SPRING / SUMMER 2021 ♦ VOL. 6 ♦ NO. 2

the MORE...

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston

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in just such a time as this ... we look to Joseph

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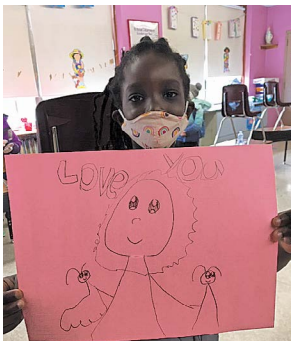
Our cover image is part of a digital collection created for The Year of St. Joseph by Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS. Brother Mickey lives and works in Camden, NJ. He is an award-winning artist, author and speaker, whose work celebrates the connections between art, beauty, and religious faith. Even in the midst of the pandemic, he continues his art, presents retreats and conferences through Zoom, and works on various projects that he hopes, even in times such as these, will open our eyes to the beauty all around us.

If you would like to use this or other works by Brother Mickey, visit **https://www.salesianshop.com/** for license information.

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 "with an orientation towards excellence (*le plus*) tempered by gentleness, peace, joy." The French "*le plus*" translates into English as ***the MORE...***



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From Our President

By Lee Hogan, CSJ

In the Year of Saint Joseph

St. Joseph has been the patron saint of the Sisters of St. Joseph since the earliest days of our foundation in France in 1650. He has been the "Patron of the Universal Church" since 1870 when it was declared by Blessed Pope Pius IX. In December 2020 Pope Francis, wanting to honor the 150th year anniversary of this title of Joseph, issued his apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* (*With a Father's Heart*).

Two of the several aspects of Joseph's life on which Pope Francis focuses, and that we might reflect on today, are first, that Joseph was an ordinary, humble man who fulfilled his life as a father to Jesus, a working man who was a carpenter; and second, Joseph as the protective father who responded to his dreams by taking positive, although dangerous action to benefit Mary and the Child.

In the first aspect of Joseph, Francis wishes to emphasize the importance, the value and the dignity of work. He writes, "In our own day, when … unemployment at times reaches record levels even in nations that for decades have enjoyed a certain degree of prosperity, there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which St. Joseph is an exemplary patron." And further on, Francis speaks of his concern for the loss of employment experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This, he suggests, should " … serve as a summons to review our priorities."[1]

Each year, on May 1, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. In this time of COVID may we show our thanks and appreciation to all those workers who have sustained our societies by their frontline work in the face of tremendous challenges, as we also pray to Joseph that all who are in need will find work that is dignified and rewarding.

A second aspect of Joseph that offers parallels to today is in Joseph's response to his dreams. After the birth of Jesus, an angel tells Joseph in a dream to take the Child and his mother and flee to Egypt so as to escape those who were searching for the child to destroy him. Joseph waited in Egypt until Herod was dead and then began the journey back to Judea. But again, warned in a dream of the danger that would await him if he went back, Joseph took his family to Galilee and made their home in Nazareth.

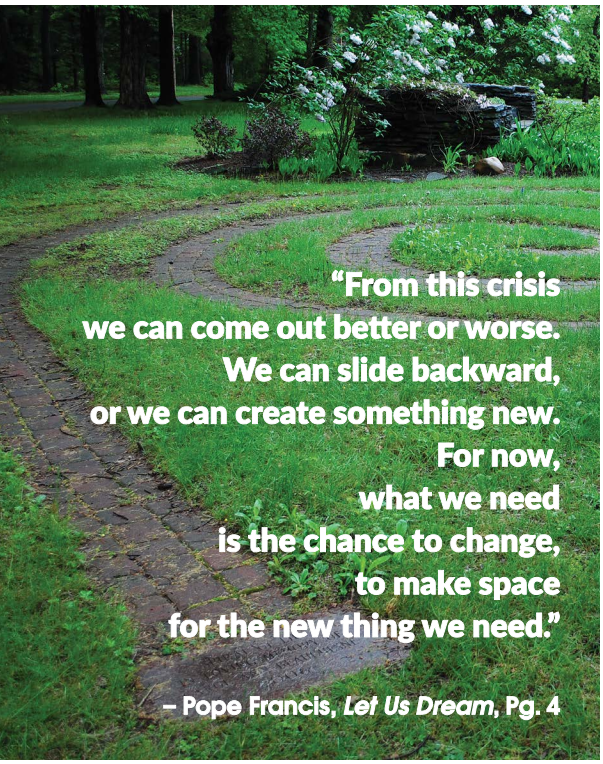
Today we see so many examples of people fleeing their homelands, seeking safety from a well-founded fear of persecution and even death. We witness parents doing as Joseph did, fleeing with their children, and some children sent by parents and travelling alone towards hoped-for safety. Around the globe there are so many people and families wandering the world homeless and in fear.

St. Joseph has been our Patron, Protector and Intercessor for the Sisters of St. Joseph for centuries. We pray to him now to be the Protector of all who must flee to survive. Joseph lead them to safety.

[1] All quotations are from the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* of the Holy Father Francis on the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. Given in Rome, at Saint John Lateran, on 8 December, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the year 2020.

