

Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH

Celebrating St. Joseph Day at Nazareth Academy

In honor of the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19, our beloved Nazareth Academy once again welcomed sisters and others from the Congregation as guest lecturers in a variety of classrooms during the week of March 18 - 22.

After a two year-hiatus due to Covid restrictions, we were happy to return to this joint initiative which focuses on how academic subjects intertwine with the mission and charism of the Congregation of St. Joseph. The sisters and staff were able to engage with students in Theology, Science and Social Studies classes.

“By visiting our classrooms and engaging with our students on a variety of important topics, the sisters’ charism of living and working to bring all people into union with God and with one another is powerfully demonstrated,” said Principal Therese Hawkins. “We are grateful to the sisters for their continued sponsorship of Nazareth Academy and we know that our students’ lives are forever impacted by these incredibly forward thinking and dynamic women.”



Sister Mary Jo Curtsinger, who once taught at Nazareth, with juniors from a New Testament Theology class.



Sister Kathy Sherman talked to seniors about care of Earth and integral ecology.



Sister Pat Bergen spoke to three classes about joining the global movement for peace and justice.



Sister Sarah Simmons talked to freshman about Laudato Si' and our charism of inclusion.

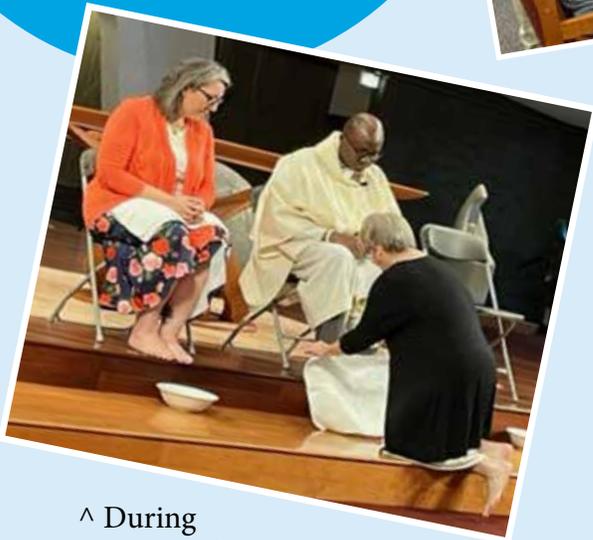


Executive Director of CSJ Ministries, Theresa Denton spoke to juniors about weaving a future together.

Life at *Joseph House*



< During Lent this year, Sisters living at our LaGrange Park center gathered on Fridays with Sisters Jackie Schmitz and Carol Crepeau to pray, reflect and share. The Gospel of Matthew 25 - when I was hungry, thirsty, homeless, naked, sick, in prison - was the focus of their time together. This text is sometimes called the “no excuses” teaching of Jesus because no matter what our situation in life, Jesus calls us to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need. The participants, including Sisters Michele Elfering (above with microphone) and Pat Willems (seated), gifted some of their favorite pieces of clothing to those in need. Staff member Joe Dowling collected the donations. At left, Sister Janet Bolger shares her reflection.



^ During Easter week, Sisters Sarah Simmons and Kathy Brazda, along with Father Stan Chu Ilo, participated in the Holy Thursday ritual of feet washing during Mass in our Chapel.

> Sister Mary Lou Sterling is all smiles as she nears completion of a 1,000 piece “Birds of the Backyard” puzzle.



^ Sisters Mary Southard, Kathy Sherman, Ann Letourneau and Leadership Team Member Sister Kathy Brazda, with artwork created by Sister Mary. The piece was unveiled at our Assembly meeting in April and the title, “Come to the Edge,” will serve as the theme for our Chapter meeting next year.



^ Sisters celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a party and had fun pulling ribbons to see which would break open the pinata!

Network Celebrates 50th Anniversary

This year, Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice is celebrating 50 years of promoting the common good by lobbying for social justice rooted in Catholic Social Teaching in our nation's capitol. The Congregation of St. Joseph has long supported and been engaged with Network, starting with our own Sister Catherine Pinkerton - who served as Network's chief lobbyist for over 25 years working to ensure that all people living in the U.S. had access to healthcare and housing - through today with Executive Director Mary Novak, who is also an Associate of the Congregation.

In April, Sister Sallie Latkovich, a member of the Congregational Leadership Team and longtime friend of Sister Catherine's before she passed away in 2017, attended Network's Justice Ablaze Gala in Washington D.C. where several individuals were recognized with the Catherine Pinkerton Legacy Award. This award honors people and organizations who work to change structures that cause poverty and inequality. During the event, Sister Helen Prejean paid tribute to Network's influence on her to become an agent for change, and to their crucial, ongoing work in advocating for better, more just politics.

[Learn more at NetworkLobby.org](https://www.networklobby.org)



Above, Sister Catherine Pinkerton meets President Bill Clinton in 1997, Sister Erin McDonald marches with Network in Washington in 2021, and Sister Sallie Latkovich and Mary Novak at the 2022 Network Gala.

