



JANUARY 2022

Together

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

Epiphany 2022

*Our journey with other wise ones
as we cross barriers of race, class and “othering,”
results in finding the Christ. . .*

God-present in all divine diversity.

*Opening our eyes to the star’s Light
we trust this journey’s Guide that offers
an invitation to life-long learning and connection.*

Together, we are light with each other.

Today, we rise and shine!

*May each of us be blessed
in this new year, on this
pilgrimage together.*

Love and peace, Susan, Suzanne and Cathy

Catholic Spirit finds Spirit of Joseph with the CSJs

In November, The Catholic Spirit writer Susan Lemond continued the publication's series of 10 places in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis with connections to St. Joseph. It's November article, "CSJs have deep devotion to their silent patron" focused on the Province's chapel and ministries. Here are some excerpts:

The chapel in St. Paul where the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet have traditionally prayed and made vows isn't named for their patron, St. Joseph, but they say St. Joseph's spirit has been with them during important events there.

"In the 170 years since their arrival in St. Paul, Jesus' earthly father has silently guided and protected the community and their many ministries. Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel, located near St. Catherine University, "is our sacred space, and so many of the Sisters received the habit in that chapel, many of us made our vows in that chapel, our funerals are celebrated in that chapel," said Sister Carolyn Puccio, who is celebrating 60 years in the community and serves as delegate for consecrated life in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Rather than reciting many devotions to St. Joseph, the Sisters' relationship with him is more interior. "That's who we are," Sister Carolyn said. "He is our patron, we look to him for guidance, for protection."



Dedicated in 1927, the Spanish Renaissance-style brick chapel, with white oak décor, seats about 200, according to the Sisters' archives. It features a stained-glass image of Mary's presentation in the Temple in Jerusalem. Though less used during the COVID-19 pandemic, the chapel remains a place for spiritual events and the funerals of Sisters, their Consociates who live their mission, and others, said Sister Cathy Steffens, who entered the community in 1962 and is a member of its leadership team.

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Correction: In the December issue of "Together," page 18, Joan Phillips is mistakenly identified as director of Wisdom Ways. Wisdom Way's director is Marian Diaz.

Now, as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are felt in underserved communities, the Sisters are providing support and resources through their ministries, St. Mary's Health Clinics and Learning in Style, said Sister Jill Underdahl, who professed vows in Our Lady of the Presentation chapel in 2001 and who co-directs the Sisters' young adult ministry, Celeste's Dream.

Often present at community events is a roughly 10-foot-tall, full-bodied St. Joseph puppet, which Sister Underdahl animated for about 12 years. Through an opening in the costume, she saw Sisters' "intuitive, meditative and inspirational" devotion to their patron.

"When I witnessed that I thought, 'That's what it looks like after a lifetime of focus, celebration, wondering, prayer and companionship,'" Sister Jill said. "It's not devotion in a pious sense, it's devotion in a relational sense."

Read the full article at <https://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/csjs-have-deep-devotion-to-their-silent-patron/>

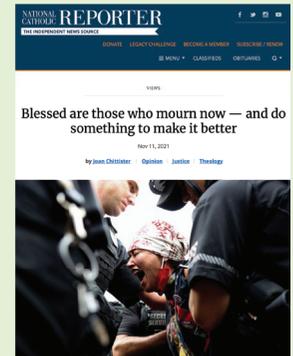


Beatitudes

"Blessed are those who mourn now – and do something to make it better" writes Joan Chittister, OSB, in the November 11 issue of the National Catholic Reporter.

Her article opens with a summary of how people approach these times and continues with, "The truth is that attitudes are different than facts. What Grandma said is a fact; what Germany went through is a fact. What Jesus taught us to develop are the attitudes tried and true that it takes to deal well with the facts. The Scriptures call them "beatitudes" meaning attitudes that bring "happiness" or "fortunate attitudes."

"Clearly, the Beatitudes shape us as people. They bring us to emotional maturity. They build the kind of self-restraint in us that makes any situation able to be handled." Read more at https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/blessed-are-those-who-mourn-now-and-do-something-make-it-better?utm_source=Global+Sisters+Report&utm_campaign=1a43b55b27-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_11_11_02_56&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_86a1a9af1b-1a43b55b27-230443690.



Synod thoughts

America Magazine recently included the article, "Pope Francis' nuncio addresses U.S. bishops on abortion, racism and the Eucharist: 'A divided church will never lead people'" by Carol Zimmerman. The article reports on Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, who spoke to the U.S. bishops about the importance of listening to people in the church and being open to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Speaking about the upcoming world Synod of Bishops, he said "I believe that synodality is an answer to the

Pope Francis' nuncio addresses U.S. bishops on abortion, racism and the Eucharist: 'A divided church will never lead people.'

Carol Zimmerman · Catholic News Service
November 16, 2021



challenges of our time and to the confrontation, which is threatening to divide this country, and which also has its echoes in the church."

"It seems that many are unaware they are engaged in this confrontation, staking out positions, rooted in certain truths but which are isolated in the world of ideas and not applied to the reality of the lived faith experience of the people of God in their concrete situations."

Read the article at <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2021/11/16/archbishop-christophe-pierre-us-bishops-241853>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 3, 2021



SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH AND PARTNERS PROCLAIM OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE: END THE MISUSE OF TITLE 42!

