Features:

Justice & Peace
Advisory Board Update

A Personal Journey Unfolds

The Literacy Connection:
Caring for the Dear Neighbor
without Distinction!

Casserly House:
A Love Returned Ten-Fold

Sponsored Ministries Reflection:
Telling the Story

A Very Ray of the Radiant One’s
Own Light

CSSJ U.S. Federation at the Border

Living the Dream Dinner 2019

A Conversation with
Sarah Barrett, CSJA
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.

In This Issue...
From Our President .......................................................... 1
From the Director of Communications ................................... 2
From the Director of Mission Advancement ............................ 3
Justice & Peace Advisory Board Update ................................. 4-5
A Personal Journey Unfolds ................................................. 6-7
Casserly House: A Love Returned Ten-Fold .......................... 8
The Literacy Connection:
   Caring for the Dear Neighbor without Distinction! ................. 9
Reflections on Unfolding ...................................................... 10
Sponsored Ministries Reflection: Telling the Story .................... 11
A Very Ray of the Radiant One’s Own Light ............................ 12-13
CSSJ U.S. Federation at the Border ......................................... 14
Regis College at the Border .................................................. 15
Book Review: In Our Own Words, Religious Life in a Changing World . . . 16
Chi Leung ................................................................. 17
What is a QR Code and Why Should I Care? ........................ 17
Living the Dream Dinner 2019 ............................................. 18-19
A Conversation with Sarah Barrett, CSJA ............................ 20
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston Card Program .......................... 21
Seeds as Signs of Hope

As I write this piece it is a Sunday afternoon in mid-Lent. While spring warmth is in the air, it is a cloudy, dreary day and is just beginning to rain. Not too much inspiration for the article I am setting out to compose. But as I look and listen more closely I hear the chirping of two small birds on the branches outside my window. The trees’ buds are becoming fuller each day and will deliver new leaves very soon. The grass is showing signs of green and I’ve been told, multitudes of worms are active in our soon-to-be-planted vegetable garden plots. So much new life will be breaking forth from seeds planted long ago or soon to be.

Recently I heard two presentations in which the speakers spoke of seeds as signs of hope in the world and in our own lives. Seeds are seen as signs of what is possible. How our spirits are lifted when flowers bloom and green leaves announce their return for a new season. It is like that when seeds of kindness, compassion, generosity, justice, understanding and so many others, that each one has planted in a lifetime, come to fruition. Whatever our personal ministry or profession may be, we have all planted many thousands of seeds and continue to do so every day. Imagine all the good, all the HOPE that has entered the lives of others by some word or action on our part.

An example of new growth from seeds planted is the emergence of St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries, our newest Congregation ministry. In the fall of 2016 our Retreat Center in Cohasset was closed. From the loss of that ministry has come a new journey that began with “wisdom circle” conversations about how we might continue the ministry of spirituality, and what new forms it could take. The desire to continue and extend this ministry was confirmed by the last Chapter of Affairs when it set a directional statement to “Strengthen the Spiritual” in our own lives and in outreach to all whose hunger for the spiritual is a force in their lives.

Through retreats, spiritual direction, days of prayer, focused gatherings, outreach to schools and parishes, the developers of this new ministry are reading the signs of the times and reaching out to meet current needs. New growth is emerging in our ministry of spirituality from the seeds of the past. And new seeds are being planted that will yield new harvests in times to come. Signs of hope offering encouragement as our journey continues to unfold.

Lee Hogan, CSJ
Our Unfolding Story Continues...

Our 2019 Spring/Summer issue of the MORE... continues the theme of “unfolding.” The directions of our 2017-2018 Congregation Chapter are a significant part of this unfolding.

We are not alone in this process. The story we tell is enfleshed through our partners in mission whose day-to-day lives are about strengthening relationships for mission.

You are invited to ponder the articles that follow and consider the words of Ilia Delio, OSF, “We point the way to something more than ourselves, something up ahead that we are now participating in.”¹ As you read this issue you will notice that we not only participate in telling the story of God’s inclusive love, but also point the way to “the more” of that love, to the God up ahead.

At the 2019 Convocation of the Corporation for Sponsored Ministries, Pat Kozak, CSJ, Congregation of St. Joseph, asked all assembled, “What is the deep story we’re telling today?”² She explained that it’s more than history, more than facts; it’s how we are ‘doing’ Jeanne Fontbonne today. We might add that it’s how we are ‘doing’ Jean Pierre Médaille, SJ, our first sisters of Le Puy, and many others who have lived our story throughout the centuries.

Pat went on to describe how the themes of our deep CSJ story are marked by the quality of “the More” – not a quality of doing more, but about holding more in a manner that enlarges our hearts. This issue bears witness to many who are part of this unfolding story.

