



DECEMBER 2021

Together

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet & Consociates
St. Paul Province | www.csjstpaul.org

*May the light that
is Christ-Wisdom-
Jesus be in and with
all and each of us as we
celebrate this sacred,
dark time revealing
new, coming, Light.*

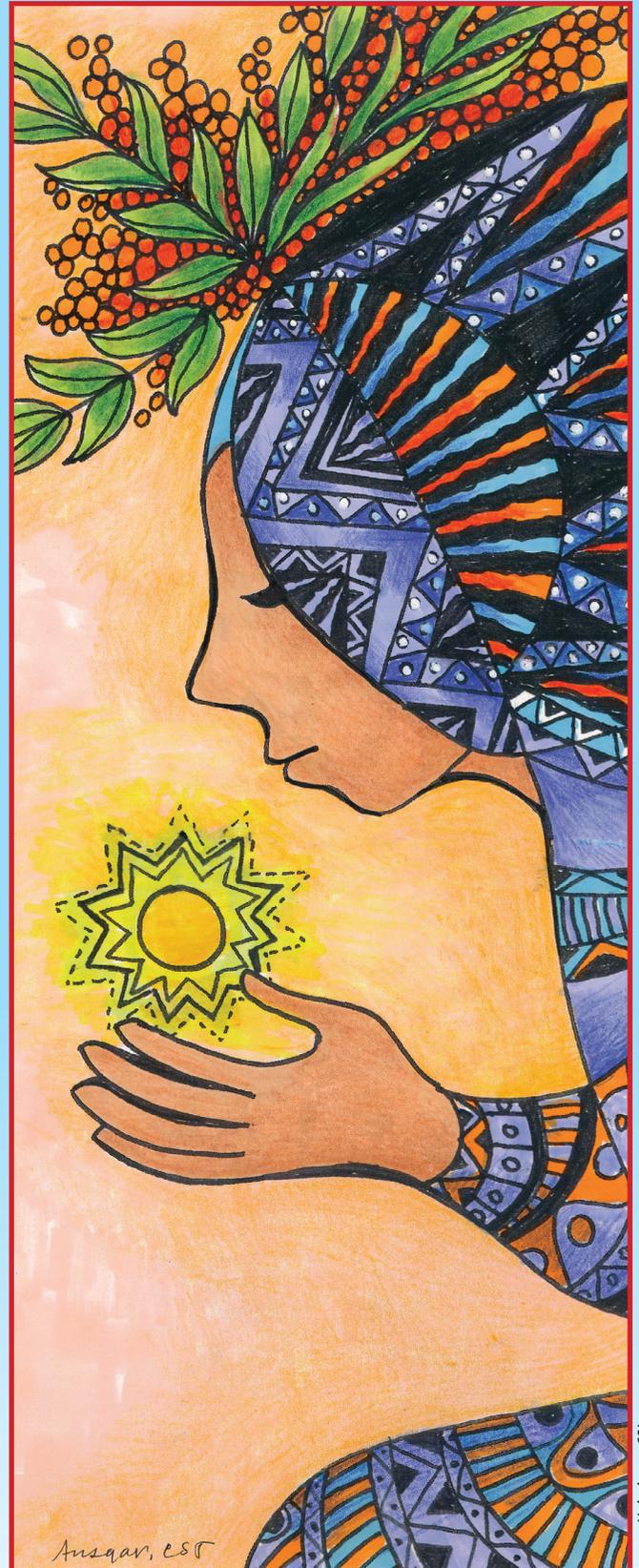
Happy, blessed Advent
Suzanne, Susan & Cathy

“How the Light Comes: A Blessing for Christmas Day”

By Jan Richardson from “Circle of Grace”

I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds us,
though it may seem
long in coming
or arrive in a shape
we did not foresee.

And so
May we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still
to the blessed light
that comes.



Ansgar Holmberg, CSJ

170 years of Serving the Dear Neighbor in Minnesota

“Good afternoon to all of you... welcome to those here in the auditorium and those joining us throughout the building,” said Sister Carolyn Puccio, CSJ. Her words were the opening of an afternoon event at Carondelet Village. “While COVID restrictions and space limitations have prevented us from being physically together, we are here to celebrate together! In addition, I encourage those of you who can, to come to the Bistro at 3:00 to mingle with our Carondelet Village neighbors as they join in our celebration by enjoying cake.

“It was Sister Mary Kraft who noted that November 3rd this year marked 170 years since the first Sisters of St. Joseph came to Minnesota. Our public relations person, Ann Thompson picked up on the importance of recognizing this milestone and others of us worked at putting something together as best we could, on short notice. Special thanks to the volunteers assisting with the details this afternoon.”



Sister Carolyn’s remarks followed with this prayer, “God of Great love, we walk in the company of our pioneer sisters; Mother St. John Fournier, Sister Philomene Vilaine, Sister Scholastica Vasques and Sister Francis Joseph Ivory. You empowered them to respond to the needs of the time with great courage as they journeyed up the river to the Minnesota Territory. Inspired by their example, may we go forth boldly into new territory, striving always to move toward profound love of you, the dear neighbor and all of creation. We ask this in Jesus’ name. And let the community say: AMEN.

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Following Sister Carolyn’s prayer, Sister Jill Underdahl, CSJ introduced the “Spirit of Joseph” video explaining how it had been produced specifically to help the Sisters of St. Joseph celebrate this Year of St. Joseph. She described the *Spirit of Joseph* song, sharing its lyrics that are so specific to the CSJ community.

170th Celebration

www.csjstpaul.org

Thanks!

Special thanks to staff volunteers who helped host the 170th arrival anniversary event throughout Carondelet Village, serving cake, offering hospitality and doing whatever needed doing:

Auditorium Volunteers: Jim Reetz; Danielle Clausnitzer; Leslie Aktan

Care Center Volunteers: Marty Roers; Cheryl Peterson; John Viktora-Croke

Memory Care – Arbor: Bridgette Kelly and Su Yoon Koon

Assisted Living Volunteers: Kathleen Olsen, Michelle Hueg, Lara Lundgren, Alondra Rojas-Duarte, Casey Murano and Kim Wagner

Bistro Volunteers: Barb Aubert (thanks for picking up the cake, Barb!) and Kirsten Simon. A special thanks to Sister Carolyn Puccio who, working with Ann Thompson and a host of others including Kim Wagner, Lori True and Kathleen Olsen, helped coordinate the event.

Those fortunate enough to participate in 2001 in the 150th celebration of the establishment of the St. Paul Province will recall the dramatic reenactment of the Sisters' arrival at the lower landing along the Mississippi River on a wintry day, the hardships of their early years, and their remarkable story in the Upper Midwest as they served (and continue to serve) as educators, nurses, administrators, artists, musicians and poets, cooks and gardeners, spiritual directors and social activists—all against a background of contemplative prayer.