Nearly 30 Sisters of St. Joseph, associates, and partners in mission from around the country joined NETWORK and other faith-based and secular immigrant rights groups Friday morning to call on the Biden Administration to end the misuse of Title 42.

Title 42 expels migrants arriving at the southern border without any due process and in violation of their legal right to claim asylum. The public health clause — initially enacted by the Trump Administration during the COVID-19 pandemic — remains in place by the Biden Administration today. The immoral use of Title 42 denies the God-given, inherent human dignity of our migrant siblings and the basic right to seek asylum protected under international law.

The day's event featured stories from the U.S.–Mexico border and a prayerful demand to Catholic President Joseph Biden to end the immoral use of Title 42. Among those gathered outside the White House included a sister representing the Congregation of St. Joseph; 5 sisters from St. Louis; 16 sisters and associates from Philadelphia; and 7 sisters and high school students from New York.

Sister of St. Joseph Janet Kinney (Brentwood) — an attendee at the event — said the deplorable conditions she witnessed firsthand at the border compelled her to be present today. “It is a travesty,” Sr. Janet said, “I am here today to pray and act for justice for our immigrant friends who deserve our support.”

Santiago, a Honduran migrant living in Mexico for the past 11 years, shared at the public witness how Title 42 affects his family. Earlier this year, the violence became worse near his home, so his family “had to make the very difficult decision to migrate.” When he and his younger son went to the border for a way to request asylum, the immigration agents told him “the border is closed.”

Today's public witness in Washington D.C. calls on all members of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph – sisters, associates, partners in mission – to call on the White House to immediately end the misuse of Title 42.

The event was organized by NETWORK, the national Catholic social justice lobby, and included testimony from migrants and immigration coalitions Haiti Bridge Alliance, and Welcome With Dignity.

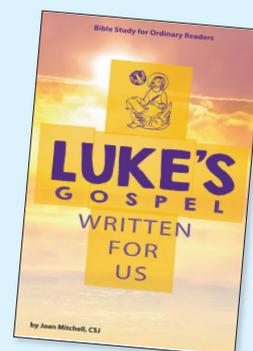
Community Musings

www.csjstpaul.org/Forum

Joan Mitchell, CSJ on St. Luke

By Therese Shelock, CSJ

Sister Joan Mitchell will teach a class on Luke's Gospel beginning **January 7**. The class meets on Zoom every Thursday in January and February from 11:00 to 12:30 central time. There is no tuition charge, but you will need a copy of *Luke's Gospel: Written for Us* by Sister Joan. You can purchase the book and sign up for the class at goodgroundpress.com.



Catholic Women Deacons: A Synodal Discernment & Listening Session

By Joan Mitchell, CSJ

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, January 15, 2022

Join the active discernment about women deacons in the Catholic Church.

The International Union of Superior Generals (UISG) urged Pope Francis to set up a study group. Now the Global Synod 2021-2023 invites the People of God to speak our needs. The heart of this January 15 local meeting gives women the opportunity to discern, reflect, to speak and be heard about our key question:

Is the Holy Spirit asking the Church to reinstate women as permanent deacons?

- **Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
- **St. Catherine University, Rauenhurst Ballroom, Coeur de Catherine**
- **Due to COVID-19 concerns, registration is limited to 150**
- **There is no fee to attend.**
- **Coffee, juice, and pastries will be available.**
- **Masks are required when not actively eating or drinking.**

More information to come on how to register.

World Day for Consecrated Life

SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, February 2, 2022

- Celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life.

- Gather by Zoom to pray and share with other Consecrated Women and Men from across the archdiocese.
- Archbishop Hebda will join us.
- More details to follow.

JANUARY 8: Ritual to Begin the Journey

From the Carondelet Calendar email shared by Kim Westerman

The Albany Province and Peru Vice Province have both discerned the decision to relate directly to the congregational government and to do that together. Since the time of those decisions, the CLT and the leadership teams of Albany and Peru have had ongoing conversations about how to begin the process. At the end of September, they all gathered "in the kitchen" for three days together to share more deeply about the beginning steps of that journey together.

As one of the first steps on their journey, they would like to invite all Sisters and ACOF to join the Sisters of Albany and Peru for a virtual Ritual to Begin the Journey on Saturday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m. EST via Zoom. To RSVP visit Carondelet Connect at www.connect.csjcarondelet.org.

Saturday, January 8

**7-8pm EST / 6-7pm CST / 5-6pm MST / 4-5pm PST
2-3pm Hawai'i / 9-10pm in Chile / 7-8pm in Peru**



U.S. FEDERATION | Event 2022

July 8–10: Save the date for the event in St. Louis. This year's theme is "Radically Transforming Community." We truly believe our future rests in expanding our views of community, and we will explore this throughout our time there. *More details and registration information forthcoming.*

Visit the Event webpage, <https://cssjfed.org/index.php/about-us/event-2022>

New Congregational websites

By Kim Westerman, Lauren Clancy and Sally Harper, CSJ
Website Development Team

Dear Sisters, Associates, Consociates, 'Ohana, Familia de San José and Amigas,
Our new congregational websites are up and running! We now have two websites:

- <https://csjcarondelet.org/>—our public website with information for the public
- <https://connect.csjcarondelet.org/>—The NEW password-protected Carondelet Connect with private information for Sisters, ACOF and staff.