As Ilia Delio reminds us, “The principle of evolving life is the future, that is, the openness of life to more life and the infinite possibilities of life for life. A world opened to the future makes the present rich in possibilities to create something new.”³ What is the story you are living and telling? How is your story unfolding into a future that makes the present rich in possibility?

¹ Ilia Delio, Unbearable Wholeness of Being, © Orbis Books, 2013, 198
² Pat Kozak, CSJ, Presentation at CSJ Corporation for Sponsored Ministries Convocation, April 4, 2019
³ Delio, 197

JOIN OUR MISSION

Join women and men who desire to share their faith journey with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston through the mission of unity and reconciliation.

Acknowledge the call to realize the prayer of Christ, “that all may be one with God and one another.”

Commit to Gospel values.

Gather with others to share faith and develop community.

Grow in awareness of God’s inclusive love.

For more information on being a Sister, an Associate, or an Agrégée, visit our website at www.csjboston.org.
Dear Friends,

The beautiful origami flowers by Chi Leung that grace our cover are created by folding, unfolding and refolding paper to give it the ability to form new and beautiful shapes. The lives of the Sisters of St. Joseph are much like these flowers. They are formed, then reformed again as they take on new challenges responding to the ever-evolving needs of the “Dear Neighbor.”

Thank you. Your response to our appeals, your attendance and sponsorship of our events, your loving gifts in your estate plans, your support of our card program and your prayers enable us to continue our relationship with the Dear Neighbor. Your kind and generous gifts help care for and support our sisters in their ministries of prayer and service.

Thank you too for the positive reception you have given our monthly e-newsletter. I am so glad you are enjoying the reflections, stories and historical features about our sisters, the updates on the activities in our congregation ministries (The Literacy Connection, The Women’s Table, Casserly House, St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries) and notifications about upcoming events.

We have just added a new feature called “Your Memories” to our e-news and encourage you to send us your recollections and stories about our sisters. Please send your memories to Karen Yee at Karen.yee@csjboston.org. If you are not receiving our e-news and would enjoy doing so, please send your email address to Bob Tamulis at Robert.tamulis@csjboston.org. Bob will see to it that you will receive future newsletters.

As always, you can keep up with our sisters by visiting our website www.csjboston.org. As is our spring tradition, we have posted a list of those persons who have been remembered with a tribute gift celebrating a loved one or honoring those who have died. As you know, our sisters are responsive to the way we live and communicate today so you can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

God bless you all!

Carol Mack
Director of Mission Advancement

“Too many spend too much time trying to live in a fixed point, when our lives are an unfolding journey. Taking on new challenges is how we fix the world.”

– Arturo O’Farrill
In April 1992, the Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates took a Corporate Stance on Behalf of the Earth. In the final section of this declaration we committed ourselves “To insure the fullness of life for future generations by adopting lifestyles, values and practices which help to sustain renewable resources and preserve the diversity of creation.” Since then, we have endeavored to live up to that commitment, individually, communally, and corporately.

This Lent the Justice & Peace Advisory Board provided weekly suggestions of ways to address lifestyle topics related to climate change, including water, food, energy, recycling, use of plastics, and our carbon footprint. The goal was to raise awareness of the multiple ways our lifestyles and habits care for or harm the earth, “our common home,” and to inspire action on local, national and global problems related to sustainability. A relevant quote from Laudato Si’ introduced each topic.

Our corporate efforts to care for creation are also ongoing, supervised by our Property Manager, John Murphy, and his assistant, Steve Coulstring. At our Motherhouse, for example, the “green” aspects of our 2002-2004 renovations continue to be maintained and upgraded. These include energy efficient boilers and hot water heaters, Energy Star appliances, LED lighting, water conserving dishwashers, clothes washers, toilets, and landscaping. The possibility of solar panels is always under study, as well as possible LEED certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). Recycling bins on each floor of the residences and the administration building are connected to the City of Boston’s recycling program. An external incentive, the City of Boston’s

“We need a conversation that includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.”

Jacqueline McCarthy, CSJ, and Jim Argir are proud of the Co-Generation Plant that provides hot water and electricity to Bethany Health Care Center and St. Joseph’s Hall.
BERDO Program (Building Energy Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance) requires that large buildings in the city report their energy usage to the city every year, and show improvements in their energy savings every five years. The Congregation has been a part of the program since 2014.

