As students, tutors, sisters, associates, families, and friends gathered for The Literacy Connection’s annual Celebration of Gratitude and Accomplishment, Pat Andrews, CSJ, addressed the adult students with the comment, “You are the example. You are the catalyst. The example that each of you are to your children is what is so important. You hold my heart.”

Pat continued saying, “I learn so much from you and your children. Your determination says to your younger family members, ‘To learn English is important to me.’ Do you realize what a beautiful presence you bring to us, the Sisters of St. Joseph?” Pat went on to explain that Nelson Mandela believed that education is the most powerful weapon you can use to shape the world. We need concerned people who will work for the common good.

Ordinarily, The Literacy Connection presents tutors with a small gift. This year, recognizing that we have a very important responsibility to the children, The Literacy Connection has made a donation in the name of its tutors to the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Haiti Project that is collaborating with Mission Haiti Inc. to rebuild a secondary school decimated by the earthquake, provide teacher training for the village teachers, and provide ten girls with scholarships to attend the school.

There are 60 tutors and 140 students from over 30 countries who participate in The Literacy Connection in Brighton, Milton, West Roxbury, Roslindale, Brewster, Brockton, Framingham, and Quincy. It’s a little United Nations and although some of these countries are in conflict, you don’t see it here. There is always a smile and a welcome. Catherine Ginty, CSJ, summed up the experience of tutoring as, “a two-way street. I learn so much more from people in other cultures than I could ever learn from a program. I have been a student too.”

A Visit to Boston by Mary Ellen O’Connell, CSJ

On June 2, Sisters Rose Agnes, Ann Kaufmann and Associate Lucille Padilla arrived at Logan to spend some time in Boston among our sisters and associates. They traveled the city and its environs - the TD North Garden, Paul Revere House, the North End, Swan Boats, Public Garden, Aquarium, Ted Kennedy Institute, Rockport, the South Shore areas of Wollaston, Nantasket, Cohasset and our picnic in Framingham. It is always an adventure to navigate the T around the city. Three special treats were a boat ride in Boston Harbor, generously provided by Bill Higgins and Denise Cohen, a wonderful tour of Bethany Hill School conducted by Tom Batchelder, and a great tour of Fontbonne Academy given by Maryann Enright, CSJ. They were delighted to see and hear about the great work being done at BHS, Fontbonne Academy and our other sponsored ministries.

Of course, a special gift was the opportunity to spend time with the Sisters at Fontbonne Convent, experiencing their gracious hospitality and sharing with them and other associates a pot luck supper and Taizé Prayer. Special thanks to our associates/sisters who planned the prayer, organized the potluck, brought food, provided rides for the week, and/or accompanied the travelers.

Though tired from the busy days, Rose and Lucille are back in New Mexico, having thoroughly enjoyed themselves in Boston.
Rosemary Brennan, CSJ, welcomed those present at our June 14, Donor Appreciation Day, saying, “As Sisters of St. Joseph we are profoundly grateful for your presence here and your continued generosity to us. Thanks to your support, we are, on a daily basis, able to serve those to whom we minister, as well as, to provide for our retired and infirm sisters.”

Carlotta Gilarde, CSJ, concluded her reflections during the celebration with these words, “Today we celebrate you, our donors, who are, as Paul states in today’s reading, people who walk by faith and a faith that did not remain just a spark but a catalyst to the mustard seed that has produced so many imaginative ways for us to transform and give growth to so many realities: poverty into solidarity, violence into peace, injury into justice, inequality into dignity, ignorance into learning, woundedness into healing, environment into climate justice. You, sister and brother donors, are our sacred parable. Even though we are so small and our world is so big, you have helped us make a difference. You are our beautiful sacred story. Thank you for companioning us and keeping God’s dreams and kindom alive! ♡

A YouTube Video link with more pictures of this event will soon be available on our website.

“Never go ahead of grace... but quietly await its movements...”
Maxims of the Little Institute #84

SISTER ELAINE COLLINS, CSJ
Sister Agnes Veronica
Date of Birth: January 13, 1938
Date of Death: June 13, 2015
In the 59th year of her Religious Life.

SISTER ROSALIA MARIE DOYLE, CSJ
Date of Birth: May 19, 1928
Date of Death: June 16, 2015
In the 65th year of her Religious Life.

MEMBERSHIP: 304

Visit our website: www.csjboston.org for additional updates, news releases, dates, videos, stories about our sisters and associates, in Memoriam, Downloadable Prayers celebrating CSSJ Spirituality and History and more.