

Serving Ukrainian Refugees in Poland



Left, rocks painted by Ukrainian refugees to help pass the time. Right, Sister Valerie, second from right, with other volunteers in Poland.

Sister Valerie Binder was so moved by the tragedy and chaos surrounding the war in Ukraine, and by the suffering of the people there, she volunteered to serve at a Humanitarian Aid center in Poland. The center, located in Przemysl, Poland, serves as a first stopping point for Ukrainian refugees entering the country.

Sister Valerie traveled with a group of 20 others from her parish, St. Clare of Montefalco in Grosse Point, Michigan near Detroit, and together they served from April 4 to 13. The volunteers cleaned and prepared overnight and living spaces for the endless wave of incoming refugees, people shocked and worn by their sudden displacement.

“It was heartbreaking to see the busses coming in full of women, children and the elderly, carrying what they could or dragging suitcases, some crying, all looking dazed,” she said. “I pray every night for them and that the Holy Spirit moves to put an end to this war.”

We pray for them, and for ALL the oppressed of the world, that they may know SAFETY and PEACE.

Congregation Partners with YWCA, Kalamazoo

Several sisters and associates from Kalamazoo are spending time volunteering with the YWCA’s early childhood center and community resource hub in the Edison neighborhood. The congregation is also helping with start-up operations support for this important community resource, which is now being called “The Dreamery.” “The Congregation of St. Joseph is proud to partner with the Kalamazoo YWCA in the work of specific systemic change,” said Sister Rita Ann Teichman, who volunteers at the Dreamery. “Providing equitable access to these early learning and childcare services is a part of the congregation’s legacy for our dear neighbors in the Kalamazoo Edison area.” In addition to support for the Dreamery, the congregation is involved in long standing work the YWCA carries out to raise awareness and provide direct support to victims of human trafficking.

To learn more, visit YWCAKalamazoo.org



YWCA staff and Sisters of St. Joseph gather for a meeting at the “Dreamery.” Pictured top row: YWCA staff members Sandra Calderon-Huezo, LynnAnn VanDyk and Amin Finch and Sister Rita Ann Teichman. Bottom row: Sisters Sue McCrery, Margot Eder and Marge Bassett.

Life at *Nazareth Center*

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 Nazareth campus have recently become available to women and men who are looking for a fully licensed, assisted living 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, call 269.381.6290.



We celebrated a special birthday recently – Sister Bernita Marie Gensterblum turned 93 year's young in June! She celebrated along with other sisters at the center and of course, with cake! Congratulations, Sister Bernita!



Recently, staff members and their families came to the center to wash scooters, walkers and wheelchairs for our very appreciative sisters.



Sisters Shirley Tousignant, Pam Owens, Pat Mullen, and Phyllis Tousignant catch up during lunch in the dining room.



Sister Grace Scola enjoys baking in one of the large shared kitchens at the center, and sharing the treats with sisters, residents and staff.



Sisters Mary Claver Hickmott, who is celebrating her 75th Jubilee this year (see page 4), and Rosemary Balog enjoy reading on one of the covered porches at the center.



Sisters Mary Ellen Gondeck and Kit Kaiser tend the vegetable garden next to the center.



Sister Theresa MacIntyre, one of our talented in-house musicians, plays the organ in the Chapel.



Sister Tami Schab enjoys walking Zara, her golden retriever, on the path behind the center.

Jubilee

2022

The following sisters who live in Kalamazoo and other areas in Michigan are celebrating Jubilee this year. Jubilee is the anniversary of a sister's entrance into religious life.



Sister Ruth Harbor, CSJ
(*Sister Generosa*)

80 Years



Sister Mary Catherine DeSantis, CSJ
(*Sister Mary Dion*)

60 Years



Sister Mary Patricia Denny, CSJ
(*Sister Josaphat*)

75 Years



Sister Patricia Hergenroether, CSJ
(*Sister Eric*)

60 Years



Sister Mary Claver Hickmott, CSJ

75 Years



Sister Mary Ann Wyllie, CSJ
(*Sister Mary John*)

60 Years



Sister Damien Fitzsimmons, CSJ
(*Sister Mary Damien*)

70 Years

Congratulations

to all our sisters celebrating Jubilee from around the congregation this year.

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

St. Luke N.E.W. Life Center Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Sister Judy Blake, CSJ and Sister Carol Weber, OP, along with some of the parishioners of St. Luke Catholic Church, started doing street ministry in the early 90s in Flint, Michigan. As they shared meals and clothing, they heard many stories of the plight of the women and children in Flint. Questions began to form. “What can we do for these women to make their lives less desperate?” “What can we offer that will help grow their spirit?”

The answer came when they founded St. Luke N.E.W. Life Center in 2002. Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the N.E.W. Life Center is a faith-based organization that provides life skills, education and workplace training to help women and men become self-sufficient.

Today, Sisters Judy and Carol, Director of Operations Bob Nelson, and other staff and volunteers provide a safe environment for survivors of abuse and poverty. The center provides access for people to learn and further their education with the help of volunteer tutors, basic life skills classes to those who need it, and maybe most important, encouragement along the way.

In addition to employment preparation programs, St. Luke N.E.W. Life Center operates three social enterprises, a food pantry that serves over 3,000 people monthly, and a variety of community services, including crisis intervention, after school tutoring, an



N.E.W. Life Center founders Sisters Carol Weber, OP, and Judy Blake, CSJ, at the 20th Anniversary Kickoff event.

eyeglass clinic and a literacy center. These services are critical as they provide participants the additional services needed to support their families while they gain real-world experience during the program.