Comparable energy savings, carbon footprint reduction, and conservation measures are in place in the Congregation’s other large buildings. For example, Bethany Health Care Center installed a Co-Generation Plant, also known as CHP (Combined Heat and Power) a number of years ago. This integrated system provides 100% of the domestic hot water and 60% of the electricity used by Bethany and St. Joseph’s Hall. Because this system uses natural gas in place of oil, it has greatly reduced the carbon footprint for Bethany. Bethany also replaced their old steam boilers that used oil with three new efficient dual fuel boilers. Currently only one boiler can be used for oil in case of an emergency. Energy Star appliances and machinery are employed at Bethany, and conversion to LED lighting is in process. Cleaning materials, paint, wall coverings and flooring are free of toxins. Equipment from Eversource, installed in the kitchen, separates cardboard, metals and plastics for recycling from materials that end up in a landfill. Water conservation is achieved in a number of ways, including new toilets and bath fixtures. Solar power is always under study. What Sister Jacquelyn McCarthy and Jim Argir said that was most impressive is that environmental impact is a primary consideration in all decisions that are made at BHCC regarding the building and grounds.

Pope Francis says: “We need a conversation that includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.” (LS 14)
Growing up in Waterbury, Connecticut, my parents were educated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chambéry. They envisioned that their five daughters would one day attend Catholic schools. Unfortunately, this was not possible due to several geographic moves. I am certain today they would be pleased to know how purposeful my life has unfolded through the influence of the CSJs.

At Jackson School, the CSJ charism continues to challenge and energize all who work to create a vibrant learning community for our students who are known and loved. Gospel values are embraced and unity in our world is realized through reaching out in service to all people, especially those in greatest need. Our curriculum offerings are designed to foster teachable moments of unity, reconciliation, respect, and joy through approaches such as daily prayer and Responsive Classroom practices. Connections with other sponsored ministries such as Bethany Hill Place, The Literacy Connection, and the Woman’s Table, as well as the

**Susan is not only a strong and innovative leader, but also one who embraces the mission and core values of the Sisters of St. Joseph on a daily basis. She lives the mission in each and every interaction as she offers a warm and reassuring greeting to a nervous child arriving at school, counsels an insecure parent, or supports a troubled member of the faculty. Here at Jackson School, Susan has created a peaceful, inclusive, and welcoming environment as she has modeled and promoted the values of the Sisters of St. Joseph.**

— Jean Behenna, Grade 6 Teacher

Susan invested in academic excellence by empowering her faculty to collaborate with outside resources. (Museum of Science title says it all.)

**A teacher knocks on the closed office door and is beckoned in. Susan puts aside the piles on her desk and moves to the comfortable chair to listen to the creative idea the teacher wants to try. The excitement is contagious and Susan encourages, “Go for it.”**

— Kathy Berube, CSJ

By Susan G. Niden

Nearly three decades ago the Sisters of Saint Joseph invited me to become the fourth educational and spiritual leader of Jackson School. At that time, to work in a Catholic Ministry sponsored by a religious order was a leap of faith in my leadership career as I am a product of public school education as a student, teacher, and assistant principal. Accepting this leap of faith was part of God’s plan of providing me with an amazing opportunity to reinforce my passion for making a difference in the lives of young students.

Comments from Faculty and Staff/former staff about Susan

Karen Clair, JWP parent, Susan Niden, Charlene Favreau, CSJ.

A Personal Journey Unfolds

By Susan G. Niden

Growing up in Waterbury, Connecticut, my parents were educated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chambéry. They envisioned that their five daughters would one day attend Catholic schools. Unfortunately, this was not possible due to several geographic moves. I am certain today they would be pleased to know how purposeful my life has unfolded through the influence of the CSJs.

At Jackson School, the CSJ charism continues to challenge and energize all who work to create a vibrant learning community for our students who are known and loved. Gospel values are embraced and unity in our world is realized through reaching out in service to all people, especially those in greatest need. Our curriculum offerings are designed to foster teachable moments of unity, reconciliation, respect, and joy through approaches such as daily prayer and Responsive Classroom practices. Connections with other sponsored ministries such as Bethany Hill Place, The Literacy Connection, and the Woman’s Table, as well as the

**Susan is not only a strong and innovative leader, but also one who embraces the mission and core values of the Sisters of St. Joseph on a daily basis. She lives the mission in each and every interaction as she offers a warm and reassuring greeting to a nervous child arriving at school, counsels an insecure parent, or supports a troubled member of the faculty. Here at Jackson School, Susan has created a peaceful, inclusive, and welcoming environment as she has modeled and promoted the values of the Sisters of St. Joseph.**

— Jean Behenna, Grade 6 Teacher

Susan invested in academic excellence by empowering her faculty to collaborate with outside resources. (Museum of Science title says it all.)

**A teacher knocks on the closed office door and is beckoned in. Susan puts aside the piles on her desk and moves to the comfortable chair to listen to the creative idea the teacher wants to try. The excitement is contagious and Susan encourages, “Go for it.”**

— Kathy Berube, CSJ

6 • www.csjboston.org
commitment and leadership of our dedicated Mission Integration Specialists, further our shared mission. It has been an inspirational journey to witness the hundreds of students whose young lives have been touched by the integrity of the faculty and staff who empower our students to live the core values and charism of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

Transitioning from Jackson will be a passage to something new. There is more growing and learning to accomplish. I leave with profound gratitude to all the Sisters of Saint Joseph, past and present, who so graciously allowed me to share in the artful unfolding of their charism, mission, and values.

