's past Service Days. From left are CSJ Associate Sonja Sones, Sister Marie Veronica Janousek (who has since passed away), Jan Haberly, Sister Anne Dolores LaPlante and CSJ Associate Cliff Sones in front of one of the Diner's food trucks. Sonja and Cliff are Sister Anne Dolores' sister and brother-in-law.

Life at *The Mount*

As Sisters of St. Joseph, we believe relationship is at the heart of who we are. This philosophy extends to our residential centers, which are vibrant places of activity that offer a warm and friendly community environment, places for gathering and quiet reflection, and activities for mind, body and spirit. There are also opportunities for service to others.

We invite you!

A limited number of apartments on our Wichita campus have recently become available to women and men who are looking for assisted or independent living, or skilled and short-term rehabilitation residence.

If you are interested in a unique kind of living experience and want to learn more, we invite you to consider joining us!

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

On June 4, sisters, associates, staff and other partners in mission from around the Congregation joined the national movement to wear orange in support of National Gun Violence Awareness Day. In Wichita, Sister Mary Ellen Loch showed her support for this important issue. Sister Mary Ellen is a member of the Congregation's Peace and Justice team and a contributing writer around gun violence issues.



Sister Mary Catherine Sack (right) and maintenance staff worker Sherrie Mendoza load medical gowns to be delivered to the Medical Loan Closet of Wichita. The gowns were sent to our Wichita center by the state as a resource during COVID, but went unused. Sisters and staff wanted them to be put to good use so they reached out to the Medical Loan Closet who is sending them to Haiti to be used.

Each Wednesday in June, Sisters and staff were invited to attend a "Lunch and Learn" educational program at our center in Wichita. Along with enjoying a sack lunch and each other's company, those in attendance learned about an important topic in today's world – infection control. The program discussed what a virus is, how it is spread, and how to avoid catching one.

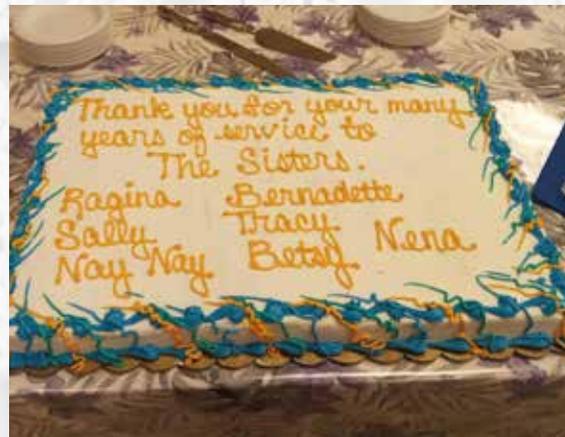




In May, sisters gathered in the Chapel at Mount St. Mary to verbally affirm the Congregation's pledge of support for Pope Francis' Laudato Si' (On Care of Earth) initiative.



On a beautiful day in May, three classes of 5th graders from nearby All Saints School came to Mount St. Mary to give a choir concert for our sisters. The outdoor courtyard was the perfect setting for the event which was organized by Coordinator of Life Enrichment, Laura Collins.



In May, a Service Awards Day was held to honor and thank employees celebrating special work anniversaries with the Congregation. Cake and punch were served and employees were thanked for their years of service and for the gifts they so generously share. On the left are LaQuentina Williams, CMA, and Nena Ukoha, RN. On the right is Sheila Amador, Cook. Thank you to all our employees for the services you provide and gifts you share with us!

Jubilee

2021

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



Sister Sedonia Isenbart, CSJ
(formerly Sister Florian)

85 Years



Sister Cordis Mary
Horie, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Jean Louise
Diskin, CSJ

75 Years



Sister Dolora May, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Elizabeth Ann
Engels, CSJ

75 Years



Sister Mary Ellen Proulx, CSJ
(formerly Sister Monica Noel)

60 Years



Sister Rosina
Van Leeuwen, CSJ

75 Years



Sister Janice Roberts, CSJ
(formerly Sister John Mary)

60 Years

Sisters Volunteer at the U.S. Mexico Border

This spring, a group of our sisters headed south to serve our dear neighbors at an intake facility at the U.S./Mexico border. For two weeks, Sisters Rita Ann Teichman, Mary Pung, Marianne Race, Jackie Schmitz and Mary Jo Curtsinger volunteered at Catholic Charities Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas, where thousands of refugees pass through each year.

While there, our sisters duties included organizing and finding clothing for incoming families in the “Ropa (clothing) Room,” distributing toiletries, baby formula and medicines at the “Hygiene Bar/Pharmacy,” and other work that addressed the essential needs of arriving refugees.

