

MARCH 2022



Together

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

join us!

The Feast of St. Joseph

Our spirituality calls us to be in right relationship with God, with creation, with the peoples of the earth, and with one another.

We aim to deepen our understanding of global systems of domination, to transform these systems, and to promote the fullness of life. We continue to be mindful that our spirituality cannot be separated from our identity as Sisters of St. Joseph, and the gospel call to be one with our neighbors.

~ Eyes Open On A World

see back cover for celebration information

Cover by Lori True

Correction:

The February *Together* accidentally omitted 75th Jubilarian Serena Zilka, CSJ from the Jubilarian list. Congratulations to Sister Serena and our apologies for the omission. The 75th Jubilarian list should read as follows:

75th Jubilarians

Mary Madonna Ashton
Helen Thomas Bronk
Michele Murphy
Annabelle Raiche
Miriam Shea
Ann Clare Smith
Serena Zilka

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From *National Catholic Reporter*: As a bishop, I was skeptical about synodality. The Latin American church changed that.

By Bishop Oscar Cantú, Feb 3, 2022, Opinion People World, <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/bishop-i-was-skeptical-about-synodality-latin-american-church-changed>
Recommended by Susan Hames, CSJ. Edited for length.



Bishop Oscar Cantú

“Something dramatic happened in the development of Vatican II’s document on the church, *Lumen Gentium*, in 1964. The original draft of the document, sharply criticized by the council fathers, was discarded in favor of one that placed a chapter on the people of God (Chapter 2) before a chapter on the hierarchy of the church (Chapter 3).

“This move was astounding for a church that had become accustomed to a cleric-centric culture. But the change was not a novelty in the church; it was based deeply in Scripture and tradition. While maintaining and clarifying the proper and essential role of the hierarchy in the church, this shift in *Lumen Gentium* signaled a correction to the excesses of a clerical culture.

“I witnessed a similar shift, not in an ecclesial document but in ecclesial practice, from Nov. 21-28, 2021, at the first Ecclesial Assembly of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean in Cuautitlán, México. The assembly — organized by the Latin American bishops’ council, commonly known as CELAM — was the culmination of several months of consultation at local, regional and national levels across 20 nations, in which nearly 70,000 people contributed, either as individuals or on behalf of their communities.

“What I witnessed was not only fascinating, prayerful and engaging, it was a manifestation of the content and spirit of *Lumen Gentium*, particularly Chapter 2, “The

People of God.” It was an experience of ecclesial synodality at work.

“Especially in an age when baptized Catholics are disengaging from the church at an alarming rate, a synodal process that engages those on the margins can be just what the doctor ordered for a church wounded by clerical scandal and cultural secularism.

“Bishop Oscar Cantú has served as the Bishop of San Jose, California, since 2019. He is the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs, and previously served as the bishop of Las Cruces, New Mexico, from 2013-18.”



“Worshippers pray near an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe outside the basilica with her name Nov. 21, 2021, in Mexico City, during the opening of the Nov. 21-28 Ecclesial Assembly of Latin America and the Caribbean. After five previous historic meetings, it was the first such meeting to include laity. (CNS/Emilio Espejel) In this process, we can learn a great deal about the experiences of persons in various sectors of society. This listening informs more fully our pastoral decisions and actions, and provides color, stories — and, yes, credibility — to our teaching. The bishop indeed embodies his local church (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, Paragraph 22); however, the full, active and conscious participation of lay, religious and clergy can be a fuller manifestation of the body of Christ. Indeed, the complete manifestation of the church occurs when a bishop gathers with his presbyterate, deacons, religious and lay faithful around the altar for the celebration of the Eucharist (cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, Paragraph 41).”

Global Sisters Report’s Saji Thomas wrote on January 28, 2022, After bishop’s acquittal, India’s Catholics weigh jurisprudence, church progress against abuse KOTTAYAM, INDIA

—The recent acquittal of a Catholic bishop in the historic nun rape case is seen as a litmus test of the Indian Catholic Church’s efforts to end clergy abuse.

The supporters of the acquitted prelate, Franco Mulakkal of Jalandhar, hail the verdict as the church’s victory against enemies they say have used the case to attack the church in general and its insistence on celibacy despite the laws of nature.

The accuser’s supporters and others view the acquittal as a deterrent for women religious to come forward and demand justice in cases of abuse by clergy. Read more at www.globalsistersreport.org



A front view of the Additional District and Sessions Court in Kottayam, Kerala, India, where a not-guilty verdict was pronounced Jan. 24 in favor of Jalandhar Bishop Franco Mulakkal, accused of raping a nun multiple times (M.A. Salim)

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CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

March 8-14, 2022

Celebrating Traditions, Changing the World

Catholic Sisters Week shines a light on the spirituality, mission, and community building of women religious.

Fifty-two weeks a year women religious stand with the poor and immigrants, teach children, fight injustice, heal the sick, share spirituality, empower women, defend the planet, promote peace, create community, offer hope...

