

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, health crises, income and food insecurity, mental health issues, and others. Here are just a few of the organizations we supported this past year that provide critical services here in Cleveland:



Front Steps (formerly Transitional Housing)

In 1986, Sister Loretta Schulte, with the help of Sisters Rita Shinherl, Irene Utrup and Donna Hawk, founded Transitional Housing on Cleveland's west side. They converted a former motel into housing for low-income and homeless women. This year, we were pleased to support our former ministry (now called Front Steps) with a grant to support expansion of behavioral health services for residents and people in the community, and to be present at their May 7th ribbon-cutting event celebrating their new permanent supportive apartment building on West 25th St., named St. Joseph's Commons in honor of their foundresses. Above, Sister Loretta with Front Steps Executive Director, Sherri Brandon.

To learn more, visit FrontStepsServices.org



From left are Joseph Ptak, Zach LaFleur, Carl Dettlebach, Marcela Weaver, Sister Marilyn Nickol and Scott Gogos

St. Colman Church

Each month, St. Colman Church serves meals to members of the community through its Neighborhood Meal program. Sister Marilyn Nickol, who serves as Outreach Minister at St. Colman Church, said the needs were even greater this past year. "We are still serving the monthly meal to our dear neighbors to-go," said Sister Marilyn. "But we are looking forward to the time when we can welcome our guests back to Parish Hall for a sit-down meal."

To learn more, visit StColmanChurch.org

West Side Catholic Center

Founded by Sister Kathleen Kilbane, West Side Catholic Center (WSCC) offers hot meals, clothing and household goods, emergency services, hospitality, advocacy, a family shelter, housing solutions, and workforce training to those in need at no charge. Currently, the Congregation helps WSCC provide for the direct needs of individuals with funding and support from our local sisters and associates. "This has been a challenging year, yet WSCC has remained a valuable resource for those most in need," said John Litten, WSCC Executive Director. "Thanks in part to your help, we never stopped providing meals, shelter, and hygiene and social services to the thousands who visit us each year."



To learn more, visit WSCcenter.org

Life at *St. Joseph Center*

There is always something going on at St. Joseph Center! Our sisters enjoy a diverse array of mind, body and spirit offerings which provide opportunities to connect with one another, and contribute to an overall vibrant living experience.

Here are a few recent snapshots of life at St. Joseph Center!



One of our talented sister artists, Sister Pat McHale, with some of her icon artwork that is currently on display at St. Joseph Center. She is holding one that depicts St. Joseph with Jesus that she painted as a way to honor our patron saint during the Year of St. Joseph.



Sister Helen Ann Brown enjoys dog sitting for Ginger the Goldendoodle, who is a regular visitor at St. Joseph Center. Ginger belongs to Sister Nancy Conway and Jean Alvarez who live nearby, and is very popular with the sisters and staff!

Sister Liz Lavelle (left), and Associate Judy Opalach with a Monarch butterfly display in the center lobby. Each year, the Congregation brings awareness to the depletion of this crucial pollinator's population by giving away milkweed seed packets. Milkweed is the only food the Monarch caterpillar eats, so we encourage everyone to plant it in their yards or containers and help us save the Monarchs!



This past spring, Sister Corita Ambro led a class for our sisters on American Sign Language. The sisters enjoyed learning basic words, the alphabet and numbers in sign language. Although well known for her nearly 50 years of service running the St. Augustine Hunger Center in Tremont, Sister Corita actually began her service to the parish in 1970 as Director of Religious Education for the deaf community and is therefore proficient in Sign Language.



On May 18th, Shirelle Boyd, Director of Food Service at St. Joseph Center, led a cooking demonstration for the sisters on the dining room patio. She was assisted by Dré Chapman who is the Lead Cook. They prepared bananas foster for the sisters who enjoyed the delicious treat while visiting with one another.



Sisters Delphine Kennedy (left) and Dorothy Turk were all smiles as they took part in a wreath making class at St. Joseph Center in May. The wreaths are for the sisters to hang on their apartment doors.



And they're off! Sisters and staff enjoyed watching the Kentucky Derby on May 1st, and some got into the spirit by wearing fancy hats. Above, Healthcare Coordinator Amy Bokmiller, LPN, and Sister Juanita Shealey.