From the Director of Communications

Joanne Gallagher, CSJ,
Editor



Let Us Dream:
The Path to a Better Future
Pope Francis Conversations with
Austen Ivereigh, Simon & Schuster
(December 1, 2020)

In Such a Time as This: Allowing Space for What Is Emerging

During this past year, our world, our country, our religious congregations and our souls have been and continue to be transformed. How are we leaning into this fast-paced but often hidden transformation? This is far deeper than change; it's a collective ache that draws us to a new heart-space. World events: the pandemic, food insecurity, systemic racism, acts of violence and climate change to name a few, have stopped us in our tracks, engaged us in reflection on who we are becoming and filled us with a range of emotions.

We are not the first whose lives have been so utterly and unexpectedly upended. Consider St. Joseph whose actions in response to God's intervention changed the course of history. Pope Francis has designated this the Year of St. Joseph. Yes, this is because it happens to be the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, but what better person to raise up in such a time as this? Our reflection page invites you to consider this amazing human being who often goes unnoticed. Other articles in this issue introduce a few Joseph-people among us – there are many more. As you read, ask yourself, How and when am I a Joseph-person? Who are other Joseph people I know? How are we Joseph to one another in such a time as this?

On October 2, 2020, Pope Francis published the social encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, in which the moral teaching of our Church and the challenges of today are inextricably woven together. Included in this issue is an article in which Betty Cawley, CSJ, offers an approach that encourages us to go deeper and recognize how all these challenges are interconnected. Several sisters, associates, agrégées and partners in mission reflect on how events of this past year have transformed and challenged them to discover new ways to bring Christ's inclusive love to their ministries. Elsewhere, our archivist raises up two sisters who spent many years in Boston's South End reaching out to their marginalized neighbors with respect and dignity, and connects them to our current efforts in response to food insecurity.

This issue is also filled with stories about our Living the Dream Virtual event, information on ways to support our sisters and their ministries and a wonderful poem written for the 2020 Feast of the Annunciation. Sadly, it is as timely a year later as it was then.

And so, we look to Joseph in such a time as this. Like Joseph, our lives have been disrupted and will never return to the "old normal." As you read these pages, consider how we individually and collectively are allowing space within and around us for what is emerging.

Mission Advancement Conversation

By Carol Mack, Director of Mission Advancement and Cathy Clifford, CSJ, Assistant President

Glimmers of Light

Carol: There are so many glimmers of light as we slowly move from this pandemic into vaccinations and Spring hope. People's goodness shines again and again. You read a story of compassion and kindness in the newspaper or see an example on the nightly news. There are lots of good people. The sisters also have been part of this, reaching out quietly to the "dear neighbor, without distinction."

Sister Cathy: Marlie McGoldrick, CSJ, working with The Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition, consisting of representatives from five Congregations of Women Religious, coordinated "Bags of Love" for survivors of human trafficking. Each bag contained practical necessities to help the women/girls as they transitioned from victim to survivor.

Carol: Yes, those backpacks and duffle bags were filled with love – notes of hope and support, along with toiletries, socks, underwear, hats, scarves, snacks and more. All bags were prepared by the sisters, associates, agrégées and partners in mission with items donated by the sisters and generous friends of the sisters.

Sister Cathy: Then we were fortunate to collaborate with the Catholic Extension Foundation, through their program "Sisters on the Frontlines." Twenty-six of our sisters received grants of $1,000 for distribution to struggling folks in the community, needing help in a variety of ways during this time of pandemic.

Carol: None of this happens without you, our dear friends, whose support is so amazing.

Sister Cathy: Yes, just recall the *Living the Dream* virtual event held in late March. The generosity and support was so strong, it was almost tangible! It certainly helps to sustain our efforts.

Carol: Others remembered us in their estate plans – such a blessing to us! There are also those who use our card program to remember loved ones and at the same time to support our retired sisters.

Sister Cathy: Glimmers of light, examples of goodness definitely provide hope and we are incredibly grateful!

Carol: And then there are the prayer requests which come in every day, people asking this community to pray for a particular person, need or situation. The sisters, associates and agrégées take those requests seriously and do pray.

Sister Cathy: Glimmers of hope and light break through when prayers are answered, as well as when people feel supported in this way. Now, more than ever, we are recognizing how connected we all are and the difference we can make, in ways large and small.

Carol Mack and
Cathy Clifford, CSJ

Hope
is being able
to see
that there is
light
despite
all of the
darkness.

Desmond Tutu

Fratelli Tutti

By Betty Cawley, CSJ,
Justice Promoter

Centrality of Love

On October 3, 2020, Pope Francis promulgated his latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship [FT]*. The subtitle conveys the key ideas that pervade the document: "It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity." [8]

INTRODUCTION

While *Laudato Si' (LS)* was an easy read, I found *FT* somewhat more challenging, perhaps because of its length and depth. In Chapter 1 we encounter in great detail "Dark Clouds Over a Closed World." These include aggressive nationalism, disregard for the common good, loss of the sense of history, limitless consumption and expressions of empty individualism. [11-13] The "throwaway culture" of *LS* here "often extends to human beings themselves," [20] manifested in modern slavery, terrorist attacks, racial or religious persecution. [24-25] Francis reminds us, however, that the Covid-19 pandemic demonstrates that "we are part of one another." [32]

A PARABLE

Following Jesus's example, Pope Francis presents a parable to set the tone for his letter: the familiar story of The Good Samaritan. Jesus told the story in answer to the question "Who is my neighbor?" Pope Francis uses the story to suggest "that we ourselves become neighbors to all." [80] "It gives a universal dimension to our call to love, one that transcends all prejudices, all historical and cultural barriers, all petty interests." [83]

THE CENTRALITY OF LOVE

Pope Francis then turns to a detailed discussion of the centrality of love – from individual to universal – as an introduction to all that follows.