November 3, 2021: the 170th anniversary of the arrival of CSJs in St. Paul *

By Joan Mitchell (excerpted)

9:30 a.m. Mass at Carondelet Village, Sister Joan Mitchell shared this homily.

Today we celebrate the arrival of the first four Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Paul, November 3, 1851.

Our Constitution echoes the words we just heard from St. Paul's letter to the Romans. "Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another. The one who loves another has fulfilled the law... Whatever other commandments there may be are summed up in this saying, namely, Love your neighbor as yourself."

As Sisters of St. Joseph we express our call: Love God and neighbor without distinction. We cannot say we love God and not love one another. We cannot say we love God and pick and choose who among God's creatures are worth our love.

We call this our charism, our special gift, our special reason for being a community. To love God and neighbor without distinction. When a scribe asked Jesus in last Sunday's gospel, "What is the greatest commandment?" you know the answer: Love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, with all your **mind**, with all your soul, and with all your **strength** AND who should you love as you love yourself? **Your neighbor**. These two commandments form the daily prayer of Jews, the *shema*, which begins: Hear, O Israel, the Holy One, your God, is One. The call to love God and neighbor follows. So the daily work of unifying love, of building community is our daily work as CSJs.

From our beginning we were not confined to monasteries but lived among the people. The Countess who sold her jewels to pay for the sisters' trip to America said of us, "Their rule binds them to all the virtues of the cloister joined to the virtues demanded by an ardent charity." Like Vincent de Paul's sisters, our cloisters were the city streets and the hospital wards. We had a reputation for doing what needed to be done and enlisting all the help we could get from those willing—to teach women lacemaking so they could be self-supporting, to care for the sick, to take in orphans, to join with Presbyterian Homes and Services in creating this Carondelet Village community.



Four sisters came up the Mississippi from St. Louis in 1851. From day one, a diverse lot:

Mother St. John Fournier came to St. Louis in 1837, a year after the first four arrived. She and Sister Celestine stayed in France for a year to train as teachers of the deaf. Mother St. John, French speaking, had already ventured up the Ohio River to help start a foundation

in Philadelphia but volunteered to back up the young sister who was leading a mission for the first time.

Frances Joseph Ivory, leader of the mission, was an American-born sister with a lively pioneering spirit, Irish parents, and who began foundations in several places, English speaking.

Sister Phiomene Vilaine, 23-year-old postulant who received the habit January 3, 1836 in France and set sail for American the next day, French speaking.

Sister Scholastica Vasques, a Creole who spoke French and Spanish came to St. Paul at 17. She spent time in Long Prairie at the Indian mission.

The four sisters steamed up the Mississippi for five days, docking for the nights, eating dinners with families or clergy in the more developed river towns. **Galena** with lots of trade east and west, up and down the river, a supply chain hub. **Dubuque** and a visit ashore with the BVMs. **Prairie Du Chien** was chilly and damp. Father Galtier boards the steamer and visits. He built the St. Paul chapel of red and white oak logs felled on the spot. The sisters also met Major Fridley, Indian agent for Winnebagos in Long Prairie. His daughter soon became a boarder at St. Joseph's Academy on Bench Street (Kellogg).



170th Celebration

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Lake Pepin, full of ice that nearly stopped the steamer. St. Paul had snow on the hills when they docked. The only well was often locked up, and so began a winter for the sisters in the north country frequently without enough water for tea.

Their one-room cabin was oratory, refectory, community room, school, parlor, dormitory with mattresses for sleeping two on the table, two on floor. Actually this arrangement sounds like our apartment advertised as upscale European style—one big room that is kitchen, parlor, dining room, office, pantry—luckily we have two bedrooms rather than moveable mattresses on the table or floor. Soon the school had 70 day students and 17 boarders, half immigrants, half Native Americans.

The gospel calls for wholehearted commitment to Jesus, to giving our hearts to this relationship even beyond family, beyond one's own life, beyond possessions, carrying the crosses the mission puts before us. I can't say I'm there. But the willingness of these first four sisters to day by day do what needed to be done inspires me. Doing it together they had sisterhood.

*With appreciation for Sister Helen Angela Hurley's history of the St. Paul Province, "On Good Ground," and the rich details she preserve.



Celebrating St. Joseph and the Sisters of St. Joseph with the Archbishop

Archbishop Bernard Hebda joined the CSJ community to celebrate Mass on Sunday, November 7, 2021. During his homily, he referenced a conclusion to this Year of St. Joseph saying, 'We're so blessed in this Archdiocese that for 170 years we've had the Sisters of St. Joseph who have been able to make Joseph's gift concrete for us in this local Church. From the very beginning, as you came up the river and began that incredibly important apostolate of education, we see how you trusted in Divine providence and you gave everything that you had.

"I'm not sure what life was like in St. Louis 170 years ago but it was sure better than it was here in Pig's Eye (St. Paul) when there was nothing, and yet those Sisters came and were willing to give everything that they had. And for 170 years we've seen that continue whether it be in that area of education, whether it be in the area of healthcare, whether it be in ways that you reach out to those who are immigrants or homeless or in need of assistance or those who have been trafficked.

I'm grateful for the way in which you continue to manifest that Spirit of St. Joseph here in our Archdiocese and my prayers will be for continued blessings for you and your community including your Consociates and Partners and Friends for many decades to come."



Helping celebrate the Year of St. Joseph and the CSJs 170th arrival anniversary, Archbishop Bernard Hebda celebrated Mass at Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel on Sunday, November 7, 2021.

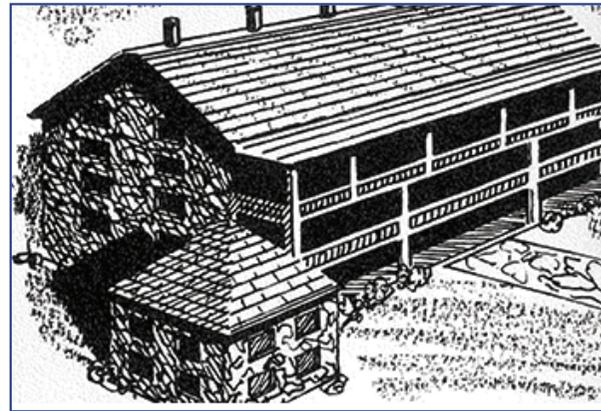
St. Joseph's Hospital

www.csjstpaul.org

A long and lustrous history

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” And thus it is for our beloved St. Joseph's Hospital. This special section is devoted to the recent changes announced by Fairview Health Services that will see the retirement of the Hospital's name (timing is yet to be finalized) and close a long and lovely chapter in CSJ and Minnesota history: St. Joseph's Hospital.

