

Lending a Helping Hand

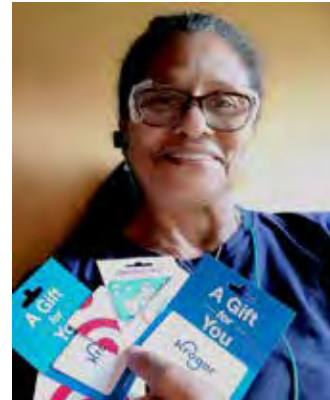
Each year, the Congregation of St. Joseph partners with and supports ministries and non-profit organizations that make a real difference to so many people in our community. This past year, the needs were even greater due to pandemic-related issues such as job loss, health crises, income and food insecurity, mental health issues, and others. Here are just a few of the organizations and other initiatives we supported this past year that provide critical services here in Michigan:



YWCA Kalamazoo

The Congregation of St. Joseph is happy to partner with the YWCA of Kalamazoo to help support a community resource hub and services at the YWCA's new Edison Early Learning and Child Care Center. These services along with others will assist families in accessing high quality programming, and will link families and parents to needed community resources. Above, Sister Rita Ann Teichman presents Dr. Grace Lubwama, YWCA Kalamazoo CEO, with a grant from the congregation to support this work.

To learn more, visit YWCAKalamazoo.org



Associates Collect and Donate Food Gift Cards

CSJ Associate Valerie Watkins coordinated a drive to collect food-related gift cards to donate to non-profit organizations in Michigan that work with vulnerable communities who experience food insecurity.

Joining her in the effort were

CSJ Associates Taryn Winston and Stephanie Suggs. Together they collected over \$1,000 in gift cards which were then donated to Freedom House and Peggy's Place in Detroit, and St. Luke New Life Center in Flint, which is run by Sister Judy Blake. The collection was part of our 2021 Catholic Sisters Week (March 8-14) initiative, which focused on the issue of food insecurity within vulnerable populations such as those experiencing homelessness and poverty, and asylum seekers.

Pope Francis Center

For the past 30 years, Pope Francis Center in Detroit has provided food and vital services to the cities most vulnerable citizens.

In addition to nutritious meals, the center offers basic hygiene services such as hot showers and laundry, access to doctors, dentists, lawyers, and housing providers, and serves as a respite to life on the streets. The Congregation was pleased to support this organization, which serves approximately 200 people each day.



To learn more, visit PopeFrancisCenter.org

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!

Contact Nick Probol at 269.381.6290, or nprobol@csjinitiatives.org.

Our sisters celebrated Mother's Day this year in grand style! They gathered in the center dining room to enjoy a special brunch and music courtesy of Sister Theresa MacIntyre (right). Some even wore festive Spring hats for the occasion!



From left, Sisters Pat Mullen, Phyllis Tousignant, Bernita Marie Gensterblum and Katie Shanahan.



From left, Sisters Gertrude Maurer, Joan Hastreiter, Bernadette Barker, Rosemary Balog and Maureen Metty.



Sisters Lois Barror and Damien Fitzsimmons.



In May, several of our sisters started a new garden on the grounds of the Nazareth center. Hard at work planning and clearing the land are (from left) Sisters Mary Ellen Gondeck, Margot Eder, Wanda Wetli and Kit Kaiser.



On May Day (May 1st), several of our sisters in Nazareth celebrated the start of Spring by arranging beautiful baskets and bouquets, like this one held by Sister Katie Shanahan.



Sister Jeanne Marie Greenen gave a presentation to our sisters recently to update them on Mission Haiti, a ministry the Congregation has supported since 2012. In partnership with the U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph and Mission Haiti, the Congregation sponsors ten students as a way to help empower young women and girls through education. The students have come a long way and are now in grades 8, 9 and 10. We look forward to seeing how far they will go in their education and lives!

In May, over 20 sisters lent a helping hand to the Kalamazoo Anti-trafficking Coalition by assembling care backpacks for survivors of human trafficking. The project was coordinated by Sister Kit Kaiser and Nazareth Center Activity Director Kate Deatherage. The backpacks contained socks, leggings, t-shirts and other clothing, personal care items like toothpaste, and a note of encouragement from the sisters.



Top photo: From left, Sister Gertrude Maurer, Kate Deatherage and Sisters Theresa MacIntyre and Jeanne Marie Greenen put backpacks together.

Bottom photo: From left, Sisters Marty McEntee, Marilyn Nichols and Janet Kurtz with geraniums sent by the Kalamazoo Anti-trafficking Coalition to thank the sisters for their help.



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 Agnes Breitenbeck, CSJ
(formerly Sister Wilmett)

75 Years



Sister Sharon Hektor, CSJ
(formerly Sister Rose de Lima)

60 Years



Sister Rose Mary Martin, CSJ
(formerly Sister Nivard)

75 Years



Sister Kathleen Kaiser, CSJ
(formerly Sister Katrina)

60 Years



Sister Grace Scola, CSJ
(formerly Sister Alphonsa)

75 Years



Sister Brigetta Slinger, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Mary Ellen Gondeck, CSJ
(formerly Sister Louis Mary)

60 Years



Sister Wanda Wetli, CSJ
(formerly Sister Frances)

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.”



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.

IN MEMORIAM † WE REMEMBER, WE CELEBRATE, WE BELIEVE



Sister Anne de Paul Rivard, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on May 8, 2021, after celebrating 64 years of religious life.



Sister Jeanne Lenore Twomey, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on February 12, 2021, after celebrating 64 years of religious life.



Sister Cecile Thibodeau, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on April 12, 2021, after celebrating 81 years of religious life.



Sister Marie Roy, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on January 19, 2021, after celebrating 60 years of religious life.



Sister Clement Stine, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on February 26, 2021, after celebrating 80 years of religious life.



Sister Sheila Clauss, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on January 9, 2021, after celebrating 67 years of religious life.



Sister Lucy Schneider, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on February 21, 2021, after celebrating 66 years of religious life.



Sister Marie Leonard Richert, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on September 20, 2020, after celebrating 64 years of religious life.



Sister Margaret "Peggy" Wessel, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on September 5, 2020, after celebrating 52 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, Director of Advancement pmilenius@csjoseph.org or 216.252.0440

Thank
You!

The installation of the beautiful, historic stained-glass windows in the new Nazareth Center is complete! We are so grateful for the support we received from so many of you for this special initiative. Because of your generosity, our sisters are able to enjoy these beautiful and inspirational additions to their home every day!



Holy Family Chapel with stained glass from the clerestory (upper) windows from the former Holy Family Chapel.



Lobby Lightbox with stained glass from the former Holy Family Chapel.



Chapel entrance with Marian window from the former Nazareth Academy; and Prayer room with panels from the former Barbour Hall Academy.




2929 Nazareth Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Spotlight Photo



Sisters Erin McDonald and Marcella Clancy enjoyed getting outdoors and catching up with one another while walking a local nature trail.

 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