On behalf of the Congregational Leadership Team, we're so excited to have this fresh new tool by which our community can share information and our latest updates!

YOUR CARONDELET CONNECT USER ACCOUNT

As a reminder, each sister and ACOF will have their own unique login credentials. Your username has already been created for you.

To access Carondelet Connect, you'll first need to set your password by following the instructions at <https://connect.csjcarondelet.org/welcome>. You will need the above username to do so.

Need Help?

If you have any trouble, please contact St. Paul's province IT support, Trevor May, tmay@csjstpaul.org.

Carondelet Connect has plenty of useful, searchable information like the constitution, acts of chapter, publications, updates from the CLT, birthday and necrology lists, an events calendar and more. Explore, ask questions, send in comments--this is your site! We look forward to hearing your feedback and working with you to make it even better!

We Remember

www.csjstpaul.org/Forum

Carole Murnane Fleming, Consociate

Consociate Carole Murnane Fleming died Sunday, November 28, 2021. Carole was born on December 25th, 1931. She was a former sister member of the CSJ community and formally became a Consociate in 2000. She was married to Peter James Fleming who preceded her in death. Both Carole and Peter were active volunteers at Peace



House for a number of years. Carole and Peter had 3 children and a number of grandchildren. Though Carole suffered in the past years with memory loss she will be remembered as a person full of life. Carole had a quick wit, sarcastic sense of humor & passion for justice. She was a longtime member of Bread and Roses, a group of CSJ social justice advocates.

Carole, rest in love and peace.

We remember with great fondness, Friend of St. Joseph, Joseph John Claus, March 1, 1937 – November 17, 2021, who has died. His wife, Martha, is also a Friend of St. Joseph.

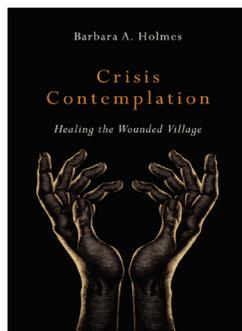


2022 Stirring the Fire Retreat

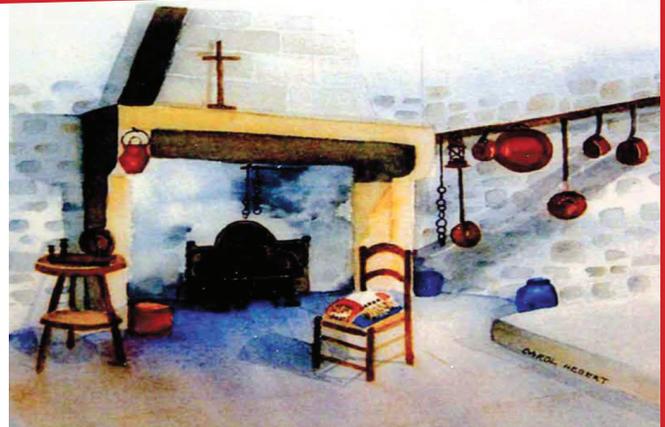
Saturday, January 22, 2022

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*, 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 wellbeing.” (page 129).

Moving Always Toward

www.csjstpaul.org/Forum

Questions for Sister Mary Fran Carter celebrating her 65th Jubilee this year

By Mary Lagaard, Consociate

Mary Fran Carter grew up in South Minneapolis in a Belgian-Norwegian (and Irish and German) family of four girls and five brothers. Her parents, Julia and Vincent, created an atmosphere of fun and laughter. “We got along and enjoyed each other.” When she was nine years old, her grandfather died. Mary Fran became acquainted with his sister, Sister Corrine Carter, CSJ. Her great aunt was religious and skilled in housekeeping and sewing and spent time with Mary Fran. This gentle initiation was followed by working at St. Mary’s hospital as a food service worker and nursing assistant. During high school at Roosevelt, she was introduced to the viola. “I played the fill-in music; it wasn’t difficult, and it was fun.” Religious life seemed to call her after graduation. She professed her vows and very much liked being part of the community.

For twenty years, Mary Fran was head of the Provincial House Kitchen. It was a tough job because she planned meals, ordered food, hired and fired employees, and made recommendations about capital expenses such as mixers and freezers. She also cooked at parish convents for a total of forty-three years of service. After leaving this position, she joined the “Sisters Care” ministry that provided in-home care to people who could not afford services. The group also brought communion to Catholics. It closed after twenty years of service. She is now retired but is still a member of an orchestra and a book club, and gives rides to Sisters going to doctors’ appointments.

What’s your favorite

- **Song:** “It’s a Wonderful World.”
- **Author:** Richard Paul Evan’s books. “He has great characters. He started with ‘The



Christmas Box.’ and ‘The Rescue’ is his latest.”

● **Place:** Timberlee, on Big Fish Lake near Cold Spring and Colledgeville. “I loved to swim and sail there with my Sister friends. Cold Spring had the best bakery.” Mary Fran described many adventures being a lifeguard for the Sisters and helping open and close Timberlee for thirty-three years.