Last month, Fairview Health Services announced expansive health and wellness services at St. Joseph's campus in St. Paul, Minnesota. Community Care, Second Harvest Heartland, and Ebenezer Senior Care are the first partners to sign on for new services at Fairview Community Health and Wellness Hub aimed at health equity. The Hub will also become the center of Fairview's long-established, impactful work to support health equity and engagement in the communities it serves regionally, further expanding its efforts through the newly established M Health Fairview Center for Community Health Equity. “For generations, we've witnessed the community health indicators for those living in and around our most racially diverse neighborhoods decline,” said James Hereford, president and CEO of Fairview Health Services. “Today is an important step for Fairview as an organization and as a member of this community in thinking about health holistically and proactively addressing the outsized role factors like race, income, and zip code have on a person's opportunity to be healthy. We want to focus not only on treating our



This is an early version of St. Joseph's Hospital, September 1854-1890. The first hospital services were dispensed from the Sisters' log cabin chapel during a cholera outbreak in early 1854.

patients when they are sick, but helping them be well.”

A Fairview spokesperson shared, “Over the last year we've transitioned most hospital services

previously provided at the campus to other nearby facilities in our system. Inpatient mental health services provided at St. Joseph's will remain until at least July 2022; during this time St. Joseph's will maintain its designation as a Catholic hospital. But as we've shared this week, ultimately the Fairview Community Health and Wellness Hub will not operate as a hospital. Since its founding by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet more than 150 years ago, St. Joseph's Hospital has continuously evolved to meet this community's most urgent needs. As the Fairview Community Health and Wellness Hub, the legacy of St. Joseph's Hospital

will live on by increasing access to care for the underserved in our community who often face barriers to resources necessary for health and wellness.



St. Joseph's Hospital

www.csjstpaul.org

Sister Margaret Belanger shared this CSJ Statement



Responding to a "Catholic Spirit" inquiry, Sister Margaret Belanger shared this statement that was included in the publication's article, "The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJs) founded St. Joseph's Hospital in 1853. The Sisters' ownership ended in 1987 when the Hospital joined HealthEast. As a part of that transition, the CSJs put a corollary agreement in place that ensured that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 1981 "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services" (ERDs) would continue to be honored, ensuring it would remain a Catholic Hospital. That agreement transferred to Fairview Health Systems when it combined with HealthEast in 2017. Throughout its history the Hospital's owners have maintained

respectful and cordial relationships with the CSJs honoring its history of serving "the dear neighbor without distinction." As Fairview has already transitioned all but its mental health services to other facilities within their system and is working to repurpose the services offered on the St. Joseph's Hospital campus, the corollary agreement pertaining to the ERDs is no longer applicable. Documents terminating this agreement are in process. As a result of this change, the names St. Joseph's Hospital and St. Joseph's will be retired."

Sister Margaret who has been actively involved with the discussions said of the change, "We will forever be grateful for the place St. Joseph's Hospital holds in our hearts and in this Twin Cities community, even as its name is retired. We also highly respect what Fairview is trying to do. Their efforts to create a Community Health and Wellness Hub (CHWH) based on the Social Determinants of Health is responding to the needs of the times, which has always motivated the CSJs. We look forward to an ongoing relationship with Fairview as it seeks to serve the needs of the St. Paul community"

The Catholic Spirit's take

The resulting Catholic Spirit article by editor Joe Ruff reported for its Nov. 11 edition the commitment with which the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet have served St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul, first in its founding, continued ownership for 133 years and then pastoral care and other services. Read more at <https://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/st-josephs-hospital-in-st-paul-ending-storied-history/>



St. Paul Pioneer Press post

In his article, "M Health Fairview to convert St. Joseph's Hospital into wellness hub, community clinic" Pioneer Press (TwinCities.com) writer Fredrick Melo wrote about pending changes saying, "Nearly a year after St. Joe's shuttered its E.R. and ended most of its major medical services, M Health Fairview has announced preventative care and wellness offerings to be housed at "St. Joseph's Campus," including a day program for seniors and a primary care community clinic targeted to low-income and uninsured or underinsured patients.

"The clinic will be a new expansion site for Minnesota Community Care, the largest federally-qualified health center in the state, and will play a leading role in the new Fairview Community Health and Wellness Hub." Read this article at <https://www.twincities.com/2021/10/26/m-health-fairview-to-convert-st-josephs-hospital-into-a-health-and-wellness-hub-primary-care-community-clinic-second-harvest-heartland-ebenezer-senior-living-sign-on-as-partners/>.



What next?

Sue Gehlsen, St. Mary's Health Clinics executive director, along with other members of the CSJ community have been working with Fairview and other community collaborators on the future of St. Joseph's Hospital. She shared this related message she received:

Dear Interfaith Health Collaborative Leadership Council,

I'm writing to share the exciting news that this week we, along with several partners in the community, announced a new suite of planned services and programs for the Fairview Community Health and Wellness Hub (the Hub) in St. Paul, at the St. Joseph's campus.

The Hub will create a centralized campus of services, facilities and programs prioritizing accessibility and addressing common barriers to wellness.

- Beginning in summer 2022, **Minnesota Community Care**, the state's largest federally qualified health center, will open a new community health clinic offering no- to low-cost primary care and other supportive health and wellness services and education. Fairview will support the clinic's operations with a variety of ancillary services.
- **Ebenezer Senior Living**, a subsidiary of Fairview Health Services, will operate an enhanced adult day program to help seniors in St. Paul maintain active and independent lives. Programs are expected to begin operations in 2022.
- **M Health Fairview Mental Health & Addiction Services** will expand outpatient mental health and addiction services currently provided in St. Paul and move to a new clinic location within the Hub. The clinic will offer a range of outpatient services, from

psychiatry to intensive outpatient programs for substance use disorders and expand on successful new programs introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, like Transition Care Services to support people while they await the next phase in their care.

- This fall, **Second Harvest Heartland and other community partners** will operate new food storage, distribution and pop-up food shelf activities at the Hub to address immediate food access needs in St. Paul. The hunger relief organization is also exploring further opportunities for permanent and long-term food access programs at the Hub in partnership with organizations including the **Sanneh Foundation, Keystone Community Services and Christian Cupboard Emergency Food Shelf**.

The Hub will also become the home of the newly-established M Health Fairview Center for Community Health Equity. The Center will serve as an incubator for the next generation of community-based health and wellness programs focused on prevention and addressing the Social Determinants of Health.

And more...

