Features:

Food Justice: What’s on Your Plate?

Possibility: Leadership Team 2012–2018

What is Possible?

The Women’s Table - 10th Anniversary

So Much Is in Bud
St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries

Reflections from Three Sisters in Framingham

Embracing Possibility

Asking, “What’s Next?”

Living the Dream Dinner 2018
Our magazine title, the MORE..., comes from a spiritual cornerstone of our charism, spirit, and spirituality dating back to the 17th century roots of the world-wide family of Sisters of St. Joseph. The Consensus Statement, drawn from the central ideas of our founding spirituality states, in part, that we approach life an “with an orientation towards excellence (le plus) tempered by gentleness, peace, joy.” The French “le plus” translates into English as the MORE...

enflamed

with the compassion of God,
we, Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston,
women of the Church, rooted in the Gospel,
together with our Associates
are impelled by the active, inclusive love of God to:
deepen our relationship with God
and the dear neighbor without distinction;
foster prophetic communion;
and journey into the future
with Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates,
throughout the world
and with all God’s Creation.

We, Sisters of St. Joseph, are women receptive to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit of Love. Together with our associates we are called to live in right relationship with all creation. We are a community of women whose mission is to realize the prayer of Christ that all may be one. In community and prayerful contemplation, we listen to this Spirit and move always toward profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction.

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Moving Toward the Poetry of Life

As Sisters of St. Joseph, I believe we genuinely seek to live and dwell in a spirituality of possibility. Our founding sisters in LePuy witnessed to possibility when they boldly decided to live outside the cloister to serve the needs of women and orphans. Mother St. John Fontbonne was willing to enter into the mystery of possibility by sending her own nieces with the first sisters to minister in the New World. Four sisters from Brooklyn, New York, in 1873 believed in the possibility of opening a school for young women within days of arriving in Boston.

These possibility responses are not random. I believe they are rooted in a prayerful openness to the Spirit. “The Holy Spirit meets us where we are. In our experiences of joy and serenity, guilt and distress, wonder and awe, pain and anger, the Spirit is present. The Spirit remains present in all that comprises our life’s journey; closer to us than we are to ourselves, and the source of strength for our ‘inner being’ (Eph. 3:16). What is more, the Spirit continuously invites greater life, animating our present.”

During our Chapter year, we, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston and our Associates, experienced a Spirit that was continuously inviting us to greater life, along with animating our present reality. We were blessed to engage in a contemplative process that affirmed our commitment to Strengthen Mission, Strengthen Relationships for Mission, Strengthen Spirituality and Tell Our Story.

Now we, sisters, associates, and co-partners in ministry, enter into a “field of possibility” with our Chapter directions. “The field of possibility is boundless, and unconditional. Anything and everything is possible. All we need to do is tap into this field…” And we, as Sisters of St. Joseph, will tap into this field ever mindful of the words of our Constitution, “We stand with the poor in the struggle for justice incarnating hope, by seeking to improve the quality of human life … And in all that we are and do, we hope to be women of reconciliation…”

In closing let me share a modified quote from the poet Rumi, “Out beyond ideas of limitation and doubt, there is a field of possibility. Life always meets you there.” Personally, I believe this is where the Holy Spirit dwells and where we are invited to live.

With great gratitude,
Rosemary Brennan, CSJ
President

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2. One With Now, article “The Field of Possibility,” by Manal Ghosain, October 2013
3. CSJ Constitution, Spirit and Purpose, #8a & 10a, p 25
4. The Essential Rumi, translated by Coleman Barks, © 1997
A few years ago, I visited Cape Breton with friends where our hostess for the week has many relatives. One day she suggested we turn down the next side road to visit her cousin’s art studio. That morning, I met a gifted and deeply spiritual artist who saw possibility in everything from a blank canvas to the unique placement of abandoned rocks or fallen tree trunks, and the unexpected unfolding of relationships.