“I first encountered Susan Niden 29 years ago when she came to enroll her two children, Sarah and George William at Walnut Park Montessori School. I had no idea I was meeting with the new Jackson School principal. From then on we were a “collaborative duo” planning, celebrating and always reaching for the “more.””

— Charlene Favreau, CSJ

“In her twenty-nine years of selfless service to the Jackson School community, Susan has always led by example. Her dedication, humility, compassion, sacrifice, and kindness have earned her the respect of parents, students, faculty, and staff. Upon walking into the school, visitors often comment that they can sense what a “caring community” Jackson is. That begins with Susan’s strong leadership qualities, which are rooted in the mission and core values of the Sisters of St. Joseph.”

— Jane Burgoyne, Kindergarten Teacher

For more information on Jackson Walnut Park Schools visit www.jwpschools.org/?_vsrefdom=googleppc
In these times of uncertainty and insecurity, sentiments of apprehension and fear predominate among our adults and children. During an interview with Silvia, the mother of a student in our after-school program, I asked, “What would you like people to know about your experience as an immigrant in 2019?” Silvia replied, “I would want people to know that it is very hard. I work two jobs and take care of my babies. I [came to the] US for my girls. In my home country, girls can’t go [to] school. I do this for them. I am happy I am now a US citizen, but my friend, she is DACA. She has three children and two are US citizens. We are all feeling great fear. What happens if she and her oldest are sent back? Her children cry in fear.”

As Silvia and I continued to talk, I asked her how she was settling in to her new apartment in West Roxbury. Silvia confided that she is thrilled to be there because during the government shut-down she almost became homeless. “That was very stressful. We moved ourselves out [of] one apartment to go into our new apartment. But they told us, ‘No, you cannot move in. The government has not sent money.’ I thank God for friends who let us stay with them until we could move in, and Casserly House for the love you give my children and me.”

In this climate of fear and confusion, Casserly House is living its ministry of presence – striving to bring great love to all who come to our door. It is in this giving of love that we experience a love unfolding ten-fold from our immigrant families! 

---

1 A translation of Maxim 90
2 Name has been changed to protect her identity.
3 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

Jen Reis works with an adult student who is seeking her GED.
Amidst growing awareness of an escalation in mental health issues impacting members of the immigrant community, The Allston-Brighton Health Collaborative has provided a forum for organizations that work directly with immigrant families. This initiative offers opportunities to meet, share, and discuss the impact of trauma, stress, and worry on the mental health of immigrants today, particularly during this period of great political uncertainty which threatens the future of immigrant families in our community.

In response to this growing concern, The Literacy Connection strives to provide a safe place for immigrant families to ask questions, receive accurate information, and explore pathways to citizenship.

Among issues contributing to the crisis, the most significant appears to be separation. Children are fearful that parents will not be home when they return from school. Likewise, immigrant parents are worried about who will take care of their children if they are forced to leave the United States. In fact, the threat of separation is the main reason why immigrant families are reluctant to apply for benefits, including health insurance and food stamps, for which they rightfully qualify.

In addition, there is considerable misinformation and confusion pertaining to changes currently under discussion in Congress. As a result, immigrants have increasingly become targets of inaccurate, fraudulent information.

In the current climate of fear and uncertainty, The Literacy Connection works to ensure that the immigrant families we serve receive accurate information and referral to resources that assist them to know their rights and the opportunities that they so need. We strive to offer appropriate guidance, information, and assistance to those we serve. Providing education and protecting rights is the hallmark of what makes The Literacy Connection a place where immigrants thrive and succeed. And that is our mission – caring for the dear neighbor without distinction! 🌍
Service to the “Dear Neighbor”

Unfolding

Care for the Earth

Gracious Hospitality

Peaceful Resolution of Conflict

CSJ Sponsored Ministries
Bethany Health Care
Bethany Hill Place
Fontbonne Academy
Jackson Elementary
Regis College
St. Joseph Prep
Walnut Park Montessori

and many other ministries of presence with and for the “Dear Neighbor”

Page design by Ann Marie Grady, CSJ
Sponsored Ministries Reflection

By Mary Anne Doyle, CSJ

“Telling the Story” has become a clarion call since our Chapter of 2018. Our friends, partners in mission and others want to know more about who we are and what we are about. We tend to hide in the background – the shadow side of our charism. In the process who we are and what we are about gets lost. S. Dorothea in the last issue shared the unfolding and the coming to understand our charism as “unioning love.” I’ll attempt to share a similar unfolding of our mission and the grace to carry out that mission (charism) in ministry, specifically our seven sponsored ministries.