In a subsequent email, Sue shared this additional information:

From: Susan Gehlsen <sgehlsen@stmarysclinics.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 3:00 PM

Subject: Update

Earlier today I sent an email I received from Ann Ellison at MHFV that provided some of the details about the Wellness Hub that will be located at the St. Joseph Hospital Campus. Most of you know that planning for this initiative began well before the pandemic so its evolution has taken longer than our MHFV partners has expected. Earlier in the discussions, St. Mary's

was invited to have a clinic site at that location. There was much discussion and review with staff and leaders about the feasibility of a SMHC clinic at that location. Data were collected by SMHC to determine the areas of need based on calls from eligible patients requesting SMHC services. The greatest number of requests over a period of about 16 months came from persons residing in the Burnsville/Apple Valley/Shakopee area. Minneapolis and St. Paul residents followed but the greatest demand came from the southern metro area.

With that information along with feedback from our Latino community, there was a hesitation about a clinic in the downtown St. Paul location. MHFV was then approached about the possibility of a clinic site in the south metro area and that was given consideration by key MHFV leaders. Presently a team from SMHC and MHFV is studying the possibility of a SMHC clinic location in Apple Valley. Previously there was a SMHC clinic located in Apple Valley but was relocated due to a church construction project at the site. Those patients were dispersed to

one of our St. Paul clinics or to Shakopee.

So depending on the outcome of the study and review by the SMHC Board of Directors, we'll consider hosting a SMHC clinic at that location. We would not likely develop an Apple Valley site before 2022 so we have time to map out potential plans.

So in light of the MHFV news about the hub at the St. Joe's campus, I wanted to let you know where we are in terms of exploring clinic locations. We have not totally ruled out a possible future SMHC presence at the hub, but that's not in our immediate plans. There have been discussions about a possible medical specialty office at the hub site that would be available for SMHC patient referrals, but for now, those discussions are on hold.

KUDOS to our MHFV partners for this idea of the wellness hub, addressing many of the social determinants of health. In the changing healthcare landscape, I applaud them for moving forward with this collaborative initiative.

Advent Evening Prayer

Sunday, November 28th, December 5, 12, 19 • 4:30 PM

Watch Rapid Relay for more information about how we will gather.



Come share the hope of this season, and sing the Holden Evening Prayer with the CSJ Community



Congregational leadership updates

The Congregational Leadership Team currently has four members, following the resignation of Therese Sherlock, CSJ earlier this year. As was shared in the July 13 newsletter, the current team members, Sean Peters, Sally Harper, Patty Johnson and Mary McGlone, reorganized their liaison roles accordingly.

In consultation with the Congregational Leadership Group, the CLT has asked Theresa Kvale, CSJ to provide the fifth vote on canonical matters in accordance with our constitution and canon law. Theresa has extensive experience in leadership in Los Angeles and for the congregation.

Additionally, Joan Lescinski, CSJ of the Albany Province has agreed to take the role of Transition Coordinator. In that role, she will assist the CLT and those who have chosen to relate directly to the CLT. She will also help all the vice/provinces in their efforts to follow the chapter mandate to simplify. Joan retired this summer from her role as president of St. Ambrose University. She has previously served in congregational leadership. Joan will be working in this new role quarter-time through June 2022 as she enjoys a sabbatical, then will work full-time starting in June 2022.



Theresa Kvale, CSJ



Joan Lescinski, CSJ

From the Giving Board: Reminder to Sisters

People sometimes ask: “What is the Giving Board?” The Giving Board exists to provide funds to people in need, especially including funds for:

- Individuals in need, especially women and children
- Emergency needs of CSJ relatives

The Giving Board meets quarterly, usually within a week after application deadlines. Last quarter the Board received no requests. Remaining deadlines this fiscal year are January 10 and April 10.

Last year the Board made grants to St. Catherine University students, a Sister needing help in returning to Uganda after completing MA study, a family in need of food and other necessities, a community of sisters dealing with flood damage to their home/work place, a young woman who had her bike stolen, a former Incarnation House friend needing help with rent payment.

Application forms are available through Natalie Fyksen, Giving Board secretary, in the Ad Center mailbox, or online at the CSJ Forum, under “forms.”

Emergency requests of up to \$500 are accepted at any time throughout the year. Depending on the request, recipients receive gift cards or checks made directly to a vendor. Normally checks or cash are not given to the recipient.

Please be attentive to those you know who may be in need and let the Giving Board know if CSJs can help. It’s just one way of loving the dear neighbor without distinction.

Christmas Season Blessings to Our Beloved CSJ Community

Our work in helping students, teachers, staff and parents in the poverty-stricken area of West Kenya continues. During this season of Thanksgiving and Gift Giving, we are simply

asking you to help these children, who are beginning their journey towards a life that will hold a bright future.

These critical needs cannot be addressed without you. Help us raise \$35,000 for our 2022 Rarua Integrated Primary School Project – a GIFT that will continue to give for many years to come. Each year it will impact the lives of more than 500 students, teachers, staff, and parents.

With your help, we can bring larger water tanks, more sanitary toilets and washrooms, and fencing for a garden and tree farm to the Rarua School. The students will be able to focus on their education when they do not have to spend time retrieving water from contaminated sources, nor stand in long lines to use toilets. Having washrooms to use during their menses exponentially increases the attendance of female students. For many of the boys and girls, their school lunch, utilizing produce from their school-sponsored community gardens, is their main source of nutritious food and a way for them to learn the benefits of healthy meals. Students also learn about the ecological benefits of the tree farms they help maintain. These farms are their effort to restore the extensive deforestation in their homeland.

Growing Community Roots (GCR) is an all-volunteer organization that is inspired and driven by “moving always toward love of God and love of neighbor without distinction.”

Anita S. Duckor, CSJ Consociate, President and Co Founder

Anne Hannahan, CSJ Consociate, Co Founder
Ann Shields, Treasurer, Board Member
Sister Therese Sherlock, CSJ, Board Member

Growing Community Roots, 3141 Dean Court, Suite 804, Minneapolis, MN 55416

Ups & Downs at Carondelet Center

By John Victora-Croke

Carondelet Center's elevator has had its share of issues recently.

Last updated over 30 years ago, the elevator equipment has reached the end of its useful life with replacement parts becoming increasingly difficult to source.

The selected vendor will be overhauling the whole system, **starting on November 22, 2021, and expects that the modernization work will take between 4-6 weeks. Throughout this work, the Carondelet Center elevator will be out of service.**

We realize this will be a significant disruption and inconvenience for you, staff, guests, and



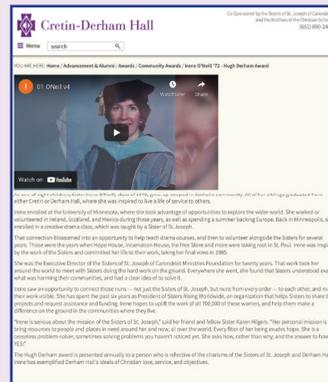
vendors, and are committed to working with you to ease the burden as much as possible. During this outage, the Provincial House elevator will be available for use. Access to Carondelet Center will be through the Provincial House chapel or

choir loft and may not always be available due to chapel events. Additionally, we may be able to accommodate office, meeting, and general space needs on a lower level of Carondelet Center. Please contact Joan Phillips to discuss options. Thank you for your patience as we work towards having a safe and reliable elevator.