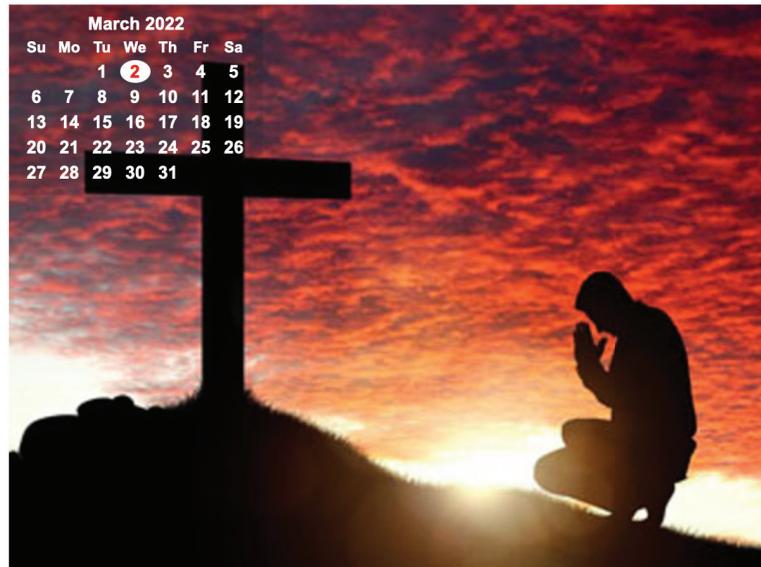
But for one week, March 8-14, we shine the spotlight on women religious and encourage a wide range of campaigns and events that invite all who follow Jesus to:

- expand and support their gospel witness
- grow the service networks they have seeded
- share their spirituality, charisms and community
- encourage young women to consider a vocation to religious life
- support their pastoral, teaching and prophetic works
- and focus on the new world they call into being.

Read and watch more at
<https://catholicsistersweek.org/>



Lent 2022



Lent for the year 2022 starts on Wednesday, March 2nd and ends on Thursday, April 14 with evening mass on Holy Thursday.

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MORE DATES OF INTEREST

Friday, March 4:
Employee Appreciation Day

Tuesday, March 8:
International Women's Day

March 13:
Daylight Saving Begins

March 20:
Start of Spring

March 21:
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

A 'NOT SO SWEET' FUNDRAISER

By Sue Gehlsen, Executive Director, St. Mary's Health Clinics

With Lent starting on March 2, people often establish personal sacrifices, spiritual practices, or reinforce established habits to enhance spiritual development during the six weeks of Lent. Two ministry leaders have taken the practice a bit further and even provided a few extra dollars for St. Mary's Health Clinics!

Ralph Scorpio, Executive Director of the Ministries Foundation, has an established Lenten practice of not eating sugar during the six weeks of Lent. The benefits have been significant with Ralph reporting added physical and spiritual energy during this timeframe along with minor weight loss. In 2021 Sue Gehlsen from St. Mary's Health Clinics joined his effort, but the two agreed to some friendly competition. They agreed that if either person ate sugary food — food with added sugar, not natural foods such as fruits or vegetables — there would be a financial penance expected. Both persons are known for their love of sweets, so indeed this was a big sacrifice.

How did 2021's Lenten Journey turn out? St. Mary's Health Clinics ended up with an additional \$100 from Sue Gehlsen who simply couldn't pass on an occasional few sweet treats. That sum translated into five episodes of eating sugar or \$20 per sugar indulgence! No apology needed; the money was for a good cause. Ralph demonstrated stellar discipline and didn't have to adjust his finances.

However, 2022 may be a bit more challenging as the initiative to avoid sugar now includes the commitment to avoid any 'fermented' beverages as well as foods with added sugar. The stakes remain the same with a financial penalty of \$20 per sugary indulgence. The



Image by Bernadette Wurzniger

challenge begins and we welcome you to join us! (Make your indulgent donation at csjministriesfoundation.org/donate and note your "not-so-sweet" gift in the comment box.)

Stay tuned for an update on this spiritual journey and read more about the final outcome in the May issue of *Together*.

Government discernment announcement from Los Angeles The Los Angeles Province Leadership Team, wrote in a February 10 announcement: "For some, it may bring joy, and for others disappointment. Once again our tradition calls to us... TRUST IN THE GOODNESS OF EACH OTHER AND BELIEVE WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO EMBRACE AND HOLD DISAPPOINTMENT AND JOY TOGETHER.

"At this time in our common history, the Los Angeles Province has affirmed a direction for governance for our future, and the direction is clear. The Los Angeles Province has chosen to relate directly to congregational leadership for governance."

Love Creates Connection

By Kate O'Connell, Consociate

In *all about love*, bell hooks – feminist, professor, social activist and author – wrote that love requires “a combination of trust, commitment, care, respect, knowledge, and responsibility.”

Love takes courage, strength, endurance, and deep, ongoing honesty. “Commitment to truth telling lays the groundwork for the openness and honesty that is the heartbeat of love,” she wrote, requiring us to “think critically about ourselves and the world we live in.”

She observed that “Cultures of domination rely on the cultivation of fear as a way to ensure obedience. In our society ... we are all terribly afraid most of the time. ... Fear is the primary force upholding structures of domination. It promotes the desire for separation.” Fear begets separation, and more fear.

Fear acts at deep levels. For example, rather than risk tension and possible alienation that racial truth telling might cause, it is easier for me not to notice racial injustice.

I never used to think about racism. I fit the description in Robin DiAngelo’s book *Nice Racism: How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm*, having grown up in racial segregation and continuing to live a largely segregated life. I also “claim to support racial justice efforts but want to suppress the tensions that accompany that goal.”

Yet, the CSJ charism doesn’t allow me to rest there. Moving always toward profound love means reminding myself, daily, that racism is alive and well in and around me, recognizing the pain of racism, loss of deep relationships with sisters and brothers and understanding how racism diminishes me and my values.

Bell hooks urged us to “regain our faith in the transformative power of love by cultivating courage, the strength to stand up for what we believe in, to be accountable in both word and deed.” As someone who chose love, she said

A *New York Times* bestseller and enduring classic, *All About Love* is the acclaimed first volume in feminist icon bell hooks’ “Love Song to the Nation” trilogy. *All About Love* reveals what causes a polarized society, and how to heal the divisions that cause suffering. Here is the truth about love, and inspiration to help us instill caring, compassion, and strength in our homes, schools, and workplaces.