As the stories in this issue of the MORE... came together, what emerged were diverse expressions of possibility that began as virtual blank canvases; stories that have shaped the lives of our sisters, associates, and partners in mission. In ten years, The Women’s Table has birthed new possibilities for women to build relationships and be dear neighbors to one another. In the two years since St. Joseph Retreat Center had to close, a new Congregation Ministry, St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries, has emerged with a passion to imagine possibilities for women and men of all faith traditions and cultures who seek a deeper relationship with God, self, and all creation.

Others who contribute to this issue tell stories of moments and mission experiences that came about in response to an inner call. When the opportunity presented itself, these women turned the corner without any certainty of where the path was leading except for the deep conviction that the God up ahead was calling them to be and do more. They are not unlike our first sisters, “who were called forth by their times and circumstances to undertake all the spiritual and corporal works of mercy of which women are capable and thus to further God’s work of bringing all into one.”

And what about each of us? As we explore this issue of the MORE... may each of us ask ourselves, “What part of us is a master dreamer who sees possibilities and will dare to participate in their unfolding?”

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1 Mary McGlone, CSJ, Anything of Which a Woman Is Capable, © 2017 U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, introduction

2 Judy Cannato, Quantum Grace: Lenten Reflections on Creation and Connectedness, © 2003 Ave Maria Press, Inc. pg 76

We offer a special note of gratitude to Doug Fraser for the use of photographs of his Cape Breton art studio on our cover and throughout this issue of the MORE...

Learn about Doug and his art at www.dougfraserart.com
When you have exhausted all possibilities, remember this, you haven’t.

–Thomas Edison

Dear Friends,

Here in the Mission Advancement office, my colleagues Bob Tamulis, Karen Yee, and I have been inspired by the words of Thomas Edison to create new possibilities for keeping you informed about the events and activity of our sisters. We have just developed a short, digital newsletter delivered to our friends through Constant Contact® to their email mailboxes. If we have your correct email address you may have already received a copy. If you have not, and wish to receive this newsletter, please email Bob Tamulis at robert.tamulis@csjboston.org or call him at 617 746 2114. In addition to the latest news, this communication contains links to subjects you may want to read more about in depth. I am excited about the possibility this has for deepening our relationship with you, our friends!

I always relish this opportunity to say “thank you” to all of you for the “possibilities” you transform into “realities” with your generosity. So… to those of you who support our events, our appeals, use our cards to remember your loved ones or celebrate events in life, and to those who keep us in their prayers a great big THANKYOU! I also want to remember those whose loving gift of a bequest assists us in continuing our ministries and supporting our retired sisters in their volunteer work. We remember you always in our prayers.

As is our spring tradition, we have published a list of those persons who have been remembered with a tribute gift celebrating a loved one or honoring those who have died. The names may be found on our website www.csjboston.org. Don’t forget to check this website for all the latest news, event listings, and videos.

God bless you all!

Carol Mack
Director of Mission Advancement

Bob Tamulis and Karen Yee are at work crafting the next edition of our new digital newsletter.
n April 22, 2018, the Justice & Peace Advisory Board members presented a program entitled “Food Justice: What’s on Your Plate?” at a CSJ Associates meeting which coincided with Earth Day 2018.

Over the past year, the members of the board conducted research on justice issues related to food production, transport, and consumption. The research focused on four important food groups: grain, meat, fruits and vegetables, and seafood. Relevant quotes from Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’* connected the presentations with Catholic Social Teaching.

“King Corn” was the focus of the presenters on grain. The emergence of corn as a monoculture in “Big Agriculture” derives from its usefulness as animal feed, in ethanol, as corn syrup, and for export. The cultivation of corn involves more fertilizer than any other crop, consumes vast amounts of fossil fuel, and utilizes various pesticides, including the dangerous herbicide glyphosate (in Roundup). Corn as animal feed can wreak havoc on the animals’ digestive system. Multiple products containing corn syrup that humans consume contribute to obesity and Type 2 diabetes. The justice issue here is that land that could produce a healthy variety of foods for humans is used for a single profit-making crop that benefits large corporations.