“We saw families with many beautiful children and an amazing number of pregnant women,” said Sister Rita Ann. “Imagine walking the distances they did while pregnant! Sometimes we helped simply by holding babies or occupying toddlers for their mothers while they took showers, visited the Ropa room, or just to give them a break.”

The refugees stay at the center approximately 2-3 days while waiting for their sponsors to be contacted. Once they are and a bus or plane ticket has been purchased, they are on their way to the next leg of their journey.

“This ministry was both heart-breaking and heart-warming,” said Sister Marianne. “We were honored to be able to offer care, respite and simple comforts to these incredible, brave people.”

To learn more, visit CatholicCharitiesrgv.org/RespiteCenter



From left, Sisters Rita Ann Teichman, Mary Pung, Marianne Race, Jackie Schmitz and Mary Jo Curtsinger.



Sisters Mary Pung and Rita Ann Teichman sort clothing in the Ropa (clothing) Room.



Sisters Marianne Race prepares baby formula in the Hygiene Bar/Pharmacy.



A Honduran child's artwork from the Respite Center. On the right, two figures point to their hearts and to the USA.



Sister Mary Pung provides a much needed break for this infant's parents.

Dear Neighbor Ministries Hosts Spelling Bee Fundraiser

Newman University was buzzing on Thursday, June 17, as eight teams competed in the ICT Adult Spelling Bee to benefit Dear Neighbor Ministries, part of the Congregation of St. Joseph's Mission Network.

There was much laughter in the air as each team, decked out in their finest black and yellow ensembles, took their turn on stage to spell their given word. At right are the JoJo Bees, a team consisting of Congregation employee Mary Rohleder (at mic), Sisters Lois O'Malley and Janice Grochowsky, and Associate Sally Huber. Over 180 people attended or watched the event online.

"The event went beyond my expectations," said Brenda Wasinger, Director of Development for Dear Neighbor Ministries. "I want to thank all the teams that participated, everyone who attended whether in person or virtually, and the many volunteers who play a major role in making the evening so entertaining and successful! Proceeds from this event will help support our neighbors in Hilltop and encourage them to take advantage of the available resources to help them get back on their feet."

To learn more about Sisters of St. Joseph Dear Neighbor Ministries, and how you can help, visit us at DearNeighbor.org.



Survivors of domestic abuse enjoy annual StepStone Summer Picnic

In June, StepStone once again kicked off the summer with their annual fishing trip and picnic. A member of the Congregation of St. Joseph's Mission Network, 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.

The picnic allows survivors, especially the children, enjoy a day of summer fun in a relaxed environment. The volunteers included Sister Lois O'Malley, (left), who helped the children, some 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. It was a fun day for all involved!

To learn more about StepStone and how you can help, visit us at StepStoneKS.org.

Legacy of Caring

Dear Friends,

As part of our Congregation of St. Joseph family you are an integral part of our efforts to bring the message of God's love to the world in ways that inspire action on behalf of others.

In a year unlike any other in recent times, your support has enabled us to take risks to broaden our lives, expand our ministries and partnerships, and live out our promises in an active and inclusive way. This includes our commitment to care for our sisters and at the same time, more fully respond to the emerging needs of our neighbors and our world. New initiatives, ministries, and partnerships, new uses for some of our buildings and land, along with new ways and places for our sisters to live in community are all a part of our efforts today. They reflect our vibrancy, compassion and commitment to staying attentive to the needs of a world in desperate need of our care.

We celebrate the generosity by which you and others in our communities across the country have embraced us and have continued to support our mission, ministries, lives and needs. Thank you for helping bring God's message of unifying love to our communities. We pray for you in gratitude.

Ways You Can Help

- > Use the enclosed envelope or make a gift online at **CSJoseph.org**
- > 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, Pat Milenius, Director of Advancement pmilenius@csjoseph.org or 216.252.0440

† IN MEMORIAM †

*we Remember, we Celebrate,
we Believe*



Sister Julita Paulie, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on April 24, 2021, after 80 years of religious life.



Sister Patricia Mae Stanley, CSJ
(Sister Mary George)

Entered into eternal life on November 6, 2020, after 71 years of religious life.



Sister Jane Louise Arbour, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on September 17, 2020, after 79 years of religious life.



Sister Gracelyn Soignet, CSJ
(Sister Bonaventure)

Entered into eternal life on September 14, 2020, after 64 years of religious life.





3700 East Lincoln Street
Wichita, KS 67218-2099

 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.