“When we choose to love we choose to move against fear – against alienation and separation. ... Our fear may not go away, but it will not stand in the way.”

Finally, she said: “The choice to love is a choice to connect – to find ourselves in the other.”

Province Council Updates

by Suzanne Herder, CSJ

January 5, 2022

The Racial Assessment Equity Actions were discussed and ideas of how they could be shared with the CSJ Community were suggested.

There was discussion about the actions developed during the December Council Retreat and how to move them forward. Two of the many ideas presented were having a Community-wide celebration of gratitude and appreciation for each other, and to acknowledge communal grief in a ritual.

January 19, 2022

A follow-up on the Racial Assessment and Bold Moves was presented and questions discussed.

One of the Retreat questions, “How do we envision the broader “we?” was discussed and the Council suggested the CSJ Community have this discussion together.

February 2022 Employee Engagement Event—Gratitude

By Jenna Bendal

“Learn to love, enjoy and embrace what you have in the here and now. That’s all you really need to be happy.”

“Waking up this morning, I smile. Twenty-four brand new hours are before me. I vow to live fully in each moment and to look at all beings with eyes of compassion.”

“The true miracle is not walking on water or walking in air, but simply walking on this earth.”

“Be Yourself. Life is precious as it is. All the elements for your happiness are already here. There is no need to run, strive, search, or struggle. Just Be.”

~Thich Nhat Hanh

CSJ St. Paul Province staff met for their first employee engagement event of 2022 on February 8. Gratitude was the theme and the gathering began with a reflection featuring quotes (including those featured from Thich Nhat Hanh), daily practices that incorporate gratitude and a prayer. The Province Leadership Team then provided general updates, followed by information from various departments, including upcoming events and other staff collaborations.

St. Mary’s Health Clinics staff member Kirk Postotnik led the group into a deeper discussion about gratitude and how it shows up in daily life. The group shared a lot about what we are

thankful for, especially in our work with the Sisters of St. Joseph. Finally, the staff enjoyed some fun by participating in a trivia game about the winter Olympics. Thanks to Kim Wagner from our H.R. department and all other staff involved for coordinating this event!

Trivia time! One question from the employee engagement event: how many sports are there in the winter Olympics? The staff had a wide range of answers, starting high at over 200! Some of us were thinking of individual medals, etc. versus just the number of sports. **The answer:** 15.

Today I give thanks
For life and love and beauty.
My heart is full of gratitude
For faith and hope and wholeness.
My life overflows
With abundance and generosity
Today I give thanks to God Almighty
For the provision of all things good.



Moving Always Toward

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of church, of reimagining spiritual community. I continue to create paintings in this series of Prayers for Synodality—for active, intentional, collective discernment. As the patterns repeat and the cycles

evolve, I trust the slow reverberating flow between us, the quiet and all-encompassing vastness of God calling us to renewal.

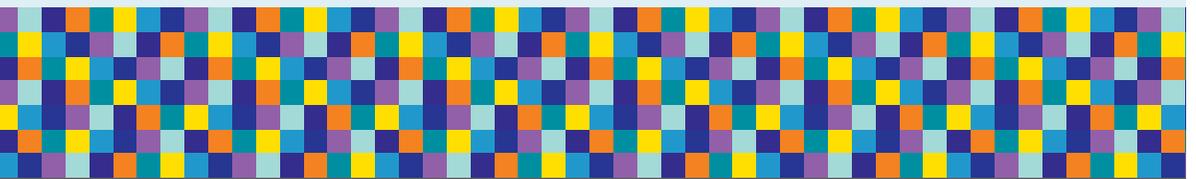


Consociates **Mary Kaye Medinger and Kathleen Olsen** (back row) with **Cheryl Maloney, Michelle Moran and Sister Linda Taylor** (front row) celebrate **Cheryl and Mary Kaye's thirty years as consociates.**

Together extends a grateful note of appreciation to Consociate **Mary Lagaard** who has helped with coordinating and writing our most enjoyable and enlightening "Questions for Sister" series. As **Mary** will be concluding her volunteer position, *Together* would welcome another volunteer to help with this monthly series. If interested, please email Together@csjstpaul.org.

Coming Soon: 2022 Carondelet Celebration!

As we experience winter, our hearts turn to spring and the promise of getting together at our 2022 Carondelet Celebration on Friday, May 6, 2022 at the InterContinental Minneapolis – St. Paul Airport Hotel. This year's celebration will be a fantastic event highlighting the ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph and featuring the music of Jearlyn, Jevetta, and Billy Steele. Our celebration will also feature a delicious dinner, a silent and live auction, and other fun activities. We hope and pray Covid will be more manageable by May and with a mandatory vaccination requirement the Celebration will be a safe and enjoyable event. If that can't happen, stay tuned for further details about a virtual celebration. And, we still would like your help if you have or know of any live or silent auction items such as:



save the date!

2022

Carondelet Celebration

Supporting Networks of Hope & Healing

Friday, May 6, 2022 ♦ InterContinental MSP Hotel

Join the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates for a festive evening to celebrate and support the Sisters' network of ministries in our community.



- Gift cards to local restaurants or businesses
- Airline miles
- Sporting events
- Gift baskets of new items

Together for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet & Consociates ■ March 2022 ■ 9

Moving Always Toward

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Questions for Sister Kathie McLaughlin: Thoughts on 65 years

By Kathie McLaughlin

I was asked recently, in connection with my 65th jubilee as a Sister of St. Joseph, what is my greatest hope for the future.

I found myself saying, “I hope that in the future people everywhere think/speak/act in the first person plural more often than in the first person singular.” Here are seven further thoughts after 65 years.