Issues around “Big Meat,” i.e., the production of beef, pork and chicken by factory farms, include the cruel treatment of animals, violations of workers’ rights, and environmental issues such as high GHG emissions and water pollution. The overuse of antibiotics in farmed animals can lead to human illnesses, and resistance to human antibiotics. Clearing of vast areas for cattle raising and feed creates deforestation, and water scarcity results from the volume of water used in meat production. As Pope Francis says: “The pursuit of financial gain…fails to take into account…the effects on human dignity and the natural environment.”

The presentation on produce focused on the theme...
“Think Globally, Act Locally.” From the perspective of community, buying local creates a more direct relationship with food and the people who produce it. Buying local empowers and encourages community driven services and resources, creates jobs and opportunities within the community, and supports the local economy. It provides a push-back against large agribusiness that puts smaller farmers and producers out of business. Buying local helps preserve the environment, eliminating greenhouse emissions connected with transportation, and reducing food waste.

The presenters on seafood took inspiration from Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’* and the call to examine major social challenges related to sustainable seafood practices—overfishing and destructive fishing, slavery and human trafficking in the commercial supply chain, and the direct connections between climate change and the viability of our oceans. They focused on practical ways that consumers can determine how and where their seafood is harvested, and how consumers can apply social pressure to the businesses most directly responsible for ensuring sustainable fishing practices, so that future generations can enjoy the integral connection between human society and the abundance of the sea.

The good news is that consumer, shareholder, and government pressure is addressing many of these issues. For example, producers are providing “antibiotic free” chicken to restaurants and markets. Corporations are reducing their carbon footprint and their water usage. Slavery and trafficking are being monitored in supply chains. As informed consumers and passionate advocates, we can create change. Pope Francis says: “When social pressure affects their earnings, businesses clearly have to find ways to produce differently. This shows us the great need for a sense of social responsibility on the part of consumers. ‘Purchasing is always a moral—and not simply economic—act.’”

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*Blessing the Motherhouse Community Garden on Earth Day 2018*

*Members of the CSJ Justice Advisory Committee who prepared the presentation. Left to Right: Peggy Comfrey, CSJ, Maryann Enright, CSJ, Kate Fahey, Betty Cawley, CSJ, Helen Thomas Colbert, CSJ, Mark Potter, and Colleen King, CSJA*

*Betty Cawley, CSJ, tends to her plot at the Motherhouse community garden.*

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1. *Laudato Si’* #56
2. *Laudato Si’* #206
Members of our 2012–2018 leadership team were asked to share a few words on the theme of this issue, possibility…

Gail Donahue, CSJ

Focusing on the future within the realm of possibility and giving us great hope, Margaret Drabble writes,

“When nothing is sure, everything is possible.”

Jesus’ words, in Luke 18:27 underline deep faith in the possible, “The things that are (seem) impossible with people, are possible for God.” In her correspondence to the Sisters living in America, Mother St. John Fontbonne envisions a pastoral possibility, “In your undertakings, see to it that God alone is their inspiration and their goal.” With oneness with our loving God, all occurrences can be handled and blossom into fullness.

“In reflecting on my time in leadership, I would say it has been a humbling opportunity to witness how so many among us have embraced and lived in to new possibilities. This has given rise personally to a sense of deep gratitude for all that has been and limitless hope for all that can be.

Peggy Sullivan, CSJ

Possible…potential…promise? Minding my p’s these days, not sure where are the q’s, I am hopeful for our preferred future as we continue to respond to graces offered which lead us we know not where. Can we stay that course, trusting, but all-unknowing of the mind of God? Even now, like small, tightly-wrapped buds (when exposed to sunlight and rain) that unfold a kaleidoscope of brilliant flowering, we continue to be offered the very possible and potential promise of life. Perhaps, a paradox as we become fewer and more fragile but blossom nevertheless, the hundredfold?