The remaining chapters of the encyclical explore the centrality of love in five areas. On **immigration** the Pope says: "Our response to the arrival of migrating persons can be summarized by four words: welcome, protect, promote and integrate." [129] This response is not limited to individuals or states, but is necessary on a global level.

Pope Francis then describes: "a better kind of **politics**, one truly at the service of the common good." [154] He differentiates between love directed toward individuals and peoples, and love that moves to create structures that contribute to the common good. [186] This kind of charity "is always a preferential love shown to those in greatest need." [187]

"The word '**culture**' points to something deeply embedded within a people, its most cherished convictions and its way of life." [216] It is not an easy

task for a people to achieve a culture that is inclusive and respectful of the rights of all. What is needed is a "culture of encounter capable of transcending our differences and divisions." [215]

Peace-making includes reconciliation, social peace, war and the death penalty. Concerning war Francis says: "War is a failure of politics and of humanity, a shameful capitulation, a stinging defeat before the forces of evil." [261] He calls on all people to work not only for the abolition of the death penalty, but also for the improvement of prison conditions. [268]

The final chapter addresses **religion**: the ultimate foundation of fraternity. The encyclical closes with the words that Pope Francis and Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb shared as an appeal for peace, justice and fraternity. [285]

Though challenging, digging into the wisdom of this encyclical is definitely worth the effort.

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.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston • Vision Statement 2006

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.

QR codes

"QR" refers to "quick response" and gives easy access to more information about a topic. If you don't have a QR code reader app on your phone, just point your phone's camera at the QR code and it will prompt you to open the code in Safari browser. This will bring you directly to a webpage with more information. Using these QR codes is one way to explore … have fun … and be part of strengthening relationships for mission as our story unfolds!

The Many Manifestations of a Joseph Heart

As we prepared this issue of *the MORE…* several people were asked to write a few sentences about having a *Joseph Heart*. As you read the brief reflections, ask yourself, how do I manifest a *Joseph Heart*? When do I recognize a *Joseph Heart* in others?

Beverly Good, Administrative Assistant, St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries

When I think of Joseph, it seems that his ability to **pivot** (a word we're all using!) is outstanding. Presented with the unexpected, he **rallied**. In January 2020, St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries moved into our new location at 71 Walnut Park, Newton, MA. We planned to welcome a wonderful assortment of friends and seekers – imagining an Open House for the Congregation and for the neighbors, days of reflection for parish staffs, comfy rooms for spiritual direction. With the pandemic, all was put on hold. We pivoted to offering our events through Zoom. I was able to take the time to discover how we might welcome folks throughout the seasons, once we could. In a "dry run," I gathered resources and decorated some of the lovely rooms. I appreciated that quiet time, to be able to learn the House in this way.

Beverly working from home during pandemic

Dan Leahy, Director of the Center for Mission, Ministry and Service at Regis College

Dan in a 20-year-old picture with his son

Nothing ever seems to go according to plan. Life is full of unexpected twists and turns, some delightful, some devastating. Joseph knew this well. Yet, Joseph's response determined his path forward. He turned to God, the God he came to know from sacred scripture, teachings, and prayer, this God he had come to know as a loving and tender God. God answered him, through a series of dreams offering reassurance and instruction. Joseph's self-confidence emulated from his confidence in the Divine.

As a married dad of three adult children, I, too, have experienced many twists and turns in my story. Less dramatic of course than Joseph's, yet no less significant to my family and me. Often I have turned to the very same loving, tender God to whom Joseph turned. Each time, I have been consoled with compassion, patience and guidance. For me, Joseph remains as my role model of faith – a real husband, and a real dad, trying, with God's help, to figure it out.

Jose Cruz, Housekeeping Bethany Health Care Center

Jose Cruz works at Bethany Health Care Center in housekeeping on the Special Care Unit. Jose has a Joseph heart. The residents know him and love him. Jose takes time to be with them, talk and make them laugh. Catherine Sabatini, Special Care Activities Director, says, "He has a hard job, but he approaches it with love and dignity. He is naturally

Jose ties the shoes of a resident.

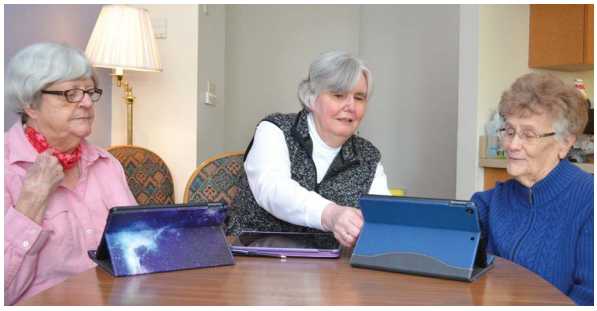
Jackie Damoiseau, CSJ, Technology Volunteer

I have always tried to follow Joseph's example. Joseph loved his craft and loved teaching Jesus. In my own classroom experiences, I tried to share Joseph's enthusiasm with my students, many of whom have embarked on technology careers.