1. Social justice is justice that is the work of communities, people working together to create a better world. We can do together what we cannot do separately. I learned this from the Sisters of St. Joseph.

2. At the same time, we all have our individual ways of praying. Mary Oliver, in her poem called “Praying,” suggests that prayer... “doesn’t have to be the blue iris.” It could be “weeds in a vacant lot or a few small stones.” That is very comforting to me.

3. Along with our individual ways of praying, we CSJs are fed by gatherings we have for ritual and/or liturgy. For us these special gatherings are graced moments that bless and energize us for our mission which is love of God and love of neighbor without distinction. Also, we get to sing at these events and I love to sing, especially “Wonderful World!”

4. I also love jigsaw puzzles. Many years ago there was a song with these lyrics: “This time we almost made the pieces fit, didn’t we, girl!” I think that doing puzzles reminds me that at least sometimes and in some ways we CAN make the pieces fit.

5. In 2016 I had open heart surgery to replace my mitral valve. It was, I think, a great challenge in my life. One of my doctors at Mayo said that

I did a very brave thing. I thought that my friends who accompanied me through this experience did a very brave thing. I am so grateful to them.

6. My biggest challenge in life was completing my PhD. I did that in 1990. I had wanted to do a topic that theologically emphasized women’s issues but was unable to find someone willing to direct such

a dissertation. So I did my dissertation on the role of the laity in John Ireland’s theology. I was able to sneak in some women’s issues within that topic.

7. Teaching has been a great joy in my life. I taught for about 48 years. And I loved my subject matter—theology, and my students—teenagers, college students and adults. I thank them for the richness they have brought to my life.

You do so much for justice

From the Consociate Leadership Collaborative Key Area, Funding Mission: Fran Rusciano Murnane, leader; Anne Hannahan, Ginny Claessens McDonald, Bridgette Kelly

We are deeply grateful to Consociates. You share time, expertise, prayer, presence and financial support. Consociate financial gifts at the midway mark of December 31, 2021, were 83 percent of the entire previous fiscal year’s total. Fifty-two Consociates (58 percent of last fiscal year’s total of 90), gave gifts to the Ministries Foundation—memorial, honor, in-kind, monthly, year-end and/or to a particular ministry. Whether you pray, write, encourage, visit, support, organize, lead—you do so much in seeking justice. Thank you for all you make possible.

St. Joseph Statue and Sister Agnes Joseph Lamb (1873–1960)

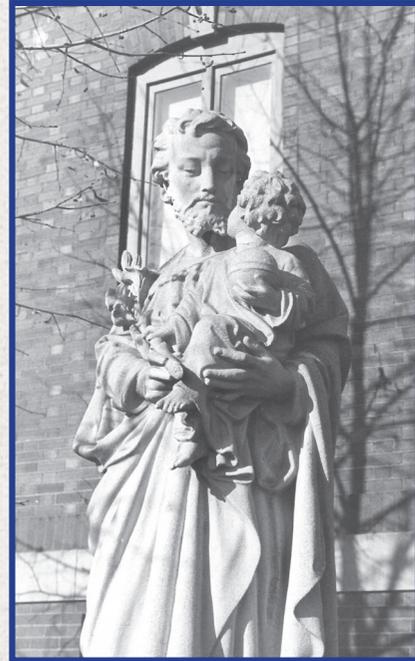
By Michelle Hueg, archivist

The following was written by Sister Marie de Paul Rochester in 2003. The statue is currently located outside the John Gregory Murray unit facing Exchange Street – where the first brick building for St. Joseph’s Hospital was located.

“The statue of St. Joseph that will be blessed and placed in front of the hospital on St. Joseph’s Day, March 19, was a gift to the hospital in the nineteen forties by the Lamb family of Michigan, North Dakota.

“Sister Agnes Joseph Lamb was a daughter in the Lamb family, born on St. Joseph’s Day in 1873. She studied dietetics at St. Joseph’s Hospital in 1898 and a year later entered the community of the Sisters of St. Joseph. She was an elementary schoolteacher most of her long life of 87 years.

The statue was first located in a place of honor on a grassy lawn on the corner of 10th and St. Peter streets, site of the present oxygen tanks. The need for additional parking caused the relocation of



St. Joseph Statue

the statue to the area outside the present doctors’ lounge in a small garden space. Its new location in front of the hospital located it in a place of honor, a reminder of the generosity of the Lamb family, and of the protection of St. Joseph, for whom the first log cabin hospital was named one hundred and fifty years ago.”



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



ST. KATES



Prayer Partners, Lasting Friends

By Joan Mitchell, CSJ



Sister Grace Saumer

In 1996, Cathy Steffens and Susan Hames, were appointed to campus ministry at the College of St. Catherine. A group of

22 sisters volunteered to help them in this ministry. One of the volunteers was Sister Grace Saumer. Grace wondered how she could contribute.

Having taught primary grades my whole life, I didn't know what I could offer at the college level, so I prayed for enlightenment. Then one night I woke up in the middle of the night and heard a voice say, "Prayer Partners," as plain as day. It had never entered my mind before!

So the thought came to me of having the Sisters at Bethany pair up with a CSC student as a Prayer Partner! This was something I could do. Therese Sherlock, two other sisters, and I stuffed invitations for the program in the student mailboxes. Nearly 80 students responded. We offered two options 1) a student may request that a Sister pray for her but not meet, or 2) a Sister is assigned a student who has requested a prayer partner, contacts her, and arranges to meet. They may have a meal together, or go for a walk.

At the first new student picnic hosted by the Sisters, Grace ate with her prayer partner. The drawing for prizes climaxed the picnic. The biggest prize was \$200 cash. "I'm praying you win," Grace whispered to her prayer partner, and she did. It was a hearty endorsement for the Prayer Partner program.