Rosemary Brennan, CSJ

The poet Emily Dickinson says it well, “We dwell in possibility.” I believe this is true, however the challenge is to trust to live there and not attempt to limit the exciting and mysterious way possibility presents itself to us.
During our Congregation Planning Process, we reaffirmed our commitment to “CHOOSE LIFE!” “Because we are alive, everything is possible…we have more possibilities available each moment than we realize.” (Thich Nhat Hanh)

Every day holds the possibility of a miracle.

Maureen Doherty, CSJ

Thesaurus.com lists several synonyms for “possibility”, one of which is risk. Not included in the list is “imagination”. As I reflect on possibilities for the future of our Congregation, I believe both are important. If we are to continue to be the Congregation of the Great Love of God, impelled by God’s inclusive love, we must risk letting ourselves be led by the God of the future, believing that this God can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Who knows the surprises that await us when we cast our nets to the other side!

Roseann Amico, CSJ

The 2018 Chapter theme, Impelled by God’s Inclusive Love, and its logo designed by Ann Marie Grady, CSJ, illustrates openness, movement, fluidity, creativity, innovation, imagination – expressions to me of possibility. We each were invited to come to this new moment in our CSJ history with openness…of heart and hands and with the readiness to listen to the inspirations of the Spirit. The design exemplifies that past and future are connected…change is occurring…there is room for growth, change…because we are impelled by God’s inclusive love…Possibility! Also, when I hear us singing together at Congregation gatherings, I hear voices full of vitality, energy, spirit, joy, hope, and, yes, possibility!

Pat McCarthy, CSJ

During our Congregation Planning Process, we reaffirmed our commitment to “CHOOSE LIFE!” “Because we are alive, everything is possible…we have more possibilities available each moment than we realize.” (Thich Nhat Hanh)

Every day holds the possibility of a miracle. Our vocational call to the Congregation of the Great Love of God, challenges us to live our life in Faith because as St. Mark reminds us: “All things are possible for those who believe.” (Mark 9:25)
WHAT IS POSSIBLE?

What is possible?
For what will we take a stand?
Is it written in our hearts? In our lives?
What are our hopes for our world, for our neighbors?

May God’s inclusive love embolden us to reach out for and with others.

Photography, reflection, and design by Ann Grady, CSJ
Ten years ago, after shared conversations, focus groups, surveys and planning, The Women’s Table officially launched in September, 2008. Supported by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, its earliest mission embarked on providing the “dear neighbor” a space to cope with life experiences in a supportive atmosphere of mutual respect and love. It is significant that this new ministry was birthed in conjunction with the 135th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Boston. A new possibility was born, and a new possibility was springing to life!

In October, 2008, Charlene Diorka, SSJ, presented a day of reflection entitled, On Being a Well. Her opening prayer invited those present “…to be wells of wisdom, and out of the reservoir of our lives, to allow our charism of Inclusive Love to flow out to a thirsty world.” The Women’s Table is indeed a wellspring of love and hope for women. Since its inception, The Women’s Table has offered women spiritual, emotional, and educational enrichment, and new possibilities for refreshment. Women often comment, “I feel at home here.” This experience of coming home to oneself is both personal and communal. Treasured relationships form among women who gather monthly to share experiences: parenting a child with special needs; living between two worlds as immigrant women; grappling with the loss of a loved one; exploring the threads of one’s life, and discovering one’s voice as a writer. Connections develop, and individual women become a cohesive community. Meaningful stories deepen relationships and create safe spaces where women feel at home.

Dreaming into the future, The Women’s Table hopes to foster greater inclusivity—to widen these circles of love, and welcome women of all ages, stages, lifestyles and cultures. It also endeavors to strengthen its visibility and outreach in the greater Boston community. The Women’s Table offers a place of welcome, safety and peace; a place where women can take refuge and find greater meaning in life. Waves of possibility thrive. As Ilia Delio suggests: “Emphasis is not on what exists, but on what is being created; that is, on the dynamics of relatedness.”

All good stories begin with “Once upon a time…” and the narrative for the developing story of The Women’s Table is no exception.
When St. Joseph Retreat Center closed in October 2016, and the Archdiocesan Office of Spiritual Development ceased to operate in June 2017, there were many questions about how to continue the spiritual outreach of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston.