As trends in education changed, so did I. Like Joseph, who learned new techniques to perfect his craft, I continue to advance my knowledge of technology. Although my "classroom" looks different, today I continue to teach.

Now, I am fortunate to work with our congregation's technology department. Each week, I spend time at St. Joseph Hall helping sisters with their questions about computers, iPads and/or iPhones.

We are told Joseph was a quiet man, who listened to, and followed what God asked of him. I feel so privileged to be able to continue in the spirit of Joseph the Teacher who listened to God and the needs of those around him.

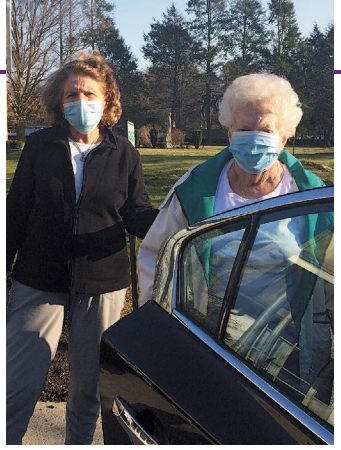


Jackie (center) assists Sisters Catherine Nevin and Donata Marie with their iPads in preparation for a congregation Zoom meeting.

kind. The day is calmer when he is here. It's his presence."

Luis Arce, Director of Housekeeping/ Laundry said: "When you mentioned a hidden Joseph, I immediately thought of Jose. My first two weeks on the job, I was doing rounds and there was Jose on his knees tying a resident's shoes and talking with her. He saw a need and did something about it. He genuinely cares, this is more than a job for him. He is very reliable."

By Anne Marie Willhite, Mission Integration Facilitator



Kathy with Ginny O'Connell, CSJ, during a recent trip to an appointment

Kathy Tighe, CSJA, Driver for CSJ Transportation Ministry

During this year of St. Joseph, a few South Shore associates have had the opportunity for our mission, cordial charity, to meet the moment!! These associates, Margaret Lelakes, Kathie Shute, Judy Swett, and I have been participants in the Volunteers in Mission program. We were treated to cordial charity by the Fontbonne commmunity, as we shared a week of service and prayer. Since we developed a relationship with the sisters, it was easy to say "yes" to be drivers for their appointments.

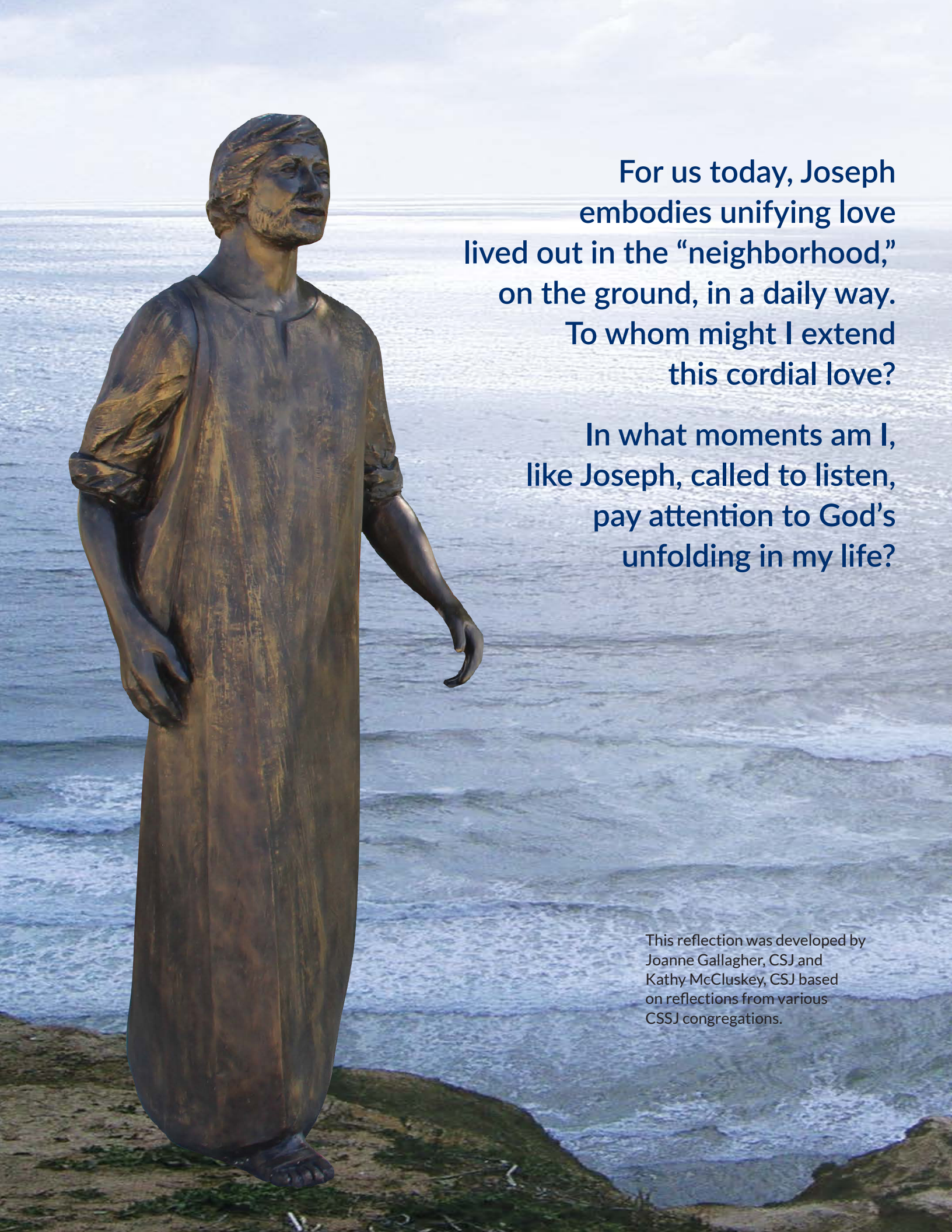
During these travels, we have a chance to share stories and to be of service of each other. We learn of the sisters' loving services through so many different ministries in their lives. These shared moments break open our charism, like St. Joseph, traveling together with our family in community.