- **Food:** “Almond Ding Wonton Chow Mein and, of course, chocolate chip cookies (fresh-baked) and milk.”
- **Who would you like to share a meal with?** “My parents because we got along so well together.”
- **Life’s biggest lesson:** “Happiness comes from giving to others.”
- **Your biggest hope for the future:** “Peace and for COVID to quit.”
- **Any do-overs?** “There is nothing in life that I would do over.”
- **Biggest challenge:** “Running the Provincial House Kitchen.”
- **Biggest accomplishment:** “I joined an orchestra 25 years ago and am now teaching myself how to play piano.”
- **One thing you would like others to know:** “I could swim across Big Fish Lake, and I love to sail; I never tipped a boat over.”
- **A phrase to share:** “Man’s best asset next to the grace of God is a sense of humor.”

Moving Always Toward

www.csjstpaul.org/Forum

Consociate Commitment Statement by Marcia Bailey

By Andrea Tande



In October, Marcia Bailey made her Consociate Commitment in a small, online ritual. After extending her candidacy by a few months to create extra time for discernment, she was ready to make commitment in the fall. Making her commitment with a small group of people and with minimal fanfare was her request – and it fit Marcia, a self-described introvert, very well. At her ritual, Marcia gave the following commitment statement. It helps reveal something of her deep spirit and integrity of character. We are very lucky to call Marcia our newest Consociate!

Marcia's statement is as follows:

I, Marcia Bailey, would like to make a public commitment and become a Consociate of the Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Paul Province. Over the course of my candidacy process I have learned about the history of the CSJs and their inner workings as a spiritual community. I have gotten the opportunity to meet many wonderful women and I hope to absorb some of their good qualities by spending as much time as possible with them. "Faults and virtues arise from our companions," (Sanskrit proverb). With this in mind, I have attended every assembly, retreat, and meeting with my small group that was available to me. This helps me feel that I am growing in "wisdom and grace" and that I am supported in my spiritual journey. I feel this is probably my most important purpose in this stage of my life. As a Consociate, I hope to continue my attendance at the CSJ gatherings and the "Sharing of the Heart" meetings with my candidate group. Currently much of my time is taken up with caregiving for my mother and other family responsibilities but, I hope to get involved in one or more CSJ Ministries as time permits. I would like to ask for your support as I make commitment to live the mission and values of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Consociates, St. Paul Province, in the context of my life and responsibilities.

Ministry Updates

www.csjstpaul.org/Forum

WISDOM WAYS

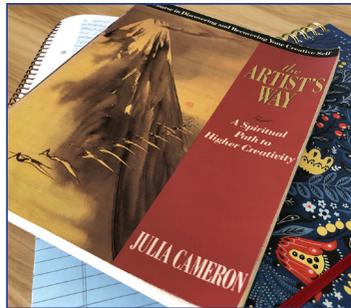


Winter Programming

Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity w/ Carly Swenson

Wednesdays at 6-7:30 p.m. • Jan 5 - Mar 23, 2022 (12 Sessions) Online via zoom • \$150

This course isn't only for "artists." It's for anyone with an innate capability to enjoy creativity. It's ideal for people who find themselves struggling emotionally, feeling creatively blocked, lacking inspiration, or looking to focus their time and energy on improving their personal sense of self-worth, renewing hope, and gentle healing. The book is 12 Chapters focusing on different aspects of self: *Safety, Identity, Power, Integrity, Possibility, Abundance, Connection, Strength, Compassion, Self-protection, Autonomy, and Faith.* *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity* by Julia Cameron:



<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/349644/the-artists-way-by-julia-cameron/>

Spiritual Sounding Boards: What is spiritual direction, group spiritual companionship and life coaching?

Thursday, January 6 at 7 p.m. • Online via zoom FREE

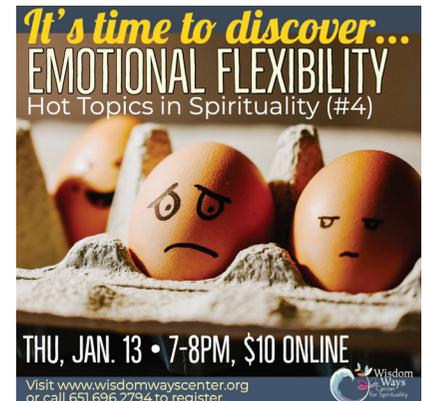
This conversation explores distinctions between one-on-one spiritual direction, group spiritual companionship and life coaching, as well as the purposes and benefits of each approach. Please join us if you are curious about exploring

different ways to enhance your personal growth and mindfulness.

Hot Topics in Spirituality #4: Emotional Flexibility w/Marian Diaz

Thursday, January 13 at 7 p.m. • \$10 Online via zoom

You don't know the tools and skills you've been missing until you learn them. Help strengthen all aspects of your life with Emotional Flexibility.

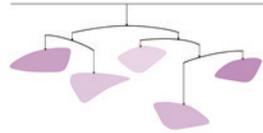


Book Discussion: Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent

Thursday, January 20, February 3 & 17, March 3 & 17, April 7 & 21 from Noon-1pm Online via zoom • \$50

"To dehumanize another human being is not merely to declare that someone is not human, and it does not happen by accident. It is a process, a programming. It takes energy and reinforcement to deny what is self-evident in another member of one's own species." *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson, Book link: <https://www.amazon.com/Caste-Origins-Discontents-Isabel-Wilkerson/dp/0593230256/>

To register, visit www.wisdomwayscenter.org Remember! CSJ Sisters, Consociates and staff receive a 50% discount with code: **CSJDISCOUNT** If you have questions or trouble registering, please contact the Wisdom Ways office at office@wisdomwayscenter.org or via phone at (651)-696-2794.