Everything was in flux yet so much was quietly emerging. Individual spiritual direction continued at our Motherhouse, Fontbonne Convent, and elsewhere. However, the loss of our retreat center, a vibrant ministry with a spectacular landscape overlooking the New England coastline, was felt deeply and widely. Yet, thanks to a committed group of sisters and associates directly engaged in the ministry of CSJ Spirituality, a call for something “more” is clearly emerging. Their goal is to explore ways in which the Sisters of St. Joseph might utilize and promote the richness of our resources for CSJ Spirituality into the future.

As our Chapter Direction to Strengthen the Spiritual emerged, we became aware of the need to collaborate more significantly with others and continue to deepen our desire for praying together as CSJ communities as well as extended communities of “dear neighbors.” Possibilities abound and with the support of our CSJ Leadership Team, a new Congregation Ministry called St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries has been initiated and is evolving.

We have been working with parishes in the Mattapan, Roxbury, and Dorchester neighborhoods of Boston to join with them in offering a CSJ presence within their parish community, in particular, in situations where we might offer companionship to immigrants living in fear of deportation.

Women and men have joined us for mornings and evenings of prayer at our Motherhouse in Brighton and at Fontbonne Convent in Milton. Our Spiritual Direction Internship Initiative continues. We have also arranged with Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, to offer several Directed Retreats during July and August. More about this can be found on our website. The results of a survey regarding sisters’ and associates’ interest in spirituality offerings have given us direction and support as we plan for the future.

A significant step in helping to organize all that is unfolding has been the addition of Beverly Good as Administrative Assistant. Beverly works tirelessly to keep all the moving pieces going in the right direction. As St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries looks to the future, we realize good

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1 Attribution to Thomas Merton, exact source unknown.
things are happening and much is evolving. Thomas Merton is quoted as saying, “You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.”¹ A plethora of questions emerges from the myriad of possibilities. We need to consider the future direction of this ministry and our Chapter Direction to “strengthen the spiritual.” We need to work through everything from the most practical details of mailing lists and physical space to considering what’s out there on the spiritual horizon to which we are called. “We have only begun to imagine…so much is in bud. So much is unfolding that must complete its gesture, so much is in bud.”²

Beverly Good

Administrative Assistant, St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries

There are many tipping points in my life where I thought things were going in one direction, and it turned out that growth and joy came from another direction. I expected to be an English teacher. When I graduated from Framingham State, education was going through tough times. As I got more involved in my local parish, leadership opportunities emerged. I became part of the Spiritual Development Team, and a co-leader of our parish prayer group.

God put so many good people in my path! On a September day, one of the co-leaders invited me to join her at an “info session” at Boston College’s Institute for Religious Ed and Pastoral Ministry. By the end of the day, both of us were enrolled in the program, and I was officially a “grad student.” It was sudden, but when the possibility was offered, I grabbed the chance.

By the time I finished my studies, the pastor in my home parish approached me, and asked if I would join the staff as the Pastoral Associate for Evangelization. I wasn’t quite sure what that would entail, but I embraced the possibility. That was over twenty-five years ago, and I have served the Archdiocese as pastoral associate in Framingham, Walpole, and Lexington.

When it came time for me to leave Lexington, I wasn’t sure what was next. I guess God nudged me and I applied to be part of the Spiritual Direction Internship Initiative with Joan McCarthy, CSJ, and Maureen Casey, SNDdeN. It was an amazing experience. I learned a lot and God affirmed that I did have the gift of a listening heart. The relationships amongst those in the program grew in lovely and deep ways.