In the ‘60s lay people began teaching in the many schools of the archdiocese and joined us in our own ministries during the ’70s. As the numbers of these lay partners increased, their desire to be more of an integral part of our mission also increased. Soon the question became: “How is this a CSJ ministry with so few sisters or perhaps no sisters and a lay person leading the ministry?” The answer is found in those laity who have internalized our mission, integrated it into their own daily life and carry out this mission with the grace of “unioning love.” Their spirit resonates with our mission and charism and we seek to both support this resonance and grow with them. A new unfolding!

In the late ’90s, the sponsored ministries model was developed to enhance, strengthen and carry our CSJ mission and charism into the future. Others will experience the presence of our mission and charism through our partners who embrace with zeal and integrity: service to the “Dear Neighbor,” gracious hospitality, peaceful resolution of conflict and care for the earth. They live these values in their daily lives. The circles of those embracing our charism is widening to include faculty, staff, students or residents, parents, families, volunteers and donors in our schools, health care facility and educational housing. The Boards of each of these ministries spend time reflecting on how well they have embodied the mission and the charism of “unioning love” in their interactions and discussions and most importantly, whether or not their decisions have been consonant with the mission.

The charism of “unioning love” is dear to all Boston CSJ’s and we are entrusting this precious gift each day to more and more people who choose to enter into a relationship with us. The uniqueness of each of these relationships will continue to unfold as we, the vowed members, our Associates, our soon to be Agrégées, our partners in mission, our friends and others continue to integrate the CSJ mission into their daily lives.

Mary Anne Doyle, CSJ, Executive Director of the Corporation for Sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston.

For more information on Sponsored Ministries visit www.csjsponsorship.org/
Jean McKinney, CSJ: An Unfolding Journey

A Very Ray of the Radiant One’s Own Light

Have you ever marveled at the gradual beauty of a sunrise? Darkness tinged with sudden traces of light . . . then, WOW! A magnificent sun erupting over the ocean horizon! This exquisite moment of dawn captures the wonder and essence of my own journey.

Many years ago, I was drawn to visiting and gradually getting to know the sisters at Bethany Health Care Center. Their lives and stories, their ministries, their faith and joy, their spirituality…subtle whispers, imperceptible at first, yet growing stronger with time! Almost without my realizing it, seeds were being sown, roots were taking hold, and, slowly, my pathway was beginning to emerge.

It was at Bethany where I received a special gift – Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness by Nan Merrill. So many moments of prayer and inspiration – truly an invitation: “You, who are the Source of Love; whose Light shines forth throughout the universe! Come, awaken our hearts that we might do your Work.”¹

Gradually opening to new possibilities without complete understanding, like Joseph, always trusting in God,² I embraced my vocation, my call to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston.

As a novice, I experienced life in community, enjoyed opportunities for shared prayer and welcomed new ministries. It was a time of openness blessed with embracing dialog – deep with inclusive, empathetic, never-ending communication with the ear of my heart; a time of pouring out and receiving, yielding totally to God; a time of God’s transforming love.

And now, celebrating my profession of first vows as a Sister of St. Joseph of Boston, I look to the past – to the legacy of so many women who have lived these vows before me; to the present – to those with whom I share my journey of faith, charism and ministry each day; and to the future – to the promise of hope that transforms and challenges us: Do you not know your destiny – to be a light into the world, a bearer of peace and harmony? O let your light shine as a very ray of the Radiant One’s own light!”³

¹ Psalm 107. Psalms for Praying © 2007 Nan C. Merrill
² Based on a CSJ Vow Renewal Prayer.
³ Psalm 107. Psalms for Praying © 2007 Nan C. Merrill
Left to right: During her Novitiate time in Concordia, KS, Jean not only learned the art of bobbin lace, but kept up with CSJ Boston meetings via streaming video.

During Jean’s Novitiate, she had the opportunity to travel to the US/Mexican border and spend time with immigrant families and those who accompany them.

Jean (far right) amid Kansas sunflowers with the others in her Novitiate group.

The pictures on this page tell the story of the liturgy in celebration of the Initial Vow Commitment of Jean McKinney, CSJ.
In October 2018, the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph released a corporate voice statement calling for the welcome and humane treatment of arriving migrants. It asked women religious to “reject the rhetoric of fear and policy of division that poisons our politics today” and “stand with Pope Francis who calls us to ‘promote the dignity of all our brothers and sisters, particularly the poor and the excluded of society, those who are abandoned, immigrants, and those who suffer violence and human trafficking.’” As the humanitarian crisis continues, so does the decades-long response of the Sisters of St. Joseph and their partners.