Cretin-Derham Hall recognizes Sister Irene O'Neill

"Sister Irene O'Neill recently received Cretin Derham Hall's Hugh Derham award, presented annually to a person who is reflective of the charisms of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Derham Hall.

Irene has exemplified Derham Hall's ideals of Christian love, service, and objectives. The video accompanying the award said, "Irene is serious about the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph," said her friend and fellow Sister Karen Hilgers. "Her personal mission is to bring resources to people and places in need around here and now, all over the world. Every fiber of her being exudes hope. She is a ceaseless problem-solver, sometimes solving problems you haven't noticed yet. She asks how, rather than why; and the answer to how is YES!" Watch the video at <https://www.cretin-derhamhall.org/alumni-advancement/awards/community-awards/irene-oneill-72-hugh-derham-award/>



In Good Faith with Sister Irene O'Neill, innovation to help vulnerable communities worldwide

Ministry Social Justice
Podcast Recorded: November 5, 2021



Sister Irene is also featured in the interview, "In Good Faith with Sister Irene O'Neill, innovation to help vulnerable communities worldwide" on "A Nun's Life" podcast. To hear it, visit <https://anunslife.org>



The REDress project

By Susan Hames

We hope you were able to visit and behold The REDress Project, an outdoor exhibition created by Métis artist Jaime Black (sponsored and presented by the St. Kate's Integrated Learning Series) on the St. Kate's quad Oct. 23 – Nov. 14. The presentation of red dresses made present and visible "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women" and supports the critical work of the Minnesota State Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. To join this important ongoing work, contact Connie Bowen, Karen Zeleznak, or other members of the Native American Working Group of the CSJ Justice Commission.



7,000 cookies and counting

By Althea Johns, CSJ

"So far this year I've made over 7,000 cookies," says Sister Althea Johns. "People come and I listen to their wonderful life stories. I thank them for letting me do this for them and ask, 'You did this for your families, too?' and after a moment's thought they respond with, 'Yes, I did!' Then they tell me what they used to bake. It brings back wonderful memories."

Althea's baking ministry has expanded over the four years she's been at Carondelet Village. "I started selling baked goods, then people asked if I could make this or that



to which I responded, 'No, but I will!' And so it began the "baking brigade." Then she added Irish Soda Breads. "That's 140 pounds of flour this year!" Then came the homemade soups. "Eighty-six quarts so far." Sister Althea also offers "wooden art projects I make here in the woodshop" and other gift items. All the money goes to our CSJ community. Her next sale, outside

Carondelet Village apartment #115, will be just in time for Christmas. "From 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on December 2 & 3; 9 & 10 and 16 & 17. Very sweet!

Save the Date!

Stirring the Fire Retreat 2022
Saturday, January 22, 2022

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Registration Information to come

Since our founding, the CSJ charism has called us to be contemplatives in action. In the midst of our time, we will explore what this means. Join us as we use spiritual practices from Barbara Holmes' work, *Crisis Contemplation: Healing the Wounded Village*, as a way to engage with our own story as community.

"We have grown weary...what is called for in times like these is a deep dive into unknowing, a trusting in spiritual depths that sustain our collective well being." (page 129).

Moving Always Toward

www.csjstpaul.org/Forum

Questions for Sister Catherine Mary Rosengren

By Mary Lagaard, Consociate

Sister Catherine Mary Rosengren, CSJ and St. Paul Province Treasurer, celebrates her 60th Jubilee in 2021. One of this publication's excellent and very much appreciated proofreaders Sister Catherine Mary shares these insights.



her death when I was 10. She was a woman of strong faith, wise and steady. I still have so many questions to ask her. Then I'd like to invite my paternal grandmother to join us for dessert. She died 21 years before I was born, but those who knew her praised her steadfastness.

What's your favorite

- **Author:** Joan Chittister, OSB
- **Place:** Timberlee, always a place of profound peace for me.

Who would you like to share a meal with?

I'd like to have dinner with my maternal grandmother. She lived with us until

What's your biggest hope: That all people would respect all others, that we would recognize the value of each person.

I'd like others to know that I am so grateful for the gift of 60 years of living in community.

St. Joseph greeted those attending the November 7th Mass



Anne Elise Tschida, CSJ, Archbishop Hebda and Liz Kerwin, CSJ



Marian Walstrom, CSJ, and Bernadette Newton, CSJ



Hannah White, St. Joseph Worker

Moving Always Toward

www.csjstpaul.org/Forum

Consociate commitment statement: Liz Anderson

When I became a candidate it was pre-covid and we had a beautiful ceremony. Each one of us was given a tiny plant that fit in a small container.

My plant is much bigger today. We have done a lot of growing in the past two years, my plant and I. I have learned so much from the community of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Consociates. I want to share with you three subjects that have had a significant impact on me.

The sisters who were founded in France in 1650 have a history of always responding to the needs of the community they live in. For the past 170 years that's what the sisters have done—they come into a community and ask What do you need?—how can we help? and then create ministries around those needs. Their most recent new ministry is providing temporary housing for homeless families where each family can have their own living space. Again the sisters and consociates responding to the need. I will work in one of the ministries.

Racism is one of the most significant but most difficult issues facing communities in this country. The CSJ community has sponsored several anti-racist discussion groups, community gatherings and book clubs. These opportunities have helped me



understand the power of my own white privilege and how it disadvantages people of color. I also understand that the only reason for racism's persistence is that we white people benefit from it. This is a really tough issue and we won't ignore it. I know that the CSJ community will

continue to confront racism and I will be a part of that work.

I have only begun my study of theology and never expect it to end. For me studying theology is like seeing a beautiful light on the horizon. I try to move closer and closer though I can never reach it. But that light always lures me on. I am grateful to the community's support of the Hedgerow program which has introduced me to women theologians who challenge and expand my thinking. I am grateful to Sister Kathie McLaughlin who has been my guide and I will continue this journey.

I feel so close to the strong, committed, caring, smart, and loving women of this community, especially the six women with whom I shared this candidate journey, my dear book club and my companion Louise Hiniker. Even over zoom the beauty of their personalities comes through with a beautiful glow. They have supported my learning and made me feel so welcome. This truly is a community of love and service.

Dear Sisters, Consociates, Friends
and CSJ Carondelet Choir,

My heart is overflowing with
gratitude for your prayers and
support during these past weeks
and years while my husband,
Bill McDonald, journeyed with
Parkinson's Disease. He went to
glory peacefully on September 22. I
often felt uplifted by your prayers.