John Murphy, Sr. (aka Mr. Murphy/ Murph), Member of the CSJ Maintenance Management Team,

has been an on-and-off employee with the Sisters of Saint Joseph for the last 15 years. He is the kind of person who always seems to be available for the unexpected maintenance call, no matter how big or small a task. Being past the age of retirement, when asked what motivates him to continue working here, Mr. Murphy states, "I've had the sisters in my life since I was in the first grade at Saint Columbkille's. Being here doesn't feel like work, it feels like home." Mr. Murphy, being a jack of all trades (or perhaps in the Year of Joseph we might say, "a Joseph of all trades"!) finds great joy in the opportunity to go from building to building on a daily basis rather than stay in one place. He hopes to be here for many years to come responding in the most ordinary of circumstances.

John Murphy, Sr. gets us ready for spring as he prepares the chairs for the outdoor memorial garden.

By Heather Shirkey, Motherhouse Administrator



For us today, Joseph embodies unifying love lived out in the "neighborhood," on the ground, in a daily way. To whom might I extend this cordial love?

In what moments am I, like Joseph, called to listen, pay attention to God's unfolding in my life?

This reflection was developed by Joanne Gallagher, CSJ and Kathy McCluskey, CSJ based on reflections from various CSSJ congregations.

Reflection…

Joseph: The Embodiment of Unifying Love

"We look to Joseph as our model of justice, gentleness, and humility … "[2] These words of our CSJ Constitution are written on the heart of every Boston Sister of St. Joseph, associate, and agrégée. They are words we embrace and words that embrace us as we go about our daily lives. As we reflect on the Year of St. Joseph and Joseph's significance in the lives of the worldwide Family of Joseph, we are also drawn to the description of Joseph in an early CSJ document: "In honor of Saint Joseph … they will be all unity and charity with one another and towards the neighbor without distinction for whom they will try to have cordial charity, as Saint Joseph had."[3] The spirituality embedded in these words continues to shape who we are now and who we are becoming as our mission meets this moment in time.

In contemporary parlance, the word cordial suggests being polite, friendly, respectful; however, in 17th-century France, cordial meant a tonic, or elixir used to stimulate a weak heart; jump start a drooping spirit. It is in this context that our first sisters would have understood the cordial charity of Joseph as loving service that energizes the spirit and animates others. Thus, Fr. Médaille[4] called on Joseph as a model of loving that is inclusive and active – love made visible through presence that is stirring and vivifying.[5]

Pope Francis has designated December 8, 2020-December 8, 2021 *The Year of St. Joseph*. This proclamation has stirred a renewed worldwide interest in who this man really was and is – this Joseph who played a central role in the Christian story yet never speaks a word in the entire four gospels. Stop for a minute and consider all the works of art, sculpture, music, prayer and writings that draw us to this quiet, courageous, compassionate dreamer who adjusted his plans over and over to be faithful to God's unfolding design.

These artifacts of Joseph are relatively new. For about 15 centuries Joseph was overlooked. His life was so ordinary that people didn't talk about him. In the 10th century images started emerging and by the 17th century a strong devotion to Joseph had developed. This was a time when Europe experienced wars, plagues and famine and they looked to Joseph as a model to which ordinary people could relate.

What better mentor for us during the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racism? During this past year so many people, like Joseph, have been challenged over and over to respond to their dear neighbors in unexpected, unimaginable ways. Like Joseph they listened; they dreamed; they paid attention to where God was calling them. Like Joseph they continue to respond to the call to put plans aside without a clue about what might happen next.

[1] All quotes are from the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* of the Holy Father Francis on the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. Given in Rome, at Saint John Lateran

[2] Constitution, Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, Spirit and Purpose, pg. 24

[3] Règlements of the Daughters of St. Joseph, Goal of the Association, circa 1650

[4] Fr. Jean-Pierre Médaille, SJ, was the spiritual guide of the first Sisters of St. Joseph.

[5] See https://www.ssjphila.org/home/about-us/our-history/why-joseph/article "Why Joseph" Roberta Archibald, SSJ, and Dolores Clerico, SSJ

Ascension Day – May 21, 2020

By Jeanne Leahy, CSJ, Resident of
Bethany Health Care Center

The day was warm, the sun so bright
When much to all of our delight –
After lunch, we could go out!
Thank You God for that "good news,"
Certainly, fresh air we all can use!