To recruit prayer partners, Sister Grace wrote yearly *Together* articles, such as, "Prayer Partners Are an Opportunity for Friendship." Her articles tell the story.

Prayer Partners broadened from Bethany to other Sisters, Consociates, and even Sisters from other orders who lived with us. We averaged 80-90 student partners a year.

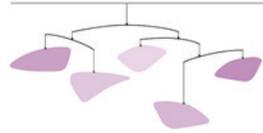
Many students tell us that amazing relationships developed. They found it such a blessing to be in the presence of inspiring women, to hear amazing stories, not just about the College, but about how God had worked in the Sisters' lives as they shared their faith with these students who really counted on their prayers. Partners have attended weddings, followed grad school successes, had visits with husbands and children.

Some relationships have lasted for years, some never went farther than a first meeting. Some students asked for prayers but no contact. Both Sisters and students could ask for that option. On the other hand, Latifah Kiribedda, one of Sister Susan Streff's many 'international' prayer partners from St. Kate's, offered the eulogy at Susan's funeral in May.

Sister Grace's yearly articles always ended with her phone number and an invitation to become a Prayer Partner.

Now, students can ask for prayers through the Center for Spirituality and Justice (campus ministry).

Jean Wincek, CSJ, is chair of St. Catherine University's Board of Trustees. Other CSJ Board members include Susan Hames, Joy Milos, Joan Mitchell, Colleen O'Malley, Therese Sherlock, and Jill Underdahl.



Minnesota Center for Health Care Ethics (MCHCE)

By Karen Gervais, PhD

Together. We are immersed in uncertainties.

We face moral uncertainties as individuals, organizations, communities, nations, and as a globe. Ethics addresses moral uncertainties. What help can we give beyond stating the problem?

At the time of this writing, early February, we are filled with hope that COVID is backing down, and dread that it is revving up—again. Omicron is already two-faced. The simple fact is that we cannot know what the virus will do. In due time, we will find out. We will continue learning as we go. For some of us there is frustration and anxiety; for others there is impatience and anger. The divisions among us cause each of us moral distress. We disagree about facts and values, and there appears to be no common ground, no way for us to work through the pandemic with a shared purpose and strategy.

When one has moral uncertainty one can work on it by trying to determine: What are the facts? What are my values? What are

my options? Should I do this or that? How should I decide? How can I balance the values I hold dear that are at stake?

Or one can take this approach: What are the facts? Who are we? What are our values? What are our options? Should we do this or that? How should we decide? How can we balance the values we hold dear that are at stake?

In each way of struggling with moral uncertainty, we cast our moral universe in different ways, and we cast ourselves in a different relationship to our dear neighbor. In the first we consider ourselves as agents, affecting self and immediate others in the way we decide is right. In the second we see ourselves as collaborators, discerning and acting in relationship with others to do right.

It seems that the problem of our time is to exhibit and nurture this collaborative frame of mind, the core of which must be to see the other as the dear neighbor.

Springtime for the Soul

Join us each Sunday during Lent at 4:30 PM
for prayer, reflection, silence, and original music
composed by Joan Mitchell, CSJ and Rosie Romportl.

Zoom and CV Broadcast

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/CSJRituals>

ID: 651 696 2805 • Passcode: 651696

SARAH'S... AN OASIS FOR WOMEN

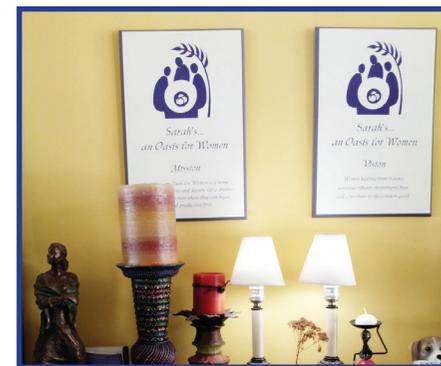
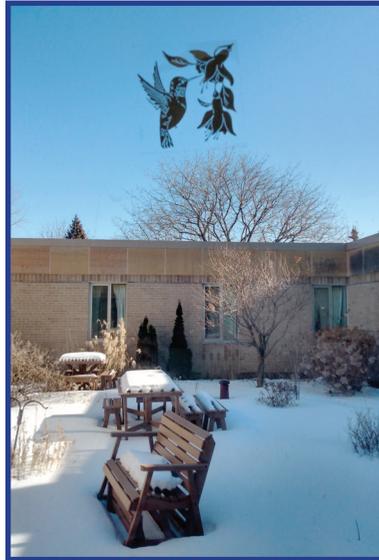


Soleil's Flight for Freedom

By Cheryl Behrent, Director

This month begins another series about a Sarah's resident's journey to the U.S., why she left her home country and how she came to Sarah's. For her safety and privacy we respectfully call her "Soleil."

In Soleil's home country in Africa, she said of her youth, "I had a good family - father, mother, brothers and sisters. I went to school until high school. The community I lived in was very good: we lived together, played together, it was safe so we almost always were outside. You could think freely and were surrounded with love." Soleil talked about being able to choose to go to church, participate in everything in school and after school clubs and activities. She enjoyed anything related to literature. After graduation, Soleil started working with the arts and writing poems, short, and long stories, and acting on stage both at the community theatre and then eventually as a professional actress. Soleil married and had kids. It was always important to her the way they did things: having good relationships and communication with people, never fighting.



What ended up changing Soleil's life, and the life of her community and family, was that the political situation became very bad. If you didn't stand with the government they would assume you stood against them and would attack you. They didn't like you to work, women or men, even though until then it was okay for anyone to work in the big city. It wasn't obvious but in the background women were considered below men. Openly they would talk about women as being equal with men and needing to let them do everything. That really wasn't the issue for Soleil and her family, her community. It was that some of them did not support the government.