MINNESOTA CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE ETHICS

Minnesota Center for Health Care Ethics

By Amanda West, Associate for Health Law & Ethics

As we age and our health situations become increasingly complex, making health care decisions becomes both more important and more challenging. Appointing health care agents who understand our values, goals, and preferences is an important first step in preparing for these challenges, but sometimes we still have concerns. Will our agent be healthy and well enough to serve in the role when the time comes? Will she be equipped and supported to make the best possible decisions on our behalf?

Minnesota Center for Health Care Ethics (MCHCE) has long been attuned to these concerns and strategized ways to plan around them. In 2019, we created an addendum that Sisters can choose to attach to their health care directives to appoint the CSJ Leadership Team, in consultation with MCHCE ethicists, to make decisions if the Sister's agent is unable or unavailable. MCHCE ethicists ask clarifying questions and gather information upfront to help the Leadership Team follow the Sister's wishes.

Anita Raymond, from the Center for Excellence in Supported Decision Making, defines supported decision making as, "a series of relationships, practices, arrangements, and agreements, of more or

less formality and intensity, designed to assist an individual with a disability to make, and communicate to others, decisions about the individual's life." Supported decision making contains a range of activities to allow people who need a little extra time, attention, or information to continue making their own decisions.

Supported decision making is most often used as an alternative to guardianship, but we believe its core ideas can be helpful even when guardianship is not being considered. We are studying and exploring new ways to use supported decision-making tools to

help Sisters stay in control of their own care longer and to support agents in ways that honor the person for whom they are making decisions. If you are interested in talking more about supported decision making, or if you have used it and would like to share your insights or lessons learned, we welcome the opportunity to talk with you. Karen Gervais and/or Amanda West are available for conversation and assistance 24/7 at 651-335-7582.



Karen Gervais



Amanda C. West

SARAH'S... AN OASIS FOR WOMEN



Adag's Difficult Journey: Part II

After ten years as a principal, Adag's life came to a halt when the military arrived. It wasn't safe for anyone to go anywhere. Adag realized as the one responsible for this big community, if she would leave too, (only three Sisters remained) the military would take everything. The military was asking questions and she was trying to protect the school.



For being there, she was brutalized by these military officials. Under cover of night, she was able to flee and hide in a dark corner. Eventually her crying was heard and the superior came to find her and send her to a faraway convent.

Adag needed medical care and wanted to go home but was afraid of what would happen there. Adag instead accepted the bishop's invitation to stay with him and his wife. They provided a car and driver for her to go to the clinic. In four months, a Sister sent her a note, inviting Adag to come stay with her

but the bishop asked her to join a convent again. So, she moved to the convent where she spent most of the time in her room sleeping because she couldn't move alone and needed two canes to walk. People weren't communicating with her for fear of the military. The Sister begged again for Adag to leave saying she wasn't safe because they'd seen a photo. This photo of her was evidently recent

because she was holding two canes.

Adag was helped secretly to go to the capitol and leave the country. People along the way helped her get letters of support about leaving the country. In Italy, Adag was told if she had surgery, she would be wheelchair bound. She asked the bishop if she could go back home to her home country. (If she was going to die, Adag would rather go there to die). He instead attempted to send her to the US where maybe better care would be available.

...To be continued.



CARONDELET CENTER

Carondelet Center is thrilled to be fully open again and we are looking for ways to assist our dear neighbors by hosting events.

You can support us by writing a positive Google Review! This helps Carondelet Center and the whole CSJ Community. We greatly appreciate your time in writing a review. To write a review, visit: <https://csjstpaul.co/cc-review>

ST. JOSEPH WORKERS



Minnesota's changing seasons

By Hannah White, SJW

This year in the St. Joseph Worker house there are three non-Minnesotans: Rachel from Ohio, Casey from Virginia, and myself from Guam. None of us like the cold but moved to Minnesota anyway. As the weather chilled, the dread of winter settled in our stomachs. We started playing a game where instead of complaining about the cold, we'd take turns listing things about winter we would enjoy. Hot chocolate by the fire, craft nights indoors, snow shoeing, sledding, snowball fights. It didn't quite work, but it helped.

On November 13 it snowed. The snowflakes were soft and wet, just barely sticking to the ground. Despite our previous grumbling about the cold, we didn't hide in the house all day. No, the three of us walked several blocks to the library and back, letting the snow cling to our hair and crunch under our boots. And we were happy. Not the same sort of happy we'd be on a beach in 70°



St. Joseph Workers from left, Rachel Barth, Casey Murano, and Hannah White.

weather, but a quiet, content sort of happy. When we got home, I spent some time watching the snow fall outside my bedroom window with wonder.

Before I moved to Massachusetts for school, I never experienced the changing of the leaves, never had to put a garden to bed, never saw snow and never wore a coat. This December marked the start of my fifth winter, and the fifth time I entered into a period of darkness and cold. In college, I never had too much time to sit and wonder while the snow fell. This year, with my housemates by my side, I plan on doing exactly that.