The experience was one of sheer delight!
God provided such a beautiful sight.
Right away I noticed the snow white tree
A fruit tree beautiful to see!

And as I strolled along the path
I spied the peonies,
Their blossoms about to open.
Our next time out I hope to see
Their gorgeous blossoms bursting free!

But, the thing that delighted me the most
Was to greet the sisters we haven't seen
Since the beginning of "quarantine."
All had different degrees of awe,
Drinking in the great beauty they saw.

So now I ask You as I ponder –
Do You think (like the apostles) that we know
The very deep awe the real Ascension did show?
At any rate Loving God –
Thank You for this amazing Ascension Day!
May You continue to bless us on the way!

Ascension has a new meaning for me –
To move out of darkness, Your beauty to see
In nature, in others, but always in Thee!!

Book Review

By Carol K. Coburn, Ph.D.
Professor Emerita in Religious Studies and Women's Studies
Director of the CSJ Heritage Center, Avila University

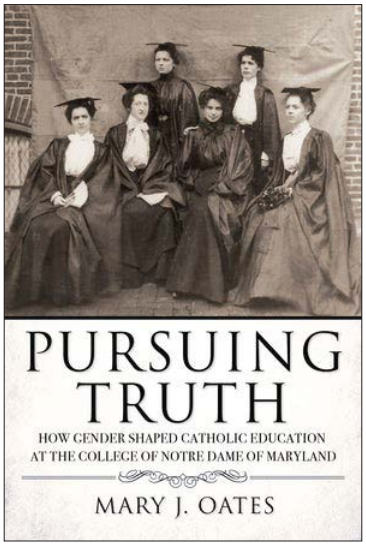
Carol K. Coburn, Ph.D.

New Book by Mary J. Oates, CSJ

Pursuing Truth

How Gender Shaped Catholic Education at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland

Catholic women's colleges inhabit a unique place in the history of women and US Catholic history in the 20th century. Through the lens of gender, scholar Mary J. Oates has written a moving and powerful book, *Pursuing Truth: How Gender Shaped Catholic Education at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland*. This book serves as a substantial and noteworthy finale for the series, *The Cushwa Center Studies of Catholicism in 20th Century America* published by Cornell University Press.



Founded by the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1895, the College of Notre Dame of Maryland (now Notre Dame of Maryland University) became the first Catholic women's college in the United States to provide a four-year bachelor's degree. Although Oates tells the story of the SSND's challenges in building the college, the broad context of her narrative mirrors the stories of many sister schools who came after. Barred from Catholic men's colleges, ridiculed by clergy for attending Protestant or secular colleges, young Catholic women struggled to find their place and opportunity in higher education in the United States. Meeting the moment, Catholic sisters moved into the void, providing quality liberal arts and later professional studies degrees for Catholic women. As the 20th century progressed, sisters adapted practically and creatively to the changing cultural and religious prerogatives of the times.

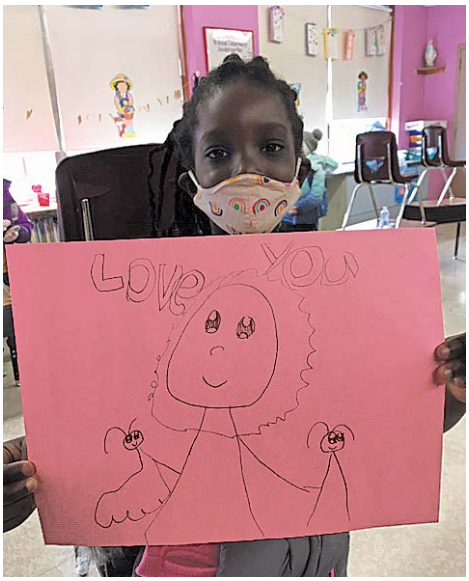
This is a story of adaptation and change within the context of anti-Catholic prejudice, sex, race, ethnic, and class discrimination. It highlights the gendered culture of higher education and women's changing role as the country struggles with cultural and religious tensions that surfaced at every turn. The financial limitations, in particular, shaped the story of how women and women's institutions were devalued, ignored, and at times sabotaged in the name of religious and cultural purity as defined by a patriarchal church and society.

For those interested in the history of US Catholicism, the history of women religious, and the sisters' enormous influence in American society, *Pursuing Truth* provides a clear path to delineate the importance of higher education for Catholic women, the uphill struggle simply to exist and survive, and the courage and perseverance that Catholic women's congregations demonstrated, again and again, to make it a reality. Mary J. Oates has written a fascinating and engaging narrative of the massive influence and contributions of Catholic women's colleges, embedding it into the larger context of American life in the 20th century.

What Have the Children Taught Me?

By Charlene Favreau, CSJ

Charlene Favreau, CSJ, assists a student with her worksheet



This student asked if she could draw a picture during the last few minutes of class.

HARDSHIPS

- Children learning to sacrifice for the common good
- No bookcases
- No group tables
- Coat closets closed
- All belongings in backpack on back of chair
- Designated COVID room
- Cafeteria closed
- Eat lunch at desk
- Teachers' room vacant
- Learning games packed away
- Water fountains turned off
- Masked teachers directing drop-offs
- No sharing of toys
- No faculty prayer at 7:30am
- Zoom faculty meetings
- Assemblies abandoned
- No singing
- High 5s replaced by elbow touches

And so, how is my heart changing in this year of the pandemic? What are the words that bubble up in me? What is it that makes the door of my heart open wider in the day-to-day circumstances of teaching?