Responding to the call  Some congregations declared sanctuary during the 1980s. During that time, a partnership was sparked with Annunciation House, a nonprofit organization that serves varied needs of migrants and refugees in El Paso, Texas. Many volunteer at Annunciation House while ministering at the southern border. Albany, Congregation of St. Joseph, Los Angeles, Orange, Philadelphia, Rochester, St. Louis, and St. Paul have sent sisters, associates, and partners in mission to minister there. Others sent significant financial contributions to assist with securing necessities for refugees.

In December 2018, St. Joseph Workers in Orange, CA joined their congregation’s leadership team, justice office, associates, and hundreds of others for a prayer vigil and civil disobedience event at the Tijuana-San Diego border. The sisters who couldn’t make the trip spent the day in solidarity, keeping them in prayer.

Many congregations are finding creative ways to engage those who can’t travel to the border. Some keep pressure on legislators to find ways to answer the humanitarian crisis. Others answer the needs of the refugees. In Philadelphia, sisters, associates, and friends created 1,000 fabric wrist pouches containing paper, pens, crayons and plastic bags to protect documents. Some have created prayer services and events to raise awareness in their local communities.

Partnering with students  Before Christmas 2018, Erin McDonald, CSJ (Congregation of St. Joseph) accompanied students from the University of Detroit Mercy to El Paso. The group partnered with The Encuentro Project, which helps participants “encounter” migrants, Border Patrol Agents, immigration lawyers, social service agencies, and local faith leaders. Of this experience, Erin writes. “One woman, tears running down her cheeks, spoke of the enormous grief that shattered her heart when she lost five children from gang violence in Honduras. She looked at us and whispered through her sobs, ‘What wouldn't you do to try to save your sixth child?’”

Students of Regis College, a Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, participated in a border experience. Amid scorching heat, they made the arduous trek to California’s southern border to deliver water, supplies, and messages of encouragement for refugees.

Opening Hearts and Doors  Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange opened their motherhouse to two refugee families. Acting as a sponsor for the families, the congregation assists them as they move through the asylum process. Sue Denning, CSJ, explained, “Both families have different stories” and come with different needs. Maria Elena Perales, director of the CSJ Orange Justice Center, explained that meeting these needs requires equal parts collaboration and coordination. “There’s a lot involved” Sue said, but it is “wonderful to have them be part of the community here.” For the senior sisters who reside in the motherhouse, it has been an opportunity for relationship and companionship.

Humanitarian Crisis Continues  Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) continues to ask for assistance both physically and fiscally at the U.S.-Mexico border. LCWR and Catholic Charities is encouraging interested communities and sisters to contact Kristan Schlichte at KSchlichte@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org or 703-236-6240, who can assist potential volunteers.
On January 9, 2019, a group of 17 Regis College students and staff departed for Los Angeles to participate in a week-long Service Immersion experience in California. The trip was twofold. During the first half, students traveled to San Diego – particularly to the U.S.-Mexico Border – to work with Border Angels, a nonprofit organization that advocates for immigrant rights and humane treatment of migrants. During the second half, students stayed in Boyle Heights and visited Dolores Mission parish and Homeboy Industries.

During this week students served in various activities. They worked with Border Angels to place gallons of water and emergency supplies around strategic points in the desert where thirsty migrants might be crossing. Students also had the chance to visit refugee shelters in Mexico, where Central Americans from the caravan patiently awaited asylum.

In San Diego, our students also learned about the complex systems around immigration and they visited Chicano Park to learn about the history of Latino presence in the U.S. The week was filled with unforgettable encounters and invaluable lessons.

Service Immersion is a central part of the formation that students receive at Regis. Catholic Intellectual Tradition deeply believes in the formation of the whole person. But when we refer to the formation of the whole person, we must always consider that the experiences that are most transformative are those that allow students to explore their own life stories, discover their God-given gifts, and put them to the service of those around them. This is one of the central things that happens when students are given the opportunity to participate in service immersion experiences and serve their Dear Neighbors around the world.

This was evident, when students traveled to Mexico to visit a shelter for refugees from the Caravan. It was incredible to witness the slow unfolding of their own life stories and the ways in which they built bridges with the refugees who stood before them. It was, for the students, a concrete experience that reflected the values of the women that came before them, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston. Imagine a young student from Regis College and a migrant from Central America who had just travelled thousands of miles in search for a better life – both playing games in a shelter in Mexico! As Fr. Greg Boyle usually says, “Exactly what God had in mind.”
Who among us knows the mind of God or the mystery of a religious vocation? Who among us knows why one is called to make a commitment to “sell all” to join a religious congregation? Vocation of any kind always begins with RELATIONSHIP. In the case of a religious vocation, the story may unfold in myriad ways. Some learn prayers and make connections with parents at an early age. Some don’t encounter religious connections until they are older. Some may be Catholic, some of another religious denomination, and some may never have had any formal religious education. All catch glimpses of God as their journey unfolds. The stories do not matter; what matters is that God “catches” people in a variety of ways and places.