I was very touched by the
"Gathering to Remember" Zoom.
Bill's funeral was so beautiful. A
special thank you to Lori True and
to all who participated in those.
Thank you for your loving emails
and cards with caring messages
and memorials. You have been an
important part of my life and Bill's
life. We pray God's blessings on
you. We say thank you. And we
sing AMEN.

Ginny Claessens McDonald

Happy 170th

In a November 3, 2021 tweet, CSJ friend Joe May wrote:



In response, Sister Jill Underdahl wrote,

"Thank you, Joe, for remembering us! I just returned home from a celebration at Carondelet Village where some Sisters and Consociates viewed together the Year of Joseph video!" (Joe provided tremendous assistance with the St. Joseph's puppet for the video.)



Sister Alphonsine Welp (1863 - 1954)

By Michelle Hueg

Sister Alphonsine was born Teresa on December 15, 1863 at Saint John, IN. She entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Paul in 1880 and professed final vows on August 26, 1882. She earned a BA in German/History from the College of St. Catherine in 1915; and an MA in German/Literature from Columbia University in 1917. She taught in several Province schools, including: Assumption, St. Joseph's Academy, St. Mary (St. Paul, MN); St. Michael (Stillwater, MN); St. Mary (Waverly, MN); St. Mary (Bird Island); and St. John's Academy (Jamestown, ND).

On December 26, 1904, Sister Alphonsine was one of the Sisters to move into Derham Hall at what would become the College of St. Catherine. She spent the next 30 years teaching in the German and music departments at the College.

During her time, she collaborated with Leopold Bruenner to write the Hymn to St. Catherine (some of the words have changed through the years, included here are the words Sister Alphonsine wrote as written in "The Catherine Wheel," October 10, 1946). When she retired in 1934, she continued to live in Derham Hall until she moved to the new Bethany Convent (St. Paul, MN) in 1954.



Assumption School staff and students (approximately 1885)



Hymn to St. Catherine

Original lyrics by Sister Alphonsine Welp

O sing my soul St. Catherine's praises,
Who for Christ did live and die,
The student's Saint our church proclaims her
And exalts her name on high.

Chorus:

Holy Mother, guard our College,
Bless our girls where'er they roam;
Saint Seraphic, list our pleading,
Watch our ways and guide our home.
In land where Fame's undying flow'rs
Were worn by poet and by sage,
She came endowed with rarest pow'rs,
The Saint and Scholar of her age.



To learn more about the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the St. Paul Province check out the Archives website at csjstpaul.org/our-heritage-csj/, and our online collection at csjstpaul.pastperfectonline.com/. For information about what the Sisters are doing today check out our website: www.csjstpaul.org/ and csjministriesfoundation.org/.



www.facebook.com/csjstpaul

www.instagram.com/csj_stpaul



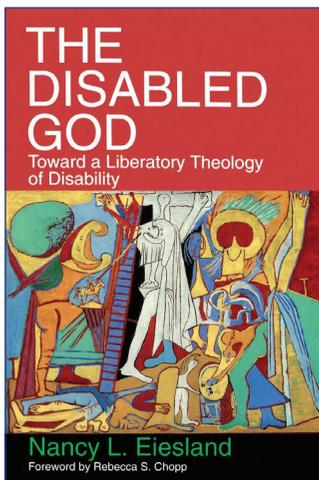
WISDOM WAYS



Spring Programming

By Joan Phillips, Director

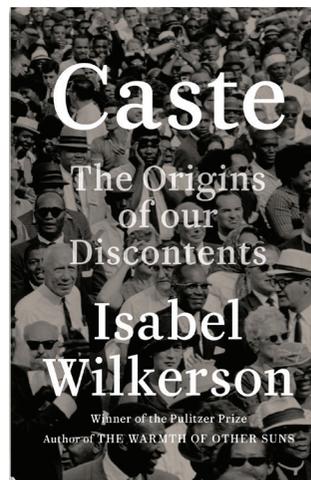
Our Spring programming calendar is coming together! Join us for a number of meditative experiences including our Holy Saturday meditative offering in the Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel atrium. On April 16, 2022, participants enter into that silence through our time of prayer which includes a short reading, two 25-minute sitting meditations, and walking meditation. This will be one of our first in person events of the season, so we hope you can join us!*



We will also be providing educational, theological experiences in the spring. Engaging series such as Hedgerow Institute will return in the spring with Exploring Disability

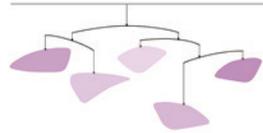
Theology. During the first module, Andrea Tande and Danielle Clausnitzer will lead a discussion of Nancy Eiesland's "The Disabled God" on Monday's beginning

on February 21st and lasting five sessions. This spring will also feature a discussion of "Celtic Saints and Animal Stories" with Wisdom Ways co-founder Ed Sellner on February 8th. Seller will share stories of the Celtic saints and their kinship with animals. Implications and positive actions related to these stories for contemporary people will be examined and discussed by participants.



Wisdom Ways will also redouble its commitment to social justice through our spring discussion of "Caste" by Isabel Wilkerson. Led by Marian Diaz, the meetings on Jan 20, Feb 3, Feb 17, Mar 3, Mar 17, Apr 7, and Apr 21, will address systemic injustice through the lens of this seminal work by Wilkerson.

***All of our in person or hybrid programming will require proof of vaccination prior to the events and that masks be worn during the entirety of the event.**



Minnesota Center for Health Care Ethics (MCHCE) Updates

By Karen Gervais, PhD

Are you a Sister of the CSJ Community facing challenging healthcare decisions for yourself or a friend/loved one? Have you agreed

to be a healthcare agent (an appointed decision-maker) for another person? Please reach out to Karen Gervais

at the Minnesota Center for Health Care Ethics (651-335-7582) for support. Karen and Amanda will help you refine the questions you need your doctor to answer, and help you research your options as needed, so that you can make fully informed treatment choices. If you are a healthcare agent for another Sister, we will guide you in understanding your role and support you as her decision-maker.



Karen Gervais



Amanda C. West

Health-related decisions will inevitably challenge each one of us – requiring us to understand our health conditions and treatment options in order to make choices based on our beliefs, preferences, and values. You can request a confidential consultation with us on topics like these:

Advance healthcare directive preparation

1. Help you complete or make changes to your advance directive
2. Help you appoint or change your healthcare agent/ substitute decision-maker
3. Assist you in deciding whether a 'POLST' form (Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) is appropriate for you, and assure its consistency with your advance directive

Complex healthcare decision-making for yourself

1. Support you in researching and understanding treatment options
2. Support you in advance care planning with your physician
3. Assist you in making healthcare decisions based on your values
4. Support you in assessing your options if you are invited to participate in medical research/ clinical trials

Complex healthcare decisions for another person

1. Assist you in understanding your role and your right to information to make informed choices on behalf of another
2. Assist you in decision-making consistent with your interpretation of the wishes/ values, or with the best interests, of another person.