ST. JOSEPH WORKERS



Reflections on Stirring the Fire

By Hannah White

In January the St. Joseph Workers were blessed to participate in the annual **Stirring the Fire retreat**. The Workers gathered with program directors Bridgette Kelly and Lisa Murphy in person at the Carondelet Center, and connected with the wider CSJ community over Zoom.

“It was a wonderful time of reflection and community, letting go of the hardships of 2021 and looking forward to blessings in 2022,” says Rachel Barth. “I wish to breathe God’s grace and love into my work and life by being more compassionate toward others, and I strive to create the world I imagine. We are powerful!”

Maggie Schauff valued the time to reflect on pain from the past, and hold that pain in solidarity. She says that it was meaningful to “recognize and embrace our growth and the potential for the new year; understanding that life will be okay even if we do not return to the way the world was before.”

Some of the Workers found the creative element of the retreat especially meaningful. For Casey Murano, her biggest takeaway was that “we are all artists and co-create together from a place of deep joy and imagination.”

Meghan Berg found that it was “a beautiful time of reflection and coming together as a community to share our hopes, prayers, and goals for this new year. In 2022,” she says, “I strive to give myself the same love and care as I give to others.”

Overall, Stirring the Fire helped the Workers regroup and reflect as they continue in the second half of their program year.



**SJWs: Front Row: Hannah, Rachel, Casey.
Back row: Meghan, Maggie**

“I’m deeply grateful to witness the ways this community comes together to uplift each other,” says Hannah White. “It’s rich, rich soil for new growth this spring.”

SJW Alum Community Member Update

By SJW Alum Community Member, Katy Murphy

Just as with my time in the SJW Program in 2008-2009, I find my spirit continues to seek to live intentionally and purposefully, even and especially as my life continues to grow and change. Thirteen years after the program, I find myself a homeowner in a vibrant neighborhood in St. Paul, living with a wonderful partner and two awesome kids. I spend some of my weekdays doing project management to increase the focus on child wellbeing in child welfare work. I continue to be a seeker - of joy, of peace, of justice, of community and of growth. I'm currently enjoying the process of painting my living room a vibrant periwinkle, baking with little ones, reading a couple books a month, and finding ways to connect with people beyond my bubble.

CELESTE'S DREAM Garden Planning Night



February 1 is roughly halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. The days are still more dark than light, but the sunshine is slowly but surely reclaiming hours. Both Imbolc, an

ancient Gaelic festival celebrating the start of spring, and St. Brigid's Day, the feast day of Ireland's patroness saint, are celebrated on February 1. It was only fitting that on February 1 of this year, 16 community gardeners came together in Carondelet Center and on Zoom to plan the Celeste's Dream Community Garden for the spring.

The hybrid event gathered both veteran gardeners and new faces. Numbered among the gardeners were young professionals, several St. Catherine University students, retirees taking master gardener classes, and a mother-daughter duo looking for a bonding activity. The evening began with an opening reflection and prayer led by St. Joseph Workers Hannah White and Casey Murano, and flowed into a conversation about squash varieties, the beauty of eggplants, tomato plant management, and more. It was an evening filled with imagination, laughter, community, and spirit.

All community members are welcome to help with the next stages of garden planting! The next Celeste's Dream Community Garden night will be seed starting on Tuesday, March 29 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.



Other Garden Events:

- **Tuesday, April 26, 5:00 -7:00 p.m.**
Seedling transplanting
- **Saturday, April 30, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
CSJ Earth Day
- **Tuesday, May 17, 5 - 7 p.m.** Plant the Garden
- **Late May – October, Tuesdays, 5 – 7 p.m.**
Gather to tend and harvest the Garden



For more information on getting involved in the community garden contact:
Jennifer Tacheny
jtacheny@csjstpaul.org or
Hannah White,
hannahwhite671@gmail.com



WISDOM WAYS



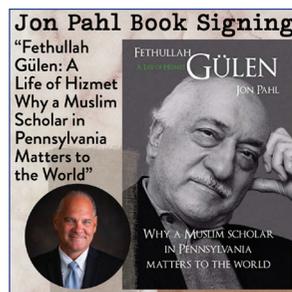
Upcoming events with Wisdom Ways

By Carly Swenson

Jon Pahl Book Signing "Fethullah Gülen: A Life of Hizmet Why a Muslim Scholar in Pennsylvania Matters to the World"

**Thursday, March 3, 7-8:30 p.m.
• \$10 • In-person at Carondelet Center & Online via zoom**

Fethullah Gülen, the Turkish Muslim preacher who inspired the Hizmet (service) movement, is a reformer of Islam. Pahl explores how he compares with notorious reformer of Christianity, Martin Luther. Both emphasized education, women's equality before God, and advocacy for the oppressed, as well as powerful preaching and facing oppression by state-religious power.



Against Hunger, and was one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People in the World.

Writing the Sacred Journey: Introductory Workshop w/ Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew Sat, Mar 19 at 9am-noon • Online via zoom or In-person at the Carondelet Center, 101 • \$75

Discover how the practice of writing a memoir supports spiritual growth. We will start with the basics, using writing exercises, readings from master writers, and conversation. Elizabeth will also offer suggestions and resources to sustain the practice moving forward.

Hedgerow Institute, Part 2

Exploring Disability Theology: Interfaith Perspectives on Disability

Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm • 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9

\$25 per Session or \$140 for Series (7 sessions)

In module two, guest teachers will present a variety of perspectives on Disability Theology from different faith traditions, cultures, and parts of the world. Topics will range from African theologies of disability, the experience of living in the L'Arche community, and Disability and Judaism.