Vigil Held for Victims of Gun Violence

On Friday, June 3, National Gun Violence Awareness Day, the Congregation of St. Joseph and Moms Demand Action hosted a vigil for members of the community to come together to remember and pray for victims and survivors of the Uvalde school shooting, the Buffalo grocery store shooting, and the many other victims of gun violence.



Tanja Murray of Moms Demand Action.



Those who attended the vigil, which took place in the Chapel at the LaGrange Park center, wore orange for National Gun Violence Awareness Day.



Congresswoman Marie Newman

Jubilee

2022

The following sisters in LaGrange Park are celebrating Jubilee this year. Jubilee is the anniversary of a sisters' entrance into religious life.

Congratulations to all our sisters who are celebrating from around the Congregation this year!



Sister Henrietta Hibbs, CSJ
(Sister M. Henrietta)

80 Years



Sister Laurina Kahne, CSJ
(Sister M. Laurina)

70 Years



Sister Mary Peter McGinty, CSJ

75 Years



Sister Rosemary La Flaur, CSJ
(Sister Mary Gregory)

70 Years



Sister Julie Cannon, CSJ
(Sister Donna Marie)

70 Years



Sister Patricia Willems, CSJ
(Sister M. Ferdinand)

70 Years

To view sister biographies, visit our Jubilarians page at CSJoseph.org

† IN MEMORIAM †



Sister Eileen
Sullivan, CSJ

Entered into eternal
life on November 27,
2021, after 82 years
of religious life.

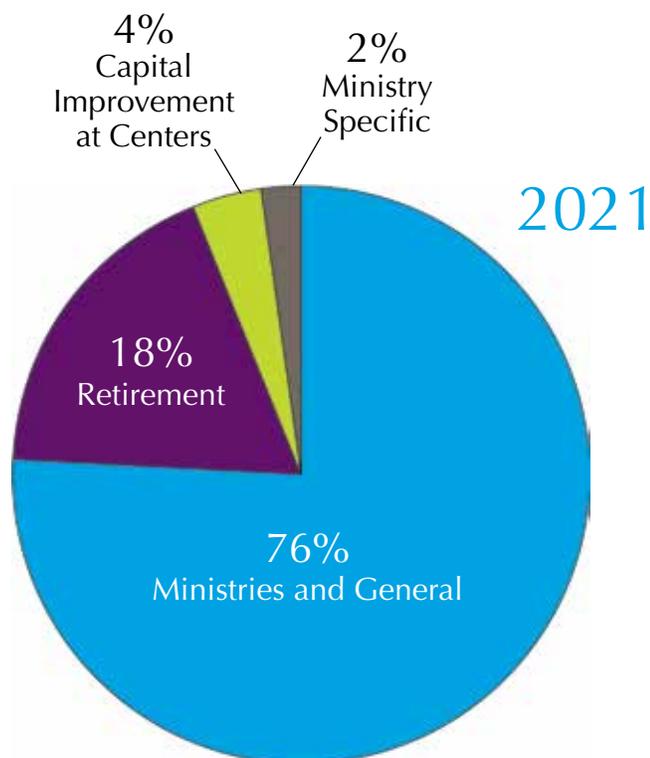


Sister Lucia Marie
Gibbons, CSJ

Entered into eternal
life on August 6,
2021, after 74 years
of religious life.

We Are Blessed by Your Support!

Thank you for so generously sharing your resources with us so that we can continue in our ministries and care for our retired Sisters. Here is how we used your charitable contributions this past fiscal year:



This reporting documents designated uses of the charitable donations received by the Congregation in 2021. This includes the gifts received by the Congregation that are designated to some of our sponsored ministries. We rely on the generous support of our benefactors and openly share how gifts received on behalf of the Sisters of St. Joseph are used.

Ways You Can Help

There are many ways you can continue to support our ministries and retired sisters.

Make a Gift

Use the enclosed envelope or make a gift online at CSJoseph.org

Become a Sustaining Donor

Our Circle of Friends monthly giving program gives you a convenient, affordable way to support us.

Make Us Part of Your Legacy

Support the sisters and their mission even after your lifetime.

Charitable Distribution From Your IRA

Decrease your taxable income by directing your minimum required distribution to the Congregation of St. Joseph.

Matching Gifts

Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program.

Charitable Gift Annuity

We offer annuities that provide you with immediate tax benefits and income for life.

Questions?

Contact Melissa O'Leary at moleary@csjoseph.org or 216-688-3474



Back row from left: Nancy Caruolo, 5 Years; Roberta Walsh, 10 Years; Mary Fishman, 5 Years; Christy Salazar, 5 Years; Theresa Denton, 10 Years; and Trish Coffey, 10 Years. Front row from left: Patricia Glen, 5 Years; Nancy Gibbons, 15 Years; Susan Bright, 10 Years; Maureen Malone, 30 Years; Insaf Ismail, 15 Years; Juana Guzman, 5 Years; Georgia Hood, 5 Years. Inset: Ron Molitor, 10 Years.