Considering the administrative assistant position with St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries felt like another unexpected possibility. Something I wrote during the application process sums it up: The position is a key one in the unfolding new plan for spiritual ministries for the CSJs. The tasks at hand may seem ordinary, but being an integral part of enabling such growth for retreatants, directors, and other varied ministries is exciting. Although some aspects of the position are unclear at this point, I trust that God is in that gestational space, and will be guiding the process. ☺️
My Life Has Flowed Like a River
— Gervasi DiGregorio, CSJ

My parents instilled in me the love of God. At age seven I was gifted with a statue of The Little Flower which became the seed of my vocation. At sixteen, I asked our parish priest to tell me about being a sister. There was no one dramatic point in deciding to enter. My whole life has flowed like a river. I went to public school, had never set foot in a Catholic school, but enjoyed teaching children and adults on various missions. I was also involved in parish ministries and the literacy program. The opportunity to participate in a GATE Program brought me to Mexico's third world and expanded my awareness of the poor which I was able to put into effect in my workshops.

After retiring from classroom teaching, I was invited to take a Sabbatical where I reflected on the needs of society. Two things loomed up – the need for corporations to become more aware of societal outreach, and the swelling of the aging population. I had a desire to put my energy into making corporations aware of these needs. When my efforts to address this didn’t come to fruition, I turned to the needs of the aging population.

One day I saw a sign for an assistant activity person at a nursing home. I said, “I can do that.” I interviewed with the Jewish activity director. As a result, I offered spirituality workshops in local nursing homes, rehabs, and assisted living places for twelve years. My goal was to provide meaning and purpose to those in their diminishing years.

At Bethany, I visit and pray with residents, keep vigil with the dying, and read poetry with residents. Every year I try to do something new and keep myself open to new opportunities. At 60 I got my driver’s license, at 90 I took free piano lessons, now I try to learn the name of each person who services us. I’m able to notice possibilities and flow with them. That’s what I mean when I say my life flows smoothly. My life is a continual song of praise and thanksgiving. The more grateful we are the more God lavishes blessings upon us.

1 GATE: Global Awareness Through Experience, www.gate-travel.org
Listening from the Heart
– Ann Marie Masone, CSJ

For many years I worked preparing wholesome, attractive meals for the sisters and was very happy. The possibility of a change in ministry came to me after Vatican II when we doffed the habit and realized there was an additional opportunity to make sisters happy by learning the art of hairdressing as to improve their appearance and boost their self-esteem a bit. Therese Higgins, CSJ, area councilor at the time, was very supportive. I studied three nights a week while continuing my ministry as a cook. It wasn’t easy. It required sacrifices but eventually I transitioned into full-time ministry as hairdresser for sisters in Framingham and Milton. It was an extremely rewarding ministry of presence and service, especially when a sister turned to me, gasped, “What a transformation!”

Today, as a resident of Bethany, I continue my ministry of presence. I’m privileged to listen to the staff from different countries as their stories unfold through informal conversation. I was ignorant of the realities in these countries. As I hear their stories about El Salvador and other countries, I’m amazed. They, too, have made enormous sacrifices which we often don’t think about.

And so, at age 96, after 75 years as a Sister of St. Joseph, my ministry may look quite different. I feel that I receive from others more than I give, but I continue the ministry of presence as each day I listen to others from my heart.

Continuing Inclusivity
– Theresa Pond, CSJ

I was taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame but my two older brothers were taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph. They introduced me to Sister Edwardette and Sister Ellenice. Perhaps because they were not my teachers, I felt at ease and found them fun to be with. So after several months at business school, when I was thinking of entering, I would visit them. I knew they were trying to “sell” the Sisters of St. Joseph and choosing between the two congregations was not an easy decision. I became a Sister of St. Joseph!

After teaching in various archdiocesan schools, I went to Sacred Heart, Lynn, and spent many years there teaching sixth and eighth grades. One former student who now writes children’s stories has dedicated many books to Sacred Heart School [see sidebar]. When I “retired” from teaching, I worked with the alumni at Sacred Heart and tutored. I knew nothing about computers and knew I needed help. A fourth grader who needed tutoring said, “I’ll make a bargain with you. You help me with my lessons and I’ll teach you the computer!”

Staying in one place for many years has a deepening effect. When I left Sacred Heart, the alumni gave me an iPad and put me on Facebook to stay in touch. I didn’t know a lot about using it but worked with it and now receive updates from alums. It’s a way of continuing inclusivity. I enjoy being with people. When I worked with alums, they would tell me things that were bothering them. I felt that they experienced me as an ordinary person.