I find the words presence, generosity, alliances, relationship and creativity bubbling up in me.

For one, presence stands out to me. Surely we feel that we are comfortable with striving to be present to the moment. However, this special year has stretched me to be more receptive to the circumstances of teachers, children and families. The sudden closing of Catholic schools in the area left students and teachers scrambling for a faith-based school and for a job.

I ask myself, have I ever lost my job, or had to worry about how I could feed my family? I have listened well and prayed for them as they told their plight of sudden unemployment. Many have given years of service to Catholic education. What of the families left looking for a school for their child? They, too, were thrown into a transition and a search right in the middle of the pandemic. These are the real stories living in a year of pandemic. Their stories have inspired and stretched me.

What have the children taught me in this time? How have they changed my heart?

Words like COVID-19, vaccines, quarantine, sanitizer, and distancing have become what first graders write about when they do creative writing. These are the words that are on their minds. Even when the topic is of an imaginative nature, you can bet COVID comes into play. One little guy asked me to spell Corona and he said, "I want the Corona Virus." I said, "You want the Virus?" He said, "I am not finished with my sentence. I want the Corona Virus GONE."

I want the Corona Virus GONE

Grade 1 Student

Charlene Favreau, CSJ, records contact tracing info as students arrive each morning.

POSITIVE THEMES

+ Children learning to sacrifice for the common good
+ Many on honor roll
+ Fresh air every day
+ Tutoring before school
+ Homework club
+ New adventures in communicating via technology
+ Outreach to local hospital
+ Stocked the Lowell food pantry
+ Helped provide Thanksgiving meals to struggling families
+ Vaccine rollout! Children are happy
+ School is safe and caring
+ Teachers there each day

We as teachers find ourselves seeking ways to be creative in the classroom. With all games, toys, gathering spaces and rugs stored, it is a stretching time for all. And yet, we hear day after day from the children that they love school. School is providing them with a safe, caring environment in a time of uncertainty.

A time to gather as a faculty has not been possible this year. Of course, Zoom has provided us with some connection and a time for faculty meetings, but a void persists.

Prior to the pandemic, faculty all gathered for morning prayer at 7:30 am. This was a short time, but it gave us the opportunity to share in a sacred space. Now I see faces of newly hired faculty on Zoom and I feel that we have not had the opportunity to meet. I find myself making an effort to go out of my way to meet them, even if only with a wave.

New alliances have been formed in this time of pandemic. These have been graced moments for students, families and faculty. Everyone has sacrificed for the common good. Some of these alliances have been with Lowell General Hospital, First Responders, the Salvation Army, the Lowell Food Bank and the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. In times of the greatest concern our families give from their own need. This too, has moved my heart.

ALL ON HOLD

- Field trips
- Group projects
- Sports programs
- Art and science exhibits
- Christmas fair
- Graduation
- Class night
- Parish picnic
- Monthly liturgies

Charlene Favreau, CSJ, with a Kindergarten student

Ministry During the Pandemic

The pandemic has changed how we do almost everything. During this past year, our sisters, associates, agrégées, and partners in mission have adjusted plans, found new ways to be a unifying presence among others, and continued to assure our CSJ mission is alive in our world.

Barbara McHugh, CSJ, second from left, pauses with students at Arlington Catholic High School.

Barbara McHugh, CSJ

Campus Minister, Arlington Catholic High School

COVID-19 has certainly made a difference in my ministry as Campus Minister and Teacher at Arlington Catholic. Google Meet and Zoom calls take place every day. The hybrid model (one class in school live while the others learn remotely from home) is the norm. Lessons and Grading are challenging, but we are doing the best that we can. I try to respond to each student with a stance of unifying love by talking to them and reaching out with care and concern.

The grace of smaller live classes enables me to get to know more students on a personal level and have chance conversations, prayer times and daily encounters with students and staff. Virtual Prayer Services, Masses, and Catholic Schools Week activities are challenging, but we continue to give the students a sense of God's love for all. I have taken advantage of Zoom calls and programs to learn new methods and teaching with my students. As my Lenten gift to myself, I participated in the Hesburgh Renewal Program at Catholic Theological Union. This program offered me new zest for life to bring to my students.

Rosemary Brennan, CSJ, continues her ministry of spiritual direction via Zoom during the pandemic. Her ministry expands as Zoom offers the option of meeting with directees throughout the world.

Rosemary Brennan, CSJ

St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries

The experience of this past year definitely shaped and reshaped my heart in many unexpected and surprising ways. I was continually humbled by listening and hearing from those I accompanied in spiritual direction as to how courageously they were responding to the ongoing disruptions in their lives and the way God was ever present with them.

Another reshaping for me was witnessing and engaging with the amazing folks at our college who heroically responded to all the challenges this pandemic presented and then engaged in honest soul searching to name racial injustice, seek transformation, and strive to be a place of inclusivity. And these are just two of many ways my heart was reshaped.

As Sisters of St. Joseph "we strive in every aspect of our lives to be for others a visible sign of God's presence and active love." Personally, I have to say in the course of this year I was the beneficiary of experiencing "God's presence and active love" through others. Such a rich blessing!