Recently, I had the pleasure of discovering a gem of a book on religious life, called In Our Own Words – Religious Life in a Changing World. It is a collection of essays by women religious from various congregations, most of whom entered religious life after 2005. What touched me most were the stories. I believe the book is best experienced by reading each essay individually—perhaps sitting with a cup of tea, while savoring the personal story of each writer. As I stated before, everything is about relationship. These are intelligent, educated women with a compassion for mission. Some wear religious garb, some don’t. Some are older and some are a bit younger. Whatever the age, whatever the garb, the vocation to religious life is lived daily with faithfulness and love of God and neighbor.

Each writer believes with all her heart that there is a future for religious life. Vatican II called for religious congregations to return to the origins of their founders. We need to honor that tradition as we move into a future that challenges us to make God’s presence in the world known in the midst of the uncertainties of life. It is imperative that newer members of congregations have an opportunity to gather with sisters in their own congregations as well as inter-community programs for spiritual guidance and socialization. Each congregation and culture has its own gifts and charism. We can share these various charisms to create a common venture where God is made manifest in a sometimes broken world.

“Success” in religious life today is not measured by numbers. We will never have the large numbers of the 20th century. However, I believe that these women have found a way to show God to people—person to person. Relationship is at the “heart of our mission.” God has a plan for religious life. We do not always know what that plan is, but we accept the challenge to be for others a sign of God’s love and mercy. The questions remain, but the call is real as we move into a future of uncertainty knowing that we do not walk alone. 🙏
R codes are popping up everywhere whether we realize it or not; whether we use them or not. They appear on product packaging in the grocery store, in museums, on some book covers, and now in the MORE… magazine!

“QR” refers to “quick response” and gives easy access to more information about a topic. The QR code looks like a square version of the more familiar barcode and it can be used by anyone, not just the cashier at the register in your local market. Okay, in the interest of full disclosure, in order to have easy access, you do need to have a smart phone or iPad and download a “QR code reader” from your device’s App Store. Many of these apps are free. Once you have the QR Code reader app, you are seconds away from learning more about anything you scan. If that seems too complicated, you can also just point your phone’s camera at the QR code and it will prompt you to open the code in Safari browser.

For example, the QR code at the right will bring you directly to our www.csjboston.org website. Other QR codes throughout this issue of the MORE… will bring you directly to additional information about the articles they accompany.

Why should you, our reader, care? As we continue the theme of “Unfolding” this is a perfect way for the story to unfold beyond the pages of this magazine. Using these QR codes is one way to explore…have fun…and be part of strengthening relationships for mission as our story unfolds!
We knew they would come! On April 11th, three hundred and twenty-five people came to celebrate with us, the Sisters of St. Joseph at our sixth annual Living the Dream Dinner, held at the Seaport Hotel in Boston. Sisters and guests mingled easily in a pleasant, fun-filled environment, happy to connect or re-connect and awed by the large posters of various sisters engaged in ministry. The joyful atmosphere was elevated further by the surprise appearance of Governor Charlie Baker who came to recognize one of the honorees – Rick Lord.

In addition to the raising of funds, the night was an opportunity to honor and to say thank you to some rather remarkable people among us:

- **Rick Lord**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM) who was given our Dear Neighbor Award. A member of several non-profit boards, Rick is a very generous man who is admired by many.
- **JD Murphy**, founder of Computech, a successful international software company, along with **The Murphy Family** was also a Dear Neighbor Award Honoree. Genevieve Murphy, JD’s wife, accepted the award for JD and the family. JD had a great appreciation for the education he received from the Sisters of St. Joseph.
- **Sister Mary Black, CSJ**, a woman whose aim through her entire life has been to serve underprivileged people, was, on this night recognized by all present. Sister Mary was thanked by all, as they stood to applaud her remarkable commitment to people in need.
- **Sisters Peggy Comfrey, Kathy McCluskey, and Dorothea Masuret** featured in a video, spoke personally of their ministries and ways of living the charism of the Sisters of St Joseph.
- **Irene Desharnais**, the evening’s guest speaker, spoke simply and passionately about her connection with the Sisters and their influence on her life. Her ongoing involvement in mission has shaped her life and she challenged all to dare to dream with the CSJs.
- **Karen Holmes Ward** of WCVB kept the program running smoothly. The entire evening was spirit-filled and our gratitude enormous. The singing of *Sancte Joseph* by the sisters present was a genuine prayer of blessing on all who attended this event and gave so generously.
Behind the Scenes

One of the highlights of our Living the Dream Dinner was a video featuring sisters Kathy McCluskey, Peggy Comfrey and Dorothea Masuret. The experience of “lights, camera, action” was new to these sisters but they embraced the challenge and spoke about their ministry.