Justice Worker Alum Update

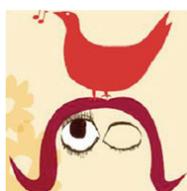
Ellen Klahn-Grove served as a SJW in 2011-2012 and is currently serving on the St Joseph Worker Alum Community Council. Here's an update:

Ellen recently started a new role as Volunteer Services Manager at the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. She's excited to work with Nursery staff and volunteers as they work to re-expand their services to the community. Last year, Ellen returned from two years abroad in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. She has been settling back into Minneapolis life in the COVID era and is always looking for a new coffee shop, restaurant, and activity recommendations. Ellen resides in the Minnehaha neighborhood with her husband, Matthew and senior dog, Lucy. In this season of reflection and gratitude, Ellen uses the following question prompts at the end of each week — 'what was beautiful about my life this week?', 'how did I show up for myself?', 'how did I show up for others?'



CELESTE'S DREAM

St. Kate's student teaches gardeners how to make Ghanaian green chili sauce



On November 11, St. Kate's senior Fidaules Hafize came to the St. Kate's/CSJ Food Shelf to teach community gardeners how to make Ghanaian green

chili sauce. Hafize is originally from Ghana, where they use both hot and sweet peppers in their traditional cuisine. "I love cooking," said Hafize, "and I thought it was a great opportunity for me to share the knowledge I had on making the green chili sauce." All the peppers used for the sauce were grown in the Celeste's Dream Community Garden and the St. Kate's Community Garden, and the extra jars of sauce were distributed in the food shelf. Thank you to Fidaules and our gardeners for sharing their enthusiasm and chopping skills with the community!

Food Access is Gunky

By Hannah White, St. Joseph Worker with Celeste's Dream

Last month, we published several infographics with harvest and donation data from the Celeste's Dream gardens and other community partners. The numbers tell part of the season's story. Growing and harvesting 1,070 pounds of produce in two different gardens is no small victory, and neither is getting that produce into the hands of community members who need it most. But leaving you with just the final numbers is a little too neat and tidy. What those numbers don't tell you is that food access work is gunky.

Yes, gunky. Food access work is also sticky, muddy, squishy and, on occasion, smelly. Over the course of four months, my hands have been covered in more food juices and garden substances than I can name. Our



team of food shelf staff, gardeners and volunteers have sorted through bags with rotten potatoes, dusted off soil-crusting canna bulbs, disassembled trays of cabbage and noodles, and stomped down piles of compost in the dumpster. Aspects of our work are intellectual and academic, but even those aspects are fueled by hands-on efforts. Food systems are complex, but they aren't abstract. They are composed of real humans and real interactions and understanding them requires engaging in the nitty-gritty.

Ministry Updates

www.csjministries foundation.org

Over the past few months I've learned so much about food systems by actively engaging in them with our St. Kate's/CSJ food shelf team of seven interns/student workers and the broader community. For example, Highland Catholic School has an annual soup luncheon for Lumen Christi parish seniors. The soup is made of more than 100 pounds of butternut squash harvested from their community garden, which we tend, as well as carrots from Tacheny Farm. This year there was no luncheon due to COVID-19, but we still made gallons of soup for teachers and parish staff as they had their parent-teacher conferences. Last spring, the current third-grade students planted the squash and our garden coordinator and a Cretin-Derham Hall student volunteer tended them all summer. This fall second-grade students helped us harvest all the squash, and students from sixth and eighth-grade classes helped us cook it. The school donated the extra soup to the St. Kate's/CSJ food shelf. From growing the squash, to harvesting, to cooking, our food

community was involved in every step of the process.

The Highland Catholic School students and I experienced literally first-hand the work of producing a simple (yet delicious) cup of soup, as well as the power of preparing food with a community for that community. The care and commitment that went into that meal didn't just nourish our appetites, but our relationships and community bonds. The physical labor involved in the farm-to-table process requires collaboration. We can't deal with the gunk as individuals. Those 1,070 pounds of produce wouldn't have been grown and harvested without our gardeners, staff members, and students of all ages coming together around a shared vision. And at the end of the day, connections made while weeding, watering, and sweating are connections that last. I can't wait for the spring when we gather at garden nights again, ready to engage in the nitty-gritty as a community.

CSJ MINISTRIES FOUNDATION



Save the Date for the 2022 Carondelet Celebration!

Mark your calendars now for Friday, May 6 for the 2022 Carondelet Celebration at a new venue, the InterContinental Minneapolis – St. Paul Airport. The hotel is now two years old, but it's still a new venue for us

due to the Pandemic that kept us from gathering in-person in 2020 and 2021.

Stay tuned to future issues of Together for more updates on the 2022 Carondelet Celebration and how you can engage in this effort!

JUSTICE

O Come Let Us Adore Him!

By Cheryl Peterson, Justice Office co-director

Epiphany is January 6th, twelve days after the birth of Jesus when he was revealed to the Magi as the Son of God.



Talk about an epiphany! Recall a time in your life that you had an epiphany or “aha” moment. Do you recall the feeling? Now think about the magnitude of the knowing of the faith-filled wise ones who had the courage to follow the light of the star as they searched for the newborn king. Did they know what worshipping this king would mean?