SARAH'S... AN OASIS FOR WOMEN



Adag's Difficult Journey: Part I

Adag's mother and father had many children who died before and after Adag was born. Her mother left her living with her grandmother, her father and his second childless wife who didn't love Adag. She was not allowed to visit her mother. For school, Adag's father needed her to study hard and sent her to stay with some Sisters from whom she could only come home for vacation.

At age 10, Adag asked if she could enter the convent. They told her she was too little, that she needed to wait until college. Adag said, "Then, I will go to another province." A priest asked her to instead go with him to talk to the Sister superior who finally agreed that same Sunday Adag would be allowed to enter the convent. When Adag was 15, they said, "there will be a car coming here to take you tomorrow." The next afternoon, a car came and took her to the convent. After two years, wearing a dress and veil, Adag made vows and was sent far away to work as a principal. She said "I can't do that!" She never had studies or training to prepare. Still, they said she must.

When Adag arrived at the school, she found kids sitting on the floor. One of



the first things she did was find wood for furniture. Everyone was happy! After one year Adag was asked to go back to where she grew up to do similar work opening and improving schools. She was so afraid because people she grew up with would not like her coming and telling them what to do with their school. Again, her community insisted. After years moving from place to place doing similar work, the Archbishop sent her to a school that trains Sisters and priests after which Adag was sent to be the head administrator for a Catholic university and worked there for ten years.

At the end of that time, the military came and life came to a halt...

ST. JOSEPH WORKERS



I See God in the Squirrels

By Meghan Berg

When I was younger, and my faith was just beginning to blaze inside me, I found God in the same places we are always told we would find Him: church, worship, devotionals, and the Bible. However, as I have gotten older and experienced more of the world, I have come to find that I see God in many other places. Places that would not normally be deemed “holy,” so to say. For example, my favorite part of the day is my walk from my car to my work site. I get to walk across St. Kate’s campus, enveloped by beautiful trees and entertained by jumping squirrels that always bring a smile to my face. Simply put, I see God in the squirrels. In fact, this is where I feel and see God more than almost any other place. Through this I have come to realize that what brings joy to my heart and a smile to my face is always a place where God is present.

God is present in the little things that bring us happiness. Our hobbies, favorite past times, and the things we love to look at most are all areas where God is hovering in our midst. As creations of God, if we love something, how could He not be there? He is called the God of love for a reason, by the way. My hope and prayer for this season is that we continue to see God in the little things, whether it is the smell of the crisp air, a quiet moment of silence, or, yes, even a squirrel.



CELESTE'S DREAM

The Harvest Comes to an End

By Hannah White, SJW



In the waning weeks of October, Celeste's Dream community gardeners, St. Kate's students, and staff came together to put the Celeste's Dream gardens to bed. Consociate Deb Sheats, Professor Emerita at St. Kate's, brought first-years

from her The Reflective Woman class to do the bulk of garden clean-up on Oct. 26. Community gardeners arrived later that evening to glean the remaining produce and prepare the gardens for winter. Thank you to all who gave their time, energy, and spirit to the gardens this season! A special thanks to our 2021 Garden Coordinator, Jessica Bruggen, whose leadership helped the garden community grow in new ways. We wish all a peaceful winter, and look forward to planning for the spring.

HARVEST SEASON 2021			
Pounds of produce grown, harvested, and donated from the community gardens managed by Celeste's Dream			
Garden	Harvested	Taken home by gardeners	Donated to St. Kate's/CSJ Food Shelf
Celeste's Dream Garden	807	365	442
Highland Catholic School Garden	263	47	211
Total	1070	412	653

ST. KATE'S/CSJ FOOD SHELF

PRODUCE PARTNERS

We proudly offer sustainably-raised produce from a number of local gardens and farms. In 2021, our partners donated the following pounds of produce:

Celeste's Dream	442

St. Kate's Garden	65

St. Kate's Edible Landscape	5

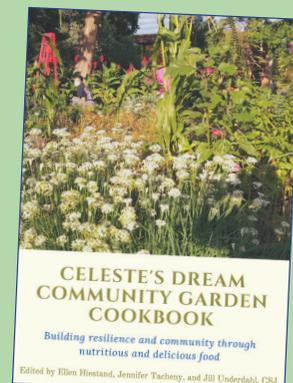
Highland Catholic School Garden	211

Tacheny Farm	317

GRAND TOTAL:	
1040 LBS	

Celeste's Dream Community Garden Cookbook

To celebrate the end of our 17th growing season, we share with you our Celeste's Dream Community Garden Cookbook! Special thanks to 2020-2021 student intern Ellen Heistand for her leadership on this project! Now that the harvest has come to a close, home cooks may be interested in garden recipes like Celeste's Green Tomato Pie or a warming Butternut Squash Soup. To download the book, visit <https://www.csjstpaul.org/celestes-dream/community-garden/cook-book/>. In lieu of purchasing the book, please consider making a monetary donation in support of the St. Kate's/CSJ Food Shelf. For every dollar donated, the Food Shelf can purchase five dollars' worth of food to feed our community.



CSJ MINISTRIES FOUNDATION



Digital Advent Calendar

The 2021 Ministries Foundation Advent Calendar is here! Celebrate the days of Advent with the Ministries Foundation and receive a new Advent activity every day delivered to your inbox. Sign up at any time at <https://bit.ly/mfadventcalendar> or scan the QR code to join the Ministries Foundation in its new Advent tradition.



Invite your friends and family to sign up along with you. Share the joy of the season!

2022 Carondelet Celebration

Save the Date for the 2022 Carondelet Celebration!

Mark your calendar now for Friday, May 6 for the 2022 Carondelet Celebration at a new venue, the InterContinental Minneapolis – St. Paul Airport.

Many members from our 2021 Committees are back and want to make this year's event an even bigger and better celebration of the Sisters of St. Joseph Ministries. We welcome anyone who would like to join one of our committees:



- Sponsorship
- Live/Silent Auctions
- “Social 90”
- Marketing/Communications

If you would like to participate or know more about one of our committees, please call Mimi at 651-690-7058 or email her at mpizzi@csjministriesfoundation.org.

Keep an eye out for more updates on the 2022 Carondelet Celebration and how you can get involved!

JUSTICE

Truth & Healing on American Indian Boarding School Policy

By Marty Roers, Justice Office Co-Director

In recent months, there has been a lot in the media about the unmarked graves holding the bodies of hundreds of indigenous children on the grounds of various boarding schools in Canada. These grim findings are a stark wake-up call that we too in the United States of America have much work to do regarding our own history with boarding schools for American Indian children.