To learn more, register, and a complete list of upcoming events visit:

www.wisdomwayscenter.org

An Armchair Conversation w/ US Ambassador Ertharin Cousin, Celebrating International Women's Day 2022

**Tuesday, March 8 • 7-8 p.m.
Online, \$25**

Explore international food security & sustainability. Hear powerful stories, experience her dynamism! Ertharin Cousin was the Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme, and the US Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food & Agriculture during the Obama Administration. She's been on Forbes' list of The 100 Most Powerful Women in the World, received the Humanitarian Award of Action



JUSTICE

The ERA

By Joan Wittman, Consociate, Carondelet Village liaison and LAP Working Group liaison to the Justice Commission

As March honors *International Women's Month*, my mind goes to the reality of gender inequality and the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Just 14 words. "Equality under the law shall not be abridged or denied on account of gender." The ERA.



Why is that so important to me? Ever since I was a child, growing up on the farm in between two brothers who could do lots of things I couldn't do, simply because I was a girl, I've been conscious of gender discrimination.

- Going to Catholic grade school I wanted to be an altar server. I couldn't because I was a girl.
- In high-school I played basketball. The girls could get the gym time after the boys were done.
- After college I was a primary teacher. When I married and became pregnant, I couldn't get a teaching job.
- I was asked to teach and coordinate the education program for the Archdiocesan Permanent Diaconate program but wasn't allowed to be ordained.
- Women couldn't get credit cards in their names or get loans to buy a car.
- And of course there were salary inequities, plus advancement inequities.

These are just a few reasons why, for over 75 years, I have believed in and supported the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). I'm sure you could add to this list. This International Women's month, I invite you to share examples from your own life experience of gender inequality and why you support the ERA. Share these examples with other CSJ community members, your family; parents, siblings, children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, neighbors or students. This March, invite others into the conversation about gender equality.

A little brief description explaining how an amendment to the U.S. Constitution is to be enacted follows. First the U.S. Congress must ratify, which they did in 1972. Then three fourths of the states (38) also need to ratify. Minnesota was one of the early states, on February 8, 1973. But at the seven year deadline three additional states were needed. These three states have since ratified and on January 27, 2022, the requirements have been fulfilled. We have a 28th Amendment. So, what's still needed? Laws can be changed; constitutions are much more difficult.

For Minnesotans, there are two important actions needed. The U.S. Senate needs to vote to add the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Although Minnesota ratified at the national level in 1973, it is still not written into our Minnesota Constitution. The legislature

International Women's Day is on March 8th. This is an occasion to celebrate the progress made towards achieving gender equality and to strive for greater gender equity. While we have made significant progress over the years, there is still much to do. For example, women are underpaid with women earning 81.1% of what men earn for equal work. For this issue of *Together* we are grateful for Joan Wittman's reflection upon gender equality and the Equal Right Amendment (ERA).

Ministry Updates

csjstpaul.org/justice

needs to approve putting the question to the voters on the fall ballot. With our divided Minnesota government it will be a challenge, but hopefully 2022 or 2023 will be the year.

My dream, my hope before I leave this planet is to experience the ERA included in our Minnesota Constitution and Amendment 28 added to our U.S. Constitution. Please join me in this effort. This March, International Women's month, let us take action to encourage our elected officials to add these simple but critical words to our Federal and our State Constitutions: "Equality under the law shall not be abridged or denied on account of gender."

TAKE ACTION:

Advocacy opportunities suggested by the Justice Office:

Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to your two U.S. Senators and member of Congress. Ask our U.S. Senators and Congress-people "to affirm the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution."

In addition, confirm who represents you in the MN Legislature at <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/> and then reach out to your local Minnesota State Senator and MN State Legislator on the following two (2) ASKS:

- *Make equality a reality in our State Constitution. Pass the Equal Rights Amendment in our Minnesota state constitution this Legislative Session.*
- *Approve the proposed amendment being given to the people on the ballot for the Fall 2022 general election. Allow MN voters to decide on "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that equality under the law must not be abridged or denied on account of sex?"*

Lent

Once again Lent comes to make its prophetic appeal, to remind us that it is possible to create something new within ourselves and around us, simply because God is faithful, and continues to be rich in goodness and mercy; always ready to forgive and start afresh.

~ Pope Francis

Come sing and pray with the
CSJ Community this Lent.



Ash

Wednesday



Join us for Evening Prayer

March 2nd • 6:30 PM

Zoom and CV Broadcast

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/CSJRituals>

ID: 651 696 2805 • Passcode: 651696

Together for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet & Consociates ■ March 2022 ■ 19



St. Mary's Health
Clinics

ST. MARY'S HEALTH CLINICS

By Sue Gehlsen, Executive Director, St. Mary's Health Clinics

I want to pass along some exciting information that is significant for SMHC.

We were notified this week that we have been awarded two grants that focus on our Covid prevention/vaccine efforts. One was a special grant from the U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership (funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation) out of San Diego, CA. The second award was funded by the National Institute of Health, administered by Duke University. Both awards focus on Covid prevention activities, vaccine administration and education aimed at the broader Latinx community.

These awards are distinct and prestigious in the world of grants, with competition for funding at the national level. I truly believe these awards reflect the excellent work that you provide, and the importance of our efforts for the health of our community and the greater good. We may be small but we make a huge difference in the lives of those we serve! So when you're weary and needing a shot of reinforcement, reflect on the importance of your contributions and the work of St. Mary's. With a special note of thanks to the Foundation's Paul Tatro for his grant writing expertise, I offer a hearty congratulations and thanks to all!