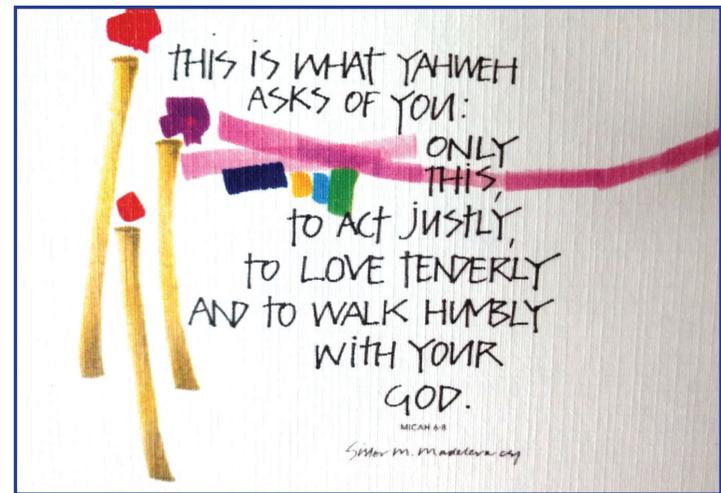
The last part of the Responsorial Psalm for Epiphany Sunday (January 2, 2022) reads: “For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.” –Psalm 72:12

This is similar to the passage from Isaiah Jesus read when handed the scroll at the beginning of his public ministry (Luke 4:17-21):

“The Spirit of the Holy One is on me, because God has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

During his ministry, Jesus doesn’t ask anyone to worship or adore him. Rather, he repeatedly calls “follow me.”

As followers, what does proclaiming the Good News look like in our time? How do we proclaim freedom for the prisoners? How have we been blind? What is our great epiphany? How do we help others see?



“Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:2

The Feast of Epiphany not only celebrates Jesus as God made human, it also celebrates his baptism. We, too, are beloved daughters and sons of God and by our baptism are called to be priest, prophet, and king.

As priests we are part of community called to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). As prophets we speak the truth of oppression and call for a conversion of heart. As kings we seek the right relationship of the Kingdom of God calling for justice and peace.

Join us in the living out of our baptism as we love our dear neighbor without distinction! Join us in raising our voices for justice and peace! The Legislative Session begins January 31. We will be speaking the truth about the oppressed of our day, those people who struggle to pay the rent, put food on the table, access good and affordable health care, work for just wages, and live freely with dignity in the image of our God. We will name the truth of our past participation in colonialism and unjust “kingdoms.” We will clearly illuminate racial and economic injustice and call for right relationship.

Ministry Updates

csjstpaul.org/justice

Our prophetic voices are more clearly heard when raised together in our CSJ and broader communities. Is this the year you join one of our Justice Working Groups? Watch the Rapid Relays and our website www.csjstpaul.org/justice/ for

opportunities to become aware, educated, and act for justice. Mark your calendars for Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless Day on the Hill on March 9 and JRLC (Joint Religious Legislative Coalition) Day on the Hill on March 15. Join us!

Happy Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Day!!! (Monday, January 17, 2022)

Native American Awareness Working

Group members report: At the November 13th Community Assembly, a subgroup of the Native American Awareness Working Group presented and received approval of and commitment to the "Journey of Truth and Healing, including a Land Acknowledgment and future actions." At this time in our journey, the following resource text for a **Land Acknowledgment** is recommended for your consideration, but this text is only a reference... we hope and pray that members of this Community will adapt, personalize, and consider using an acknowledgment that fits a particular setting/group/program and is genuine to your acknowledging the land we are on.

Joint CSJ St. Paul Community and St. Catherine University Land Acknowledgment Statement

We begin (our program/event/meeting) with honor and respect for the land and for the first people of this land.

We are on the ancestral homelands of the Dakȟóta People. We desire to honor and respect the first people and recognize their caring for our common home. Other sovereign American Indian nations including the *Anishinaabe* also have a long history with these sacred lands: past, present, and future. We, both personally and institutionally, continue to have a deepening awareness of our complicity, of the complex history of colonialism, genocide and broken treaties. We seek to understand the troubled acquisition of this land by unjust U.S. Government practices including the stealing of these lands and the forced removal from the birthplace of the Dakȟóta people

without any compensation to the American Indian communities. We acknowledge the past, current, and future impacts of this history on our relationship with our American Indian sisters and brothers.

In our commitment to social justice and the "love of dear neighbor without distinction," we are called to acknowledge and to deepen our understanding of our participation in interlocking systems of oppression. We seek to journey farther together to respond boldly in working toward dismantling these systems.

We, St. Catherine University and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates, know that these words are inadequate, imperfect and must extend beyond this verbal Acknowledgment. This is only our beginning of a much larger journey of listening, learning, building relationship and advocating for and with American Indian nations for a more just world for all. Living Document 19 – Nov. 13, 2021

Carondelet Village Justice Liaison (Joan Wittman) reports:

- New resident assistance with voter registration was ongoing throughout the fall elections and we are looking ahead to the next elections.
- Dr. Daniel Williams, St. Catherine University professor, returned November 8 for a listening session around Critical Race Theory. Approximately 40 residents and friends attended in-person and on zoom. We are looking forward to another session in the new year as Prof. Williams has offered to return again.
- Watch for a possible event at CV in January with MN Senator John Marty exploring issues of poverty and housing justice. More information via rapid relay.