Sister Judy Blake says she sees her own childhood in the people she now works so passionately to help. “People come to the Center for all kinds of help,” she said. “They’re broken in spirit, they’ve lost their self-esteem, and sometimes they want to give up and die. I understand where they’re coming from and I’m here because God trained me for this ministry from a very young age.”

To learn more, visit StLukeNewLife.com



Sisters Marie Benzinger, Leadership Team Member Marie Hogan and Jeanne Gamache wear orange in Detroit.



Sister Betsy Meagher at a rally in Kalamazoo.

Supporting An End to Gun Violence

Sisters in Michigan and across the congregation showed their support for victims of gun violence and for ending gun violence by participating in Wear Orange Weekend as part of National Gun Violence Awareness week in June. Sisters wore orange, attended rallies and prayed at vigils for those who have lost their lives to guns and their families.

While we know prayers are important, we also know they are not enough. Which is why the congregation’s Gift Committee provided emergency grant funds to the **Uvalde Strong Fund** to aid victims and families of the Uvalde shooting, and to the **Sandy Hook Promise Fund**, a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to put an end to school shootings.

Please join us as we continue to pray for victims and for a path forward to end gun violence.

† IN MEMORIAM †



Sister Irene Waldmann, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on June 30, 2022, after 75 years of religious life.



Sister Monica Marie Ruoff, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on February 3, 2022, after 74 years of religious life.

Sister Ann Therese Foley, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on May 27, 2022, after 72 years of religious life.



Sister Rose Mary Martin, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on December 8, 2021, after 75 years of religious life.



Sister Maureen Metty, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on May 21, 2022, after 33 years of religious life.



Sister Gertrude Maurer, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on November 30, 2021, after 62 years of religious life.

Sister Adele Donovan, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on April 7, 2022, after 87 years of religious life.



Sister Janice Popilek, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on October 12, 2021, after 63 years of religious life.



Sister Brigetta Slinger, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on March 17, 2022, after 61 years of religious life.



Sister Mary Conway, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on September 14, 2021, after 69 years of religious life.

Sister Sandra Melanson, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on February 25, 2022, after 64 years of religious life.



Sister Margaret "Peg" Parks, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on July 6, 2021, after 70 years of religious life.



Sister Evelyn Kruskamp, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on February 23, 2022, after 75 years of religious life.

We Celebrate...

the lives of all our sisters who passed away this year.



Nazareth Association

to keep alive the spirit and values of our sisters and our schools. Our alums hold great love and respect for our sisters because of the wonderful education that they received at our five institutions: Barbour Hall, Nazareth College, The Academy, St. Camillus/Borgess School of Nursing, and St. Joseph/Flint School of Nursing.

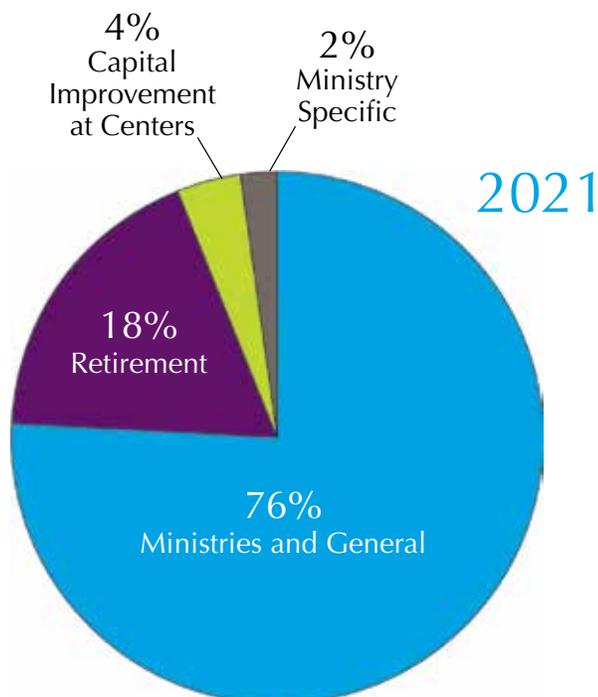
Even though the Association has formally dissolved, we remain connected through our memories and friendships, and we continue to hold great appreciation and love for our alums. The Nazareth Association had a special connection with us for many years and we are grateful for the important contributions made to education, including awarding numerous college scholarships and offering grant opportunities to CSJ members.

On May 18th, alums from some of our former schools and Sisters of St. Joseph gathered for a celebration to honor the important contributions the Nazareth Association has made over the years and to recognize the closing of the Association as a formal organization.

Twenty-nine years ago, Sister Irene Waldmann wanted to support alumni in their zeal to start an association

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 reflects designated uses of the charitable donations we received in 2021. We 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 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 us.

Matching Gifts

Ask your employer about 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



2929 Nazareth Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, Ohio
Permit No. 2280

Spotlight Photo



Laryssa Baczynskyj, IT Specialist at our Nazareth center, collected towels and sheets from the sisters to donate to migrant workers in Michigan. The donation was coordinated by the Kalamazoo Council of Catholic Women, for which Laryssa is a board member.



We Invite You!

Our residents enjoy vibrant living in a warm, friendly environment.



Beautifully Appointed Apartments



New Friends

Apartments are now available on our Nazareth campus for women and men who are looking for a fully licensed, assisted living residence. If you are interested in a different kind of living experience for yourself or a loved one and would like to learn more, call **269-381-6290**.



Exceptional Dining



Tranquil Grounds



Daily Mass