By Sue Gehlsen, Executive Director, St. Mary's Health Clinics

The Fuel Within

The work continues, Covid is ever present. Patients need care, calls come in, vaccine clinics abound. People are stretched, work hours are long, additional roles are added, and workloads are shared. Staffing levels are lean, community requests are great, breaks are few, staff changes occur.

While these descriptors may sound challenging and perhaps a bit bleak, this is the reality for the St. Mary's Clinics staff, whose work has not



SMHC staff is grateful to help people in need, while living the CSJ mission and helping our dear neighbors.

Ministry Updates

www.stmaryshealthclinics.org

only continued but increased throughout the pandemic. As clinics continue, outreach services have ballooned, and requests are continuous from community agencies seeking our help in response to pandemic needs.

That said, what is it that keeps this team on the go? The simple answer is their commitment to the mission and their desire to serve the greater good. Gratitude for the many opportunities abounds. This is reflected in comments from some of our St. Mary's team members:

- "I'm grateful for the opportunity to practice interpreting and thankful for the space to learn new tasks."
- "No dollar amount could possibly reflect the appreciation we receive from our patients and community members for the care they receive."
- "I'm grateful for the team of people I work with, for our volunteers and community partners and for the challenges we face that bring out the best in us and allow us to grow."
- "I'm grateful for working in an organization with a mission of service and equity."
- "I appreciate the opportunity to be part of a mission to help break down barriers to accessible health care and improve the lives of our many patients."



Gratitude for donations collected for Project Home. These supplies will help families as they prepare to leave their temporary housing at the Pro House.

- "I am grateful to work for an organization which is compassionate and caring towards its patients."
- "I value the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet for having had the vision and conviction of service to establish the ministry of St. Mary's Health Clinics, meeting the needs of the uninsured and underserved."
- "I am thankful that I can use my knowledge and skills in a meaningful way to help others."

These statements say it all and reflect the true spirit and energy of the St. Mary's Health Clinics staff. And so, this dedicated team moves forward. "...give thanks in all circumstances." (Thessalonians, 5:16)



**Discerning
Deacons**

Catholic Women Deacons? A Discernment & Listening Session

Sunday, March 13, 2022 • 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

St. Catherine University, Rauenhorst Ballroom, Coeur de Catherine.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, registration is limited to 150. Check in by 1:45 p.m.



To register, visit [DiscerningDeacons.org](https://discerningdeacons.org) and click on “Learn and choose “News & Events” or visit <https://discerningdeacons.org/catholic-women-deacons-event/>

There is no fee to attend.

Coffee, juice, and pastries will be available. Masks are required when not actively eating or drinking. KN95 masks will be provided.

The question of women and the diaconate is a living conversation and an active discernment in our Church. In a listening, participatory and synodal Church, it is a question not only for Synods of Bishops and papal commissions, but it is a discernment for the entire people of God. The heart of this meeting will be an opportunity for women to discern, reflect, to speak and be heard about our key question:

What is the Holy Spirit saying to each of us with regard to discerning women as permanent deacons?

The agenda will include a scriptural reading with a short, preached reflection by a woman, testimonies from local women experiencing a call to the diaconate and quiet and shared reflection time in table groups. Table reflections will be shared back to the full group and a synthesis of the findings will be made available to the Vatican as part of the Global Synod process.



Sisters of St. Joseph
of Carondelet & Consociates
St. Paul Province



LEAGUE of
CATHOLIC
WOMEN
FOUNDATION FUND



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Ministry Updates

www.csjstpaul.org

About 70 people gathered in-person at Carondelet Village and another 40+ people gathered online on the morning of February 14th to hear about the amazing work for Project Home at the CSJ Provincial House. CV residents were surprised and touched by the gift of handmade Valentines and handmade paper flowers from the children and their parents currently residing at

the Provincial House. Sara Liegl, Director of Project Home shared an update of the inspiring work and the wonderful successes of Project Home this past year. Learn more by viewing the YouTube recording of Sara's presentation at <https://youtu.be/6KPS-OPP0Kk>





With joy, grace, and gratitude we once again prepare to celebrate our beloved Feast of St. Joseph. We are excited to offer three opportunities to gather in prayer.

Table Prayer

Friday, March 18th • 6:30 PM • Zoom and CV Broadcast
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/CSJRituals> • ID: 651 696 2805 • Passcode: 651696

Feast Day Morning Mass Celebration

Saturday, March 19th • 9:30 AM • Carondelet Village Chapel
This mass is for our CSJ Community. Family and friends of our Jubilarians can watch it over Live Stream on our CSJ YouTube Channel, at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6dc6uePdQ6xTp-jd2_Lisw

Feast Day Evening Celebration

Saturday, March 19th • 6:30 PM • Zoom and CV Broadcast
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/CSJRituals> • ID: 651 696 2805 • Passcode: 651696

This year we hold up and celebrate the witness of 30 Sister and 18 Consociate Jubilarians. May their dedication and passion for living the CSJ mission inspire us to let our lives speak the same!

Much care and discernment went into the difficult decision to offer two of these gatherings over Zoom. Safety was key, yet the desire to offer access to all who would want to celebrate with us, both locally and congregationally, was vital.

It is in this spirit that all are encouraged to share the Zoom links to our Table Prayer and Feast Day Evening Celebration with friends and family, both here and around the congregation. For Table Prayer, why not celebrate in the safety of small groups, as we sing and pray, break bread, and perhaps share a sweet treat at the end? Or consider being a prayer companion to a sister in the Care Center, Assisted Living, or to anyone who might otherwise celebrate alone. If you would like to volunteer, please write to Lori True at: ltrue@csjstpaul.org.

May the amazing heart and generosity of our dear Joseph inspire and impel us to lavishly share all we are, so that none may celebrate alone.

May it be so! May it be so! *Cathy, Suzanne, and Susan*