“I was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, Dad was a Protestant and Mom was a Catholic, and I went to our local Catholic school. I think the sisters there fostered the love of words that I had inherited from my mother. I remember being fascinated by phonics worksheets and diagramming sentences (yeah, I was that kid). My seventh-grade teacher, Sister Theresa, was and still is a positive influence in my life. In college I found out that all that sentence diagramming paid off when I tested out of grammar for journalists.”

– Fran Hodgkins
http://www.franhodgkins.net/bio
Embracing Possibility

By Laura J. Turbini, CSJ

In response to God’s call, I entered the Boston CSJ community in 1960, expecting that I would be living in a traditional convent while working in the Boston area. But God had other ideas!

After teaching at Fontbonne Academy for 4 years I was assigned to study for a PhD in Inorganic Chemistry at Cornell University. As a lab assistant, I realized that the students would discuss their problems with me because I was available in their space whereas they would not go to their minister or rabbi. Thus, I embraced the role of presence as I began a 40-year career in the electronics industry.

My role as a religious woman within the industry began at Western Electric Research Center – Were they surprised when they learned they had hired a nun! My function as a religious woman was one of presence and availability as I ministered to the intellectually rich and spiritually poor – those for whom it was difficult to postulate the role of God in the natural phenomena they observed.

Wishing to return to a more technical role, I accepted a job in 1989 at Georgia Tech in Atlanta as Associate Director of an electronics research consortium. In 2000 I moved to Canada to become Executive Director of a consortium in Toronto where I also directed graduate students at the University of Toronto and later at the University of Waterloo. Blackberry hired me as Chemistry Lab Manager and Principal Scientist in 2007 and I worked there for 7 years until the lab was downsized and my position eliminated. In all of these positions, I became a mentor to many with whom I worked. My presence as a believer was a source of wonder to them and conversations often developed which enabled the staff to take a new perspective on the question of a Divine Being.

I have returned to the Boston area and now tutor chemistry at Regis College. Wherever I am, I see my role as witnessing the importance of God to those who question whether God exists.

Laura with key to city of Lannion, France

Tutoring at Regis (L–R): Aaron Riobe (Coordinator of Academic Advising), Laura Turbini, CSJ, and Jack Haley (Quantitative Support Service Coordinator).
Opening to Possibility
by Kathy Teahan, CSJA

When we respond to Jesus’ call to “Follow Me,” we open ourselves to unknown and exciting possibilities. Throughout life when I answered “Yes” to Jesus’ “Come follow me,” I often didn’t know what I was getting into. As the first-born grandchild in a very loving, faith-filled family, I was blessed to know God’s love through my parents, seven grandparents, and fourteen aunts and uncles. Although happy, I was pretty shy and quiet, even after graduating Whitman-Hanson Regional H.S. and Bridgewater State College, to become an English teacher.

Never did I dream of the possibility that I would marry our high school football coach, a World War II Veteran twice my age. It was never in my plans to run a CCD Program, become a state representative, deliver reflections at Mass, join the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston as an Associate, and publish my book, The Cookie Loved ‘Round the World.

Bob Teahan was my loving husband, mentor, and coach. When our third pregnancy resulted in a miscarriage, I asked God, “What do YOU want me to do with my life?” The answer was for my youngest aunt and me to coordinate Whitman’s Holy Ghost Parish CCD program. We loved our four years helping children and their parents feel God’s unconditional love. Meeting Sisters of St. Joseph at coordinators’ meetings and joining them for spirituality at St. Joseph Retreat Center, Cohasset, nourished my relationship with God, and I wanted MORE.

In 1995, Bob encouraged me to run for state representative. He said this position provided many opportunities to help people. Considering this run, my fear of public speaking was an issue, but God answered my prayers for guidance and support with ten exciting years in the legislature where I worked to make life better for all.