Jubilee

2021

The following sisters from the founding community of Cleveland 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 Juanita Shealey, CSJ
(formerly Sister Nativa)

70 Years



Sister Rita Petruziello, CSJ
(formerly Sister Michael Francis)

60 Years



Sister Patricia Adams, CSJ
(formerly Sister Maureen
Therese)

60 Years



Sister Mary Schrader, CSJ
(formerly Sister Catherine May)

60 Years



Sister Susan Imburgia, CSJ
(formerly Sister Mary Karen)

60 Years

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

IN MEMORIAM † WE REMEMBER, WE CELEBRATE, WE BELIEVE



Sister Wilma Apack, CSJ
(formerly Sister Ann
Joseph)

Entered into eternal
life on November 29,
2020, after 68 years
of religious life.



Sister Judith Cauley, CSJ
(formerly Sister Mary
Brian)

Entered into eternal
life on November 26,
2020, after 68 years
of religious life.



Sister Marietta Starrie, CSJ

Entered into eternal
life on May 8, 2021,
after 71 years of
religious life.

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 at pmilenius@csjoseph.org or 216.252.0440

Cemetery and Grotto Renewal Project

The beautiful grounds around St. Joseph Center in Cleveland reflect our commitment to care for God's creation. They also provide quiet spaces for prayer, contemplation and relaxation that are enjoyed by our sisters, neighbors and Saint Joseph Academy students.

Soon, we will undertake a project to repair, restore and enhance two of our most sacred spaces - the grotto and historic cemetery. We will:



- Reset and repair gravestones
- Install new Crucifix
- Repair stone walls
- Resurface paths and repair pavers
- Replace deteriorated benches
- Restore the statue of Mary
- Enhance landscaping and add additional trees



Will you join us in preserving these sacred spaces by making a gift to this project? Thanks to the generosity of the following donors, your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$14,000. Gifts received after the match is reached will also be used for the project, including for additional landscaping. Please see enclosed envelope to make your gift today.

Donors to Date:

Anonymous gift in memory of Libby Boyd; Christopher and Nancy Looney Coburn in memory of Susanne Storey Looney; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nock in honor of the sisters who taught at St. Mary's in Berea; Dr. Terri Shawhan, class of '65, in honor of Sisters Helen Ann Brown and Pat Finn; Mr. and Mrs. William Spellacy in memory of Sister Alma Kleinhenz and in honor of Sister Madeline Lammermeier.

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.”



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.

To learn more, visit [CatholicCharitiesrgv.org/RespiteCenter](https://www.CatholicCharitiesrgv.org/RespiteCenter)



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.



Sisters Cheer Class of 2021 During Walk of the Roses

On a beautiful June 1st evening, the 2021 graduating class of Saint Joseph Academy took part in the annual Walk of the Roses on their way to commencement, which this year took place at SJA. Holding bouquets of red roses, the Seniors were cheered on by our sisters as well as family and friends as they made their way up Rocky River Drive to Saint Joseph Academy. Once seated, the ceremony began with a prayer led by Sister Mary Hough (bottom left). We are so proud of these young women and know they will continue to live lives of service, compassion and unifying love.

Congratulations, Class of 2021!



River's Edge

Spirituality & Wellness Center

While the pandemic has brought many changes to our lives and world, our need for reflection and spiritual support has remained. This summer, consider looking to River's Edge or one of our other spirituality centers to find connection, perspective and stillness. Much of the programming offered by our spirituality centers is still being offered virtually, including spiritual direction, retreats, and speaker series. Some have even resumed in-person outdoor retreats. They offer a variety of programs and opportunities to engage with others as well as with thought leaders in the areas of spirituality, theology, social justice, science, personal transformation and systemic change.

For more information on our spirituality centers and links to their offerings, visit our website at: CSJoseph.org/spirituality-centers/

Upcoming Program at River's Edge:

Dreaming in Color: Race in the Unconscious

Dr. Fanny Brewster, Ph.D.

Saturday, October 9, 2021 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$45

Register at RiversEdgeCleveland.com/Speakers

Racial relations, racism and psychological racial complexities have become significant areas of discussion within and between various cultural groups. In this program, participants will have the opportunity to share in these discussions, and discuss how dreams act as a pathway to engage with imagery from the unconscious that may be related to raciality.






3430 Rocky River Drive
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

Spotlight Photo



Sister Madeline Lammermeier (right) during a recent visit with her dear friend Sister Eileen Wentzel at Villa St. Joseph, Marymount.

 This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

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