View this video on our website csjboston.org

Peggy Comfrey, CSJ

Sister Peggy has a passion for social justice! This began when she taught at Cathedral High School, and came face-to-face with the injustices of poverty. She believes the role of women religious is not to separate themselves from society but to affect change in the systems that keep people in situations of injustice and oppression. She then served at NETWORK, a Catholic social justice lobby in Washington, that does just that. She also served on the board of Bethany Hill Place (affordable and supportive housing), a sponsored ministry of our sisters. Her current ministry is at Project Hope in Roxbury, a multi-service agency at the forefront of efforts in Boston to move families up and out of poverty.

Dorothea Masuret, CSJ

Sister Dorothea is “growing young in spirit”! She remembers a long ago conversation with another sister who said “As we age the body diminishes, …but the purpose of the spirit is to grow younger.” Her “growing young” began as a teacher and continued as she led “Renewal” workshops for the Archdiocese. Now, in her 8th decade, she is completing an internship in spiritual direction so she can help people see that God is active in their lives. Sister Dorothea is especially interested in the hunger for a deeper connection with God that she sees in young people and in sharing with them God’s love.

Kathy McCluskey, CSJ

Sister Kathy began her ministry as a teacher and then was called to leadership. Following that she served as the Executive Director of the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. She was instrumental in building an international center for all Sisters of St. Joseph in Le Puy, France. She also fought human trafficking by requiring hotels for Federation events to adhere to the ECPAT USA code that requires hotels to prevent and report on human trafficking and train their staff to do the same. She is presently working with Nuns and Nones, a program for those who seek a greater spirituality in their lives as well as Spirits on Fire, a program for lay leaders in the ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph.
A Conversation with Sarah Barrett, CSJA

By Carol Mack

“...we must fix our eyes on the future, on forging new relationships of love that include the earth, all peoples, all religions, all planets and all galaxies.”

– Ilia Delio

I caught up with Sarah at our St. Joseph Day celebration in March and asked how she came to know the Sisters of St. Joseph. She told me that the sisters’ influence in her life started early, beginning with her education at St. Thomas Aquinas, Jamaica Plain. Following twelve years of education with the sisters, she joined the congregation and began a remarkable ministry as an educator. Her life unfolded and then refolded again as she embraced a new chapter as a lay woman.

Education is her gift, her mission, and her passion. In this vocation she lives the charism of unity and reconciliation, forging relationships and expanding ever-widening circles of love. Some of the ministries that benefited from her energy and commitment are: Aquinas College where she served as teacher, Academic Dean, and President; Regis College where she wore various ministry hats: Director of the Library, Associate Academic Dean, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Director of Mission Effectiveness. Impelled by God’s inclusive love, she was committed to ensuring that all members of the college community could experience the charism, and practice unity and reconciliation in their own lives.

Dorothea Masuret, CSJ, introduced Sarah to our Associate Relationship. The Associates’ sense of community, prayer, and service resonated with her. She was inspired by the call of Betty Cawley, CSJ, to “…see beyond yourself to become part of something, ever evolving in God’s love.” She heard God calling her to “the more” – love in ever-widening circles, excellence tempered by gentleness, peace, and joy.

Sarah has always been a volunteer in her parish, St. Timothy, Norwood, formerly as a Parish Council member and now in her favorite ministry as a lector. Several years ago, she was invited to join the Board of the Corporation for the Sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, where her wisdom and experience are invaluable.

Sarah continues learning and growing through service, contemplation, prayer, watercolor classes, a book club of Regis College friends, and more. One of her watercolor works accompanies this article, and reflects the contemplation and openness evoked by another quotation that inspires her: “I believe contemplation or nondual consciousness can help us approach change with creativity, openness, and courage.”

1 Ilia Delio, Unbearable Wholeness of Being, © Orbis Books, 2013, pg. 197-8
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/support-our-sisters/memorial-and-all-occasion-card-programs/

---

**Card Order Form**

| Name___________________________________________ |
| Address_________________________________________ |
| City________ State____ ZIP Code__________ |

**Card Choices**

**Memorial Cards**
- God our Refuge
- Morning Rose
- Light of Peace
- New Beginnings
- Madonna and Child
- St. Joseph
- Resurrection Mandala

**Other Occasions**
- Congratulations
- Get Well
- Happy Birthday
- Thinking of You (1)
- Thinking of You (2)
- In Your Honor (1)
- In Your Honor (2)
- Tulips (Blank)

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
If you do not wish to receive future mailings of the MORE..., please return your address label to us, and we will remove your name from all of our mailings.

Thank you for making our Living the Dream Dinner 2019 a huge success!

Save the date
April 16, 2020
for Living the Dream 2020!