Later in life, I again asked God, “What’s next?” Kathleen Short, CSJ, my retreat director, helped uncover the answer by introducing me to the CSJ Associate Relationship. Being in relationship with Sisters of St. Joseph to enhance my relationship with God and the “dear neighbor” without distinction brings me great joy.

As Associates and Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, we are currently asking, “What’s next as we follow Jesus on this journey?” I believe we will continue helping the “dear neighbor” know God’s lavish love. When people know God’s love and support, they can open themselves to the possibilities and joy that God’s Plan holds for us.

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Living the Dream Dinner 2018

Living the Dream 2018 – What a fabulous evening! Rain did not dampen the spirits of more than 300 guests who gathered at the Seaport Hotel, Boston to celebrate our fifth annual Living the Dream dinner. A social hour, and Sister Florence Kahler’s piano stylings began the festivities. During dinner and dessert, Karen Holmes Ward led us through a lively program including a video, entitled “Impelled by God’s Inclusive Love”, featuring the ministries of Sisters Nancy Braceland, Zita Fleming, and Marilyn McGoldrick.

We were proud to present the following honorees with the Dear Neighbor Award: Geeta Aiyer, whose enthusiasm for the environment and social justice mirrors that of our Sisters, and the Leonard siblings – Beverly, Dennis, Kristin, Mark and Patricia. Each member of this remarkable family models and lives the CSJ values, in his and her own unique and meaningful way.

Our keynote speaker, Leticia Silva, spoke passionately and eloquently. Leticia is a Certified Nursing Assistant at Bethany Health Care Center and a college student. She is treasured for the love, warmth, and care she brings to her job. Her enlightening presentation gave a face and a voice to the reality of life for more than 800,000 “Dreamers” living in this country with DACA status.

The Living the Dream committee surprised the outgoing Leadership Team (Sisters Roseann Amico, Rosemary Brennan, Maureen Doherty, Gail Donahue, Patricia McCarthy and Margaret Sullivan) when committee member, Joe Baerlein, expressed gratitude and presented each with a gift in appreciation of their leadership and vision.

Sister Gail Donahue closed the event by thanking the donors with warm and humorous reflections on generosity and partnership. She then led all the sisters present in the hymn Sancte Joseph as a thank you to our guests. Through the hard work of the committee and the generosity of our sponsors, an amazing $660,000 plus was raised to support our CSJ ministries and our retired sisters. There are not enough words to thank all for their generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Apologies to our generous friends at Suffolk Cares and The Drew Company for errors in the program. The Drew Company should have been listed as a Vision Sponsor and Suffolk Cares should have been listed as a Courage Sponsor. We appreciate the support of these fine companies!

Be sure to save the date April 10, 2019, for next year’s dinner. You may view additional photos and a video of this event on our website www.csjboston.org.
Choosing our cards is a generous way of celebrating the lives of relatives and friends. Throughout the year, those you honor with a card are remembered in prayer by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston and Associates.

At the time of a death, we encourage our donors to request that family members and friends remember the Congregation by sending donations “in lieu of flowers.” All donations are acknowledged by the Office of Mission Advancement of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston. If you wish to make a donation, know someone who would like to do so, or are in need of cards for a relative or friend, please contact Robert Tamulis, Mission Advancement Coordinator, at 617-746-2114 or email robert.tamulis@csjboston.org.

To make a donation online, visit www.csjboston.org and find the “make a gift” box. The cards here are a representative sample. More designs are available at: www.csjboston.org/join-our-mission/donate-now/memorial-and-all-occasion-card-programs/

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Please write the number of cards you desire in the space to the left of the card description. After you have made your choice, clip the form and mail it to:

Robert Tamulis
Mission Advancement Coordinator
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
637 Cambridge Street
Brighton, MA 02135
Congratulations
to our LIVING THE DREAM Dinner 2018 Honorees

Geeta Aiyer
Boston Common Asset Management

The Leonard siblings
Beverly, Dennis, Mark, Kristin, and Patricia Leonard

Save The Date: April 10, 2019 • LIVING THE DREAM Dinner 2019