Ministry Updates

www.csjstpaul.org

LEARNING INSTYLE



Learning In Style School update



Blake School's Advanced Drawing: Human Condition worked with LIS in their "Art as a Gift" portrait project

We are still in a pandemic mode, conducting classes via ZOOM, with in-person meetings limited to manage tech issues, testing, and registration.

We were planning to resume a regular in-person class schedule in January 2022, however that may not be realistic given the current COVID reports. We are also busy helping students with their multitude of financial emergencies.



Our partnership with Blake School continues to grow and deepen. Recently, we participated in an "Art as a Gift" portrait project. Emotional response is the point of "Art as a Gift", a project of Blake students in Advanced Drawing: Human Condition. This year, students made connections with students and staff of the LIS community, and as the relationships developed, so did the portraits—a gift for all involved.

Some of this year's artists share their reflections on the experience:

"The conversations I had with Lucy were a surprise to me; I didn't expect to create such a connection with her. Hearing her stories and telling her about my life made this experience very special. The positivity

that Lucy expressed every time we met made me even more excited to see her each time!"

—Cleo Kilpatrick '24

"I had the opportunity to draw one of the [Learning in Style] student's kids. Watching her interact and play with her toys as I drew her was very eventful, and I was able to observe her spunky personality! She also had the brightest smile and said the funniest little comments that made my day!"

—Greta Wattson '23

"Getting to meet Akuvi and learn about her life was such an amazing experience. We discussed a lot of things, but the most interesting fact I learned about her was that she is able to speak four different languages! I'm so happy that I had the opportunity to experience this art project because I never would have thought to do something like this by myself."

—Cole Herron '22

ST. MARY'S HEALTH CLINICS



We welcome 2022, and are excited for the opportunities that are ahead. One reason our work at St. Mary's Health Clinics is inspiring is that no two days are alike, variety is the norm, and learning opportunities are endless. This past year was no exception as we continue our clinic journey amidst the pandemic environment. Let me share a few interesting tidbits with you as we reflect on the work of recent months.

Did you know that in 2021.....

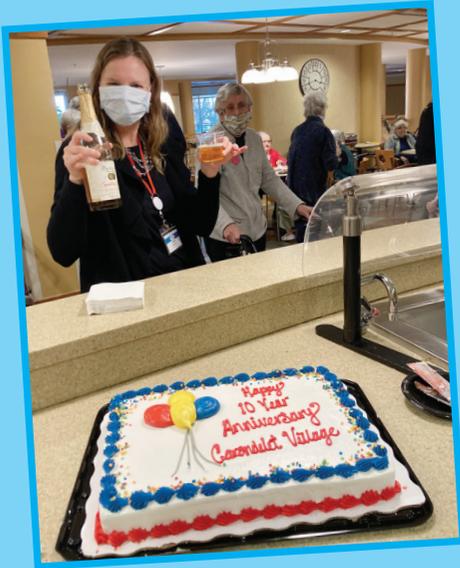
- St. Mary's Health Clinics (SMHC) provided virtual or clinic visits for nearly 2,000 patients
- SMHC patients primarily reside in Dakota, Ramsey, Hennepin and Scott Counties, with the highest number in Dakota County
- Outreach personnel coordinated 100+ Covid Vaccine clinics, administering over 10,000 doses
- SMHC patients are 68% female, 32% male; 98% identify as Hispanic/Latino and 81% are non-English Speaking
- ZUMBA classes hosted 180 participants
- 3,000 flu vaccine doses were administered throughout the community
- There were 3,234 specialty referrals for clinic patients, half of those were for laboratory services
- The # 1 medical specialty for SMHC patient referrals was ophthalmology; #2 was OB/Gyn; with specialty services provided by our health care partners in the greater metro area
- SMHC was awarded grants or contracts from 8 new funding sources
- 55 grant requests were submitted resulting in over \$450,000 in revenue

And what's even more interesting is that...

- There are 26 employed staff members leading and supporting these activities with the help of community volunteers
- SMHC patients and community members have the benefit of receiving care from ten employed nurses whose RN experience totals more than 421 years
- The nurses employed by SMHC have clinical experience in Public Health, Med/Surg, OB/GYN, NICU, Emergency Care, Elder Care, OR, Education, Wound Care...a broad scope of expertise for sure!

In summary, I'd say it was a very good year– a busy year and one that has provided opportunities, challenges, resilience, camaraderie, excitement and relationships to last a lifetime. And, most important of all, SMHC has provided services and health care to those whose means are limited and whose voices often are unheard.

**Here's to an exciting 2022! Happy New Year
from the Staff of SMHC!**



TEN YEARS AT CARONDELET VILLAGE

By Amber Salguero-Mullenbach

December 6, 2021, marked the 10 years ago, when Carondelet Village welcomed its first residents as the CSJ community moved from Bethany. Current residents and staff celebrated with a special mass in the morning, a blessing and story service in the afternoon, followed by cake and conversations throughout the building. Residents and staff were encouraged to write down their thoughts and stories to be stored in a time capsule. The collections will be stored until the 15 year celebration. It has been a joyous time hearing the stories from those who were a part of the vision of Carondelet Village and sharing in all of the accomplishments over the past 10 years. The grand opening anniversary will be August of 2022. For the occasion, Carondelet Village created a video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9hWQZZ2dg4>