Employee Service Recognition

In May, employees at our LaGrange Park center were recognized at a Milestone Anniversary Celebration to thank them for their dedication and years of service to the Congregation of St. Joseph. Due to the pandemic, it was the first time in two years that employees and sisters were able to gather together in our Chapel for this event. We are so grateful for these wonderful team members!

TEACH

On May 24, sisters attended the 11th annual benefit gala for TEACH (Tutoring English to Advance Change), a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph's Mission Network. TEACH works toward systemic change by empowering English language learners to build their strengths and effective use of their voice. TEACH also provides one-on-one tutoring for U.S. citizenship exam



preparation, and works to ensure inclusion of those typically excluded, under-represented or undervalued. This year's Gala theme was "Celebration of Cultural Unity" and was the first in-person event in over two years due to the pandemic.

TEACH was founded in 1993 by the sisters to help the growing immigrant population's inclusion into the community. Constantine Bitsas, Executive Director of TEACH, said, "We continue to be so grateful for the ongoing support of the Congregation of St. Joseph and for the individual sisters who tutor and support us in so many ways."

Seated from left: Sisters Rosemary La Flaur, Jeanne Oursler, Barbara Gaul, BVM, Sarah Simmons, and Therese Middendorf.

Standing from left: Sisters Marianne Race, Mary Jo Curtsinger, Pat Bergen, Kathy Sherman, Jackie Schmitz, and Carol Crepeau.

[Learn more at TeachEmpowers.org](http://TeachEmpowers.org)

Taller de José

On April 28th, Taller de José, held their annual Builder's Day event in Chicago. In attendance were several sisters, associates and staff who support Taller de José, an agency that offers companionship and personal attention to people who have difficulty navigating a complex social services system. Sister Janet Fleischhacker (far right), who retired as Executive Director of CSJ Ministries in June, was presented with the Companion Award by Associate and Taller de José Executive Director Anna Mayer Diaz, in recognition of her work with and support of Taller de José.



In attendance were (back row from left) Sister Mary Jo Curtsinger; Associates Jim and Bea Boyd; Sister Celeste Cotter; volunteer Joan Stopka; Co-founder and board member, Sister Carol Crepeau; Executive Director of CSJ Ministries, Theresa Denton; Sister Jackie Schmitz; Human Resource Manager, Geri Mesik; Sister Janet Fleischhacker; and Associate and former board member, Karen Herman DeMuro. Front row from left are Co-founder and board member, Sister Kathy Brazda; Sister Ann Letourneau; Anna Mayer Diaz; and Co-founder, Bishop Robert Casey.



[Learn more at TallerdeJose.org](http://TallerdeJose.org)

Nazareth Academy



On June 6th, sisters, students and alumni gathered at Nazareth Academy for an evening of service to the dear neighbor. The volunteers made sandwiches for Marillac Food Pantry and tied blankets for those in need at Loyola University Medical Center. From top, Sister Pat Borchardt and Nazareth Alum Mary Clare Harrington; and Sister Jackie Schmitz, volunteer Carla Prosen and Sister Carol Crepeau.



On May 22, 163 seniors of the Class of 2022 celebrated graduation and made school history as the first class to have their Graduation Mass and Commencement in Alexine Chapel, which was gifted to the Academy by the Congregation of St. Joseph. Above, Sisters Marianne Race and Mary Jo Curtsinger (both former faculty and current board members), hand out St. Joseph keytags which were gifted to each graduate.

[Learn more at NazarethAcademy.com](http://NazarethAcademy.com)

The Well Spirituality Center

This Summer, The Well welcomes you back to the center for in-person programs, speakers, retreats, spiritual guidance, grief counseling, mind/body/spirit sessions, and a variety of programming for children. Most retreats are also offered on Zoom for those who prefer to participate virtually.

Upcoming Summer Retreats

Eco-Spirituality After COVID-19

Sunday, June 19, 7 p.m. – Friday, June 24, 4 p.m.

Facilitator: Diarmuid O'Murchu

The COVID-19 virus shook the world and created social, political, and economic turmoil. This retreat will explore the theological and spiritual implications of this turmoil. Through input, dialogue and small group process, Diarmuid O'Murchu, missionary and social psychologist, will facilitate a participative program.

Many Voices Made of Longing

Sunday, July 31, 7 p.m. – Friday, August 5, 4 p.m.

Facilitator: Christine Koellhoffer, IHM

The poet Rainer Maria Rilke reminds us that our blood is alive with many voices telling us we are made of longing. Their call is to a profound listening so we might mine the divine desire for us as well as our own ache for communion and belonging. How might we serve as fields of healing presence for all creation, for our beautiful yet wounded world?

[Learn more at CSJTheWell.org](http://CSJTheWell.org)

Spotlight Photo



Sister Kathy Brazda (second from left) with other sisters from the United States, Belgium and Africa during an International Union of Superiors General meeting in Rome in May.

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Ministry of the Arts

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For more information, email mota@csjoseph.org.



Artwork by Sisters
Mary Southard,
Frankie Dutil and
Pat Willems