For example, it is estimated that by 1926, nearly 83% of American Indian children were enrolled in one of at least 367 currently known Indian boarding schools across 30 states. U.S. federal government funded schools from 1819 and into the 1960s aimed to “kill the Indian in him, and save the man,” as infamously stated by Gen. Richard Henry Pratt.

Recently a bi-partisan group in Congress proposed Federal legislation to establish a Truth and Healing Commission to formally investigate and document the history of these schools, document the impacts and ongoing effects, hold culturally respectful and meaningful public hearings, and develop recommendations.

The CSJ Justice Commission recently affirmed our public support of this legislation together with a growing number of other national organizations including: the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Franciscan Action Network, and the Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology, to

name just a few. In addition, the CSJ Justice Commission released the following statement of:

Public Support for the “Truth & Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy in the U.S. Act.”

We, the Justice Commission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates, St. Paul Province, publicly support the Federal bi-partisan “Truth & Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy in the U.S. Act.”

Compelled by our Charism, “Moving always toward the profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction,” the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, and Consociates reaffirm our commitment to justice, nonviolence, unifying love and solidarity with our American Indian sisters and brothers.

We commit to deep listening, relationship building and deepening our personal and institutional awareness of the complex history of colonialism, genocide, broken treaties and boarding school practices in which the Catholic Church, associated communities including our own, and Christian missionaries may have been complicit. We take this opportunity to express our grief for this history and its ongoing effects while seeking to support the generations of American Indian individuals, families and communities impacted by historical injustices due to the federal Indian Boarding School policy.

Ministry Updates

csjstpaul.org/justice

Justice Commission Working and Task Group.

The **Justice Office** shares that Justice Director Marty Roers recently received the annual Bishop John E. McCarthy Spirit of Mission Award on World Mission Sunday, Oct. 24, from the Maryknoll Lay Missioners. As a former Maryknoll Lay Missioner in East Africa, he was recognized for his continued service and promotion of justice including with the CSJ Justice Office and with the CSJ community. Members of the Province Leadership Team and several CSJ community members were present at the Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel for the virtual program. Read more at <https://www.catholicnews.com/returned-maryknoll-lay-missioner-honored-for-continuing-spirit-of-mission/>

Earth Partners Working Group members will be collaborating with the CSJ Congregation with their commitment to ecological conversion envisioned in Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* and implemented in the seven-year process of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. Suzanne Reedy, Consociate has volunteered to join the Congregational Education Committee to assist with the educational components of implement the target actions in the areas of sustainability, spirituality, advocacy and social action. To learn more about these collaborative Congregational efforts, check out the CSJ Carondelet website.

The **Health Care for All Task Group** hosted an event entitled "Public Health: Why it matters!" at the end of October. Dr. James Hart, MD, the Past President of MN Public Health Association, shared an opening reflection on nine learnings about public health from his years working in medicine which included several highlights including: Courage is the most essential virtue for the practice of public health, our goal should be to maximize the potential health of all people, and that Public Health is global health. Our second keynote speaker, Antonia Apolinario-Wilcoxon, Ed.D., President of Equity Strategies, LLC, emphasized that "while a doctor treats people who are sick, those of us working in public health try to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place. We also promote wellness by encouraging healthy behaviors." She also noted that if Minnesota addressed racial/ethnic disparities, the state economy could see at least an additional \$1.226 billion in economic activity and bring in over \$247 million to the local economy. We are also pleased to collaborate with St. Kate's Public Health students as they presented on their learnings of why public health matters in areas of dental care, water, sexual health, policing/prisons, food access, immunizations, and climate change. A recording of the program is found on the CSJ St. Paul Province's YouTube channel.



Marty Roers, co-director of the Justice Office of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in St. Paul, Minn., receives the 2021 Bishop John E. McCarthy Spirit of Mission Award from returned missioner Liz Mach during Maryknoll Lay Missioners' World Mission Sunday celebration Oct. 24, 2021. (CNS photo/Matthew Frank, courtesy Maryknoll Lay Missioners)

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

About Contact

[Meet St. Joseph](#) [Celebrate the Year](#) [Prayers to St. Joseph](#) [More on St. Joseph](#) [Kids and St. Joseph](#) [St. Joseph Swag](#)

‘WITH A FATHER’S HEART: THAT IS HOW JOSEPH LOVED JESUS’

DEC. 8, 2020 — DEC. 8, 2021

A YEAR OF JOY

On Dec. 8, 2020, Pope Francis marked the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph being declared patron of the universal church by proclaiming a yearlong celebration dedicated to Jesus’ foster father.

For the occasion, Pope Francis wrote *Patris Corde* (“With a father’s heart”), in which he said Christians can find in St. Joseph “an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.”

In his surprise announcement, Pope Francis said it was the coronavirus pandemic that encouraged him to write and reflect on St. Joseph, that strong presence in salvation



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“Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble,” Pope Francis wrote. “St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”



Dia de Muerta

www.csjministries foundation.org

DIA DE MUERTA

By Ary Diaz, Community Health Worker, St. Mary's Health Clinics

Day of the Dead (*Dia De Los Muertos*) is a two-day holiday that reunites the living and dead. Families create *ofrendas* (offerings) to honor their departed family members. Altars are decorated with their favorite treats or trinkets. It is believed that this encourages our loved ones to come and join in the celebrations! It is a day where mourning and sadness are exchanged for a celebration and happiness. We at Carondelet Center made a small altar last year and thought that this year we could extend the joy with the other ministries. We prepared during the month of October and on November 1st we did a presentation of the altar.



Together we end this most wonderful Year of St. Joseph with the lyrics from the "Spirit of Joseph" that accompanied the St. Paul produced video. See the video at <https://youtu.be/WeCk7qOWBcY>



The Spirit of Joseph

*In the Spirit of Joseph we sing, in the Spirit of Joseph we pray.
Sharing our hearts moving always toward love, with Joseph our teacher and friend.*

*What do we really know?
Joseph was a carpenter
A husband and a father
A good man, a just man, a kind and caring man.
What more do we need to know?*

*In the Spirit of Joseph we move, in the Spirit of Joseph we serve.
Sharing our hearts moving always toward love, with Joseph our teacher and friend.*

*What do we really know?
Joseph took life as it came
And he stood by those he loved
A good man, a just man, a kind and caring man.*

*In the Spirit of Joseph we teach, in the Spirit of Joseph we dance.
Sharing our hearts moving always toward love, with Joseph our teacher and friend.*

*What do we really know?
Joseph listened to his dreams.
A good man, a just man, a kind and caring man.
What more do we need to know?*

*In the Spirit of Joseph we sing, in the Spirit of Joseph we pray.
Sharing our hearts moving always toward love, with Joseph our teacher and friend.
Sharing our hearts moving always toward love, with Joseph our teacher and friend. With Joseph our teacher and friend. With Joseph our teacher and friend.*

