

# Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH

## Sisters Retire After Years of Service in Healthcare and Education

### Sister Ann Meyer

Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas



In April, Sister Ann Meyer retired from active ministry after 14 years working in the medical records department at Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas.

Sister Ann's departure is especially poignant as she represents the last of the Sisters of St. Joseph to serve in Pittsburgh, who, as a small, young congregation under the direction of Mother Mary Bernard Sheridan, opened Mount Carmel Hospital in 1903. The sisters had been

*Photo courtesy of Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas*

called to Pittsburgh to serve the region's most vulnerable and poor, on the very land where the clinic sits today.

It was the congregation's first venture into healthcare, and without paid staff or electricity, the sisters slept in the attic and shared duties of patient care, cooking, cleaning and shoveling coal for the furnace. Mother Bernard would serve as Superior for 20 more years and establish three additional hospitals and twenty-nine schools.

As the era of the congregation's presence in Pittsburgh closes after more than 125 years, Sister Ann says, "I don't look at myself as retiring. I'm moving to Wichita. I am going to have more time to paint and be with our sisters in the nursing home. It's a new chapter of my life."

### Sister Janelle Ann Brittain

Holy Name Catholic School

In June, Sister Janelle Ann Brittain retired from active ministry after 30 years teaching grade school at Holy Name Catholic School in Coffeyville, Kansas. Sisters of St. Joseph have served at Holy Name School since 1917, so Sister Janelle Ann's departure is truly the end of an era.

In addition to teaching third and fourth grades, Sister Janelle Ann also taught physical education classes and online classes in different subjects and grades.

When reflecting on her long career in education, Sister Janelle Ann said that for her, teaching was both challenging and rewarding. "I would not trade any of my service to God and his people," she said. "I have been blessed a hundred fold working with so many wonderful people including priests, my fellow sisters, school staff, parents and of course, the children. I have made many friends whom I will miss dearly, so leaving will be bittersweet. God is good."



*Sister Janelle Ann holds a statue of St. Joseph during an all-school lunch where she was honored for her service. With her are Father James Schibi, the Parish Pastor, and Lisa Payne, the school Principal.*

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](mailto:mrajewski@csjinitiatives.org).



As part of a Cinco de Mayo celebration at the center, sisters were treated to traditional Mexican music performed by a mariachi band.



Sister June Horning enjoys staying active on the center's fitness equipment.



Sisters and staff gathered for an outing to a local DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Thrift Store recently, where they dropped off donations, shopped and visited with the staff.





From left, Sisters Dorothy LeBlanc, Jean Louise Diskin, Connie Beiriger, Ursula Fotovich, and Margaret Ellen Isenbart gather to play cards.

During Catholic Sisters Week in March, sisters at the Wichita center wrote notes of gratitude to each staff member to be given on St. Joseph's Day, March 19th.



On Earth Day in April, sisters' grandpals (5th graders from All Saints Grade School) planted butterfly gardens outside Marian Hall for the sisters to enjoy. Above center, Life Enrichment Coordinator Laura Collins and Sisters Margaret Ellen Isenbart, Jean Louise Diskin and Sedonia Isenbart look on. Above right, Shirley Besette, a lay resident from the Villa, and Sister Connie Robles planted flowers in raised garden plots on the patio.



In May, a Service Awards Day was held to honor and thank employees celebrating special work anniversaries. From left are Steve Trevett (20 years), Margarita Ibanez (10 years), Connie Harris (10 years) and Mark Porter (15 years). Not pictured but also celebrating are Denesha Kasalika (15 years) and Jackie DaSilva (5 years).

Daily celebrations of Mass are an important part of life for our sisters and lay residents who choose to join them in the Chapel at The Mount. Here, Sister Antonella Bayer offers her musical gifts as Sister Judy Couturie leads congregants in song.

# Jubilee

2022

The following sisters in Wichita and Japan are celebrating Jubilee this year. Jubilee is the anniversary of a sister's entrance into religious life.



Sister Bertina Korphage, CSJ

80 Years



Sister Agnes Nakamura, CSJ  
(Sister Bertilla Marie)

60 Years



Sister Janice Miller, CSJ  
(Sister George Ann)

70 Years



Sister Geraldine Riendeau, CSJ  
(Sister Mary Celine)

60 Years



Sister Rosemary Sieg, CSJ  
(Sister Catherine Louise)

70 Years

**Congratulations** to all our sisters who are celebrating Jubilee from around the congregation this year! To view sister biographies, visit our Jubilarians page at [CSJoseph.org](http://CSJoseph.org)



# In Memoriam



Sister Mary Cecil Isenbart, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on January 5, 2022, after 69 years of religious life.



Sister Catherine Switlik, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on May 2, 2022, after 66 years of religious life.



Sister Judith Ann Shimek, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on November 4, 2021, after 66 years of religious life.



Sister Ann Diskin, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on March 21, 2022, after 83 years of religious life.



Sister Mary Juanita Moidl, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on October 31, 2021, after 67 years of religious life.



Sister Eula Linnebur, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on February 17, 2022, after 71 years of religious life.



Sister Dolorosa Muranaka, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on July 6, 2021, after 66 years of religious life.



Sister Elizabeth Ann Switlik, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on January 25, 2022, after 66 years of religious life.

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

## Dear Neighbor Ministries

### The Annual ICT Bee Adult Spelling Bee Event Supports Dear Neighbor Ministries

The annual ICT Bee Adult Spelling Bee event took place on June 16, 2022, benefiting Dear Neighbor Ministries. The evening was filled with laughter and fun, while audience members participated in trivia, listened to music by a local DJ, and then cheered for their favorite spelling team. Eight teams competed for bragging rights to be named top spellers. This year the team from Emprise Bank, Mo Honey Mo Problems, took home the 1st place trophy.

