



## Sisters of St. Joseph & Allston/Brighton Business Leaders Fall Luncheon

On Tuesday, October 15, 2013, Rosemary Brennan, CSJ, welcomed business leaders of the Brighton and Allston communities to the sixth annual Fall Luncheon which benefits two Brighton-Allston ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph. In her opening remarks, Rosemary explained that, "At the beginning of this month we, the Sisters of St. Joseph, opened a year of celebration in honor of our 140 years of presence and service to the people of Boston. Serving the people of Boston has been and continues to be a grand adventure. However, we are very aware we are not in it by ourselves. It is this relationship we celebrate today and thank each of you for partnering with us as we continue this adventure together."

Dorcas Vegara, the first speaker, is a graduate of The Literacy Connection. Pat Andrews, CSJ, introduced her and explained how much the Allston-Brighton community has benefited by the contributions of hundreds like Dorcas whose participation in both The Literacy Connection and The Women's Table enables them to be contributing members of their neighborhoods. Dorcas told the group that, "The Literacy Connection means support for me and many in the neighborhood. It is here I learned of my rights and responsibilities as a citizen, have gained confidence, and have come to feel I belong to the community."

State Representative Kevin Honan, Master of Ceremonies, introduced guest speaker, James T. Brett, President of the New England Council. Brett spoke not only of his long history and deep connections with the Sisters of St. Joseph, but also of the work of the New England Council. He explained how the New England Council assesses the needs of New England, builds relationships, and makes connections to get the job done. After he spoke, Sister Rosemary noted the similarity with the work of the Sisters of St. Joseph who see relationship at the heart of their mission.

At the conclusion of the luncheon the "CSJ Community Service Award" was given to Mayor Thomas Menino, *in absentia*, for his tireless and dedicated service to the people of Boston and in particular to those who live in Boston's neighborhoods.

Sister Rosemary said, "As Sisters of St. Joseph, our mission is to be of service to 'the dear neighbor without distinction' and Mayor Menino, throughout his tenure, has admirably witnessed to this mission."



**PICTURED CLOCKWISE** — City Councilor, Mark Ciommo and Pat Andrews, CSJ; New England Council President, James T. Brett and Dorcas Vegara of The Literacy Connection; Carol Mack, Director of Mission Advancement, The Women's Table Director, Mary Rita Weschler, CSJA, and Kevin Honan; St. Columbkille Pastor, Fr. Richard Fitzgerald and Peggy Sullivan, CSJ; Kevin Honan, Tom Devlin, owner of Devlin's Restaurant, and Rosemary Brennan, CSJ; Rosemary presents the CSJ Community Service Award to Angela Holm, of the Mayor's Office, who accepted it in his absence; CSJ Community Service Award designed and created by Adela Rodriguez, CSJ.



## St. James, Haverhill, Maintains Connections

Through the years, St. James Parish in Haverhill has maintained connections with the Sisters of St. Joseph through their *SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH ASSOCIATION*. Each year the group presents a substantial donation to the Congregation, thanks to the generosity of all the members of this association. This year Bob Gardella and Steve Turner made this presentation to our Congregation. Pictured at left during the presentation are Gail Donahue, CSJ, Patricia McCarthy, CSJ, Bob Gardella, Rosemary Brennan, CSJ, Steve Turner, and Roseann Amico, CSJ.

## An immersion experience in the original spirit and global dimension of our CSSJ charism

In early October, Mary Ellen Barnes, Head of School at Fontbonne Academy, [row 2, third from left] and Suzanne Perry, President of The Jackson-Walnut Park Schools, [row 1, far right] participated in an immersion experience in the original spirit and global dimension of our CSSJ charism offered at our CSSJ International Centre in LePuy, France. More on their experience will be available in the next issue of The Bridge.

*"I have a clearer understanding of the meaning of the words: CSJ charism, mission, and ministry. Charism is the grace that enables the religious order to get the mission accomplished. The mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph is unity/ unioning- bringing people into union with God, the dear neighbor and ourselves. A web of relationships. Relationship is at the heart of mission."*

— Mary Ellen Barnes, Fontbonne Academy

*"The message of the conference from my perspective was this. Just as those first women were called in the 17th century to reach out to people amidst the plagues of the day, just as Mother St. John Fontbonne was called to exhibit great courage in the face of adversity during the French Revolution and beyond, God calls us to "get it" in our own time – to understand that we have been given a gift, a grace or charism, through our connection to the mission and ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph, to inspire those with whom we come in contact to be all that they can be – a gift that calls them to be their best selves – which brings them into closer unity with God. If we succeed in touching hearts and inspiring people to be all that they can be, we are passing on this gift to them, and they in turn will also have the gift, the charism if you will, to inspire others – it is a circle."* — Suzanne Perry, Jackson/Walnut Park Schools



## OCTOBER 2013 CONGREGATION GATHERING

### Vatican II: An Unfinished Building Site – with Richard Gaillardetz

Our October Congregation Gathering took the form of a lecture with Richard Gaillardetz, Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology at Boston College. The focus, Vatican II: An Unfinished Building Site, was one that informed, affirmed, and stretched our awareness of why the 1960s was the right time for Vatican II to happen; why a council was an effective format for Church reform; and where we go from here.

Gaillardetz suggested that, as we move forward, we are actually serving a Church we will never see — the Church of 2100. He challenged us to be a missionary Church, a discerning Church, a Church of holy conversation that listens to all points of view. To do this, he concluded, is to be part of a pilgrim Church in which God is not finished with any of us.

PICTURED AT LEFT— Richard Gaillardetz and participants during his presentation on October 26; Gaillardetz chats with Rosemary Brennan, CSJ, and Martha Ann Kelley, CSJ,



## Dates to Remember

- NOV. 5, TUES., 5:30PM – MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY – All welcome
- NOV. 10, SUN., 12:00NOON — Watch WOMEN&SPIRIT—CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA on WLVI-TV – Channel 56
- NOV. 12, TUES 5:30PM – MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY – All welcome
- NOV. 12, TUES 6:30PM — EVOLVING CONSCIOUSNESS GATHERING — the evening will include a viewing of Ilia Delio's LCWR talk: "Relationship between Cosmology, Theology and the God of Evolution."
- NOV. 16, SAT., 11:45AM-4:00PM — ASSOCIATE GATHERING — at St. Joseph Hall & Bethany. – call 617.746.1670 for details.
- NOV. 21, THURS., 7:00PM —TAIZÉ PRAYER — Motherhouse — All Welcome
- NOV. 26, TUES., 5:30PM – MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY – All welcome
- DEC. 2, MON., COMMEMORATION OF THE WOMEN MARTYRS OF EL SALVADOR — Details to Follow
- DEC. 3, TUES., 5:30PM – MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY – All welcome
- DEC. 11, WED., 5:30PM – MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY – All welcome
- DEC. 12, THURS., 7:00PM —TAIZÉ PRAYER — Motherhouse — All Welcome
- DEC. 19, THURS., 5:30PM – MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY – All welcome