Everyone had a wonderful time including some of the sisters from the Wichita Center. Some enjoyed being in the audience, while Sister Lois O'Malley and Sister Janice Grochowsky participated in the spelling competition as the JoJo Bees. Sister Joan Burger came in costume to greet attendees and cheer on the JoJo Bees.

To learn more, visit [dearneighbor.org](https://dearneighbor.org)



## StepStone

### Annual Fishing Trip to Kick-off Summer

The beginning of summer for StepStone started with the annual fishing trip. StepStone domestic violence survivors, sisters, staff, and volunteers along with members of the Wichita Police Department, and U.S. Navy joined families at a Wichita local park for a fun day of fishing, relaxation, and food.



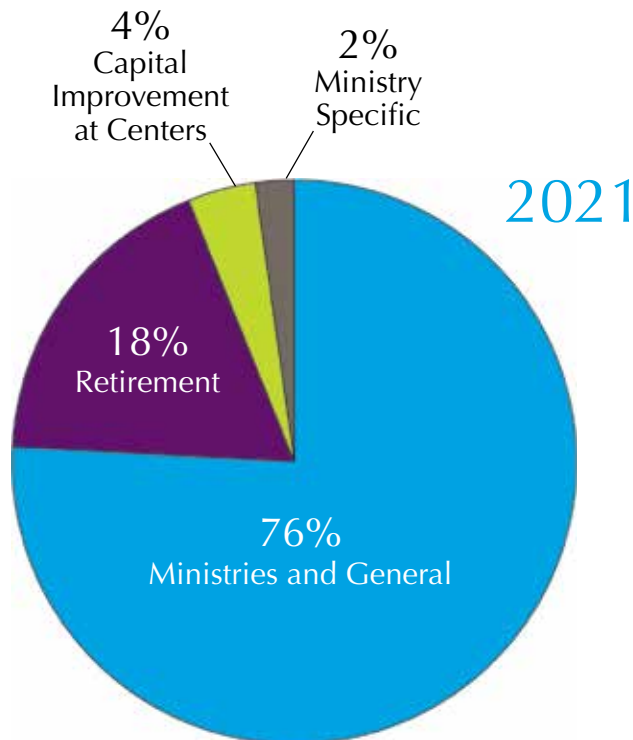
This event takes place every year to allow police officers and others to interact with survivors, especially children, in a relaxed environment. Help is given to those who have never fished before with baiting hooks, casting lines, and taking fish off the hooks, for those who are lucky enough to catch one.

To learn more, visit [stepstoneks.org](https://stepstoneks.org)



# 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](https://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](mailto:moleary@csjoseph.org) or 216-688-3474



*Seated from left are Sister Dorothy LeBlanc, Life Enrichment Coordinator Laura Collins, Shirley Besette and Angie Baalman, both lay residents from the Villa, and Sisters Irene Regan and Anne Dolores LaPlante.*

## Sisters Recognized by Ascension Via Christi

Sisters in Wichita were recently invited to attend the dedication and blessing of the renovated St. Joseph Chapel located in Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph Hospital. The chapel had originally been constructed and previous renovations conducted under several of our own sisters. It was with happy memories that the sisters attended the blessing followed by a reception with a chance to show appreciation to the Via Christi Foundation and all those who had worked on the project.



CONGREGATION OF

St. Joseph


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## Spotlight Photo



*Sisters Jean Louise Diskin and Arlys McDonald enjoy visiting with Charlie, a friendly resident pup who belongs to Sisters Arlys and Teresa Waner.*

 This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

# We Invite You!



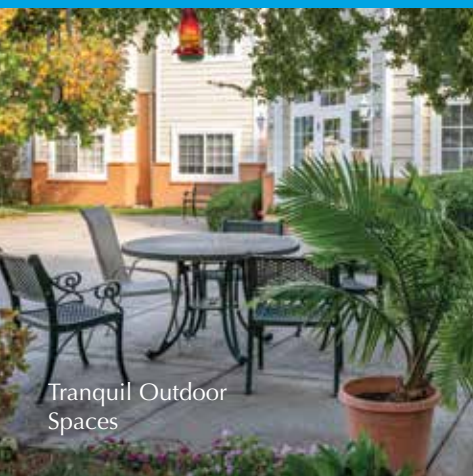
Our residents enjoy vibrant living in a warm, friendly environment.



Beautifully Appointed Apartments



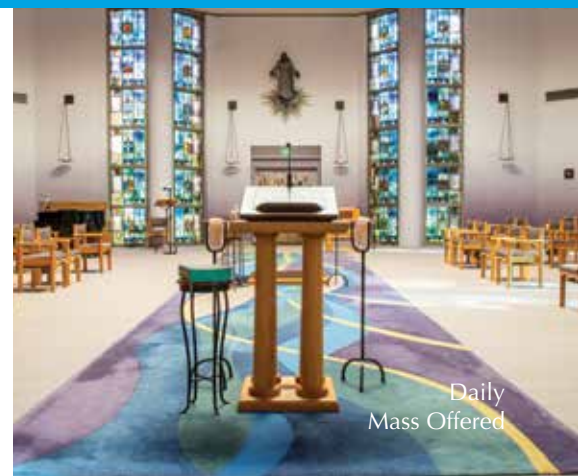
Apartments are now available at Mount St. Mary for women and men to join us in independent or assisted living, or skilled and short term rehabilitation residence. If you are interested in a different kind of living experience for yourself or a loved one and would like to learn more, contact **Michael Rajewski** at **316.686.7171** or **mrajewski@csjinitatives.org**.



Tranquil Outdoor Spaces



Exceptional Dining



Daily Mass Offered