Marianne and a student share a wave and a smile in the midst of the school day.

Marianne Miller in her office at The Park School.

Marianne Miller, CSJ Agrégée

Business Bookkeeper, The Park School

The back of my work area is a wall of clear glass that I look through to a glass-enclosed corridor and then an outside courtyard with two scraggly old trees and a glimpse of sky. It's been very quiet most of these pandemic months continuing to work as school bookkeeper and often, quite alone, reflecting how our charism might be at work simply in the midst of all the paperwork.

That corridor, though, brings me joy now as once a week fidgety young students are lined up and waiting their turn to get their nasal swabs for COVID-19 testing down the hall. Protected as I am, I get to make eye contact and give them a wave and, without any mask, a big smile. Very often, I'll get a wave back, and that makes me happy.

It's such a small gesture, but maybe that's enough to keep our charism of unifying love alive and well; simple gestures in the midst of simple work. Don't you think that Joseph, in his work as a carpenter, also had these moments of simple human contact? I do. I think he would have appreciated something as simple as a wave and a smile.

Diane prepares clothing packs as part of "The Giving Tree at Home" project.

Diane Neumyer, CSJ

Volunteer at The Giving Factory

When I retired in 2013, I spent many hours in prayerful discernment thinking about where I wanted to volunteer. In September, I ran into Carlotta Gilarde, CSJ, in the Arsenal Mall parking lot. As we discussed this, a car rolled by with a "Cradles to Crayons" sticker in the window. We had our answer and began working at The Giving Factory in Brighton the next week.

Shortly after, The Giving Factory moved to its new location in Newton. However, the Coronavirus necessitated the creation of a new program. The Giving Tree at Home invites volunteers to safely pick up supplies at the loading dock. Since June, 1600+ clothing packs have been assembled for Massachusetts children in need. Like Joseph, I didn't have a clue what the future held. Working with children has been the joy of my life. This service has been a way for me to continue the mission.

Courtney McSparron and a resident of Bethany Hill Place in the COVID-compliant activity center.

Courtney McSparron

Program Director, Bethany Hill Place

At the start of the pandemic, I beat myself up too much. People needed help – I could do more. I had more time – I could start something new, tackle things I had been putting off. But I couldn't get myself to do any of these things. I realized, slowly, that I was dealing with the chaos, instability, and uncertainty of a global crisis and I deserved my patience and care – and so did everyone else. This epiphany has made me a better program director and person during this strange time. I realize we are all doing the best we can. There is no way anyone can know how this time is affecting them fully, because so much is changing so fast. With added humility for myself and tenderness for others, I am making it.

Responding to Food Insecurity – Then and Now

by Katie McNally, CSJ Archivist

Our Archives Tell the Story …

Archives can reveal the ripple effect of actions over time. After reading October's *Artifact of the Month* article, which featured photographs of students collecting scrap metal for the 1940s war effort, multiple sisters said, "I remember doing that!" How many of these "scrappers" grew to become empathetic social workers, teachers, nurses, activists and volunteers?

Sister Mary Olive chats with South End neighbors outside the Cathedral [GLOBE STAFF/FILE]

Icons of Social Justice

Like many in the 1960s who heard the call of Vatican II to serve the most marginalized, Sr. Mary Olive Williams and Sr. Eustace Caggiano modeled love of neighbor in a profound way. A teacher and a cook, they were called beyond their job descriptions and began ministering to neighbors of Boston's Cathedral parish in the South End of Boston – a community which faced food insecurity and material poverty rooted in xenophobia, systemic racism, and the poverty cycle.

In the 1970s, while teaching at the Cathedral elementary school, Sr. Mary Olive took on many outside activities. She became creative and entrepreneurial in providing resources for families struggling to make ends meet. Sr. Mary Olive's young students had taught her about their experience of hunger and poor living conditions, often ignored by city officials. She was moved to action in a quiet way, insisting no one take notice of her shouldering large grocery bags along Harrison Avenue and up and down Monsignor Reynolds Way, and delivering to residents of the Cathedral Housing Project. Her humble disposition left a scarcity of archival records – and so this history relies on the memories of sisters such as Mary Black, CSJ, who shared stories with me.

Cathedral Convent

In 1962, Sr. Eustace Caggiano was missioned to the Cathedral convent kitchen. Convent cooks were not afforded the higher education which other sisters enjoyed and were sometimes the subject of prejudice. As she remembered, "In those days, you know, the cook wasn't allowed to do everything. She had to stay in the house … and do cooking." But after 26 years of cooking, this kitchen assignment would be her last. She befriended her Spanish-speaking neighbors, many of whom had emigrated from Puerto Rico into mainland poverty. Sr. Eustace began offering food to children at the convent's back door, and even had the convent yard paved with asphalt to provide them a space for

Sister Eustace Caggiano in her office at the Cardinal Cushing Resource Center in 1995. [GLOBE STAFF/FILE]

homework and play. Soon, she ministered full-time at El Centro del Cardenal, the Cathedral's Hispanic Apostolate.

Over the years, her ministry expanded to managing a food, furniture and clothing center which aided immigrant families of many backgrounds. She sponsored refugee families from Southeast Asia and gained a reputation as a friend to the new Bostonian.

In these stories we see seeds of today's Congregation Ministries which seek to assist people who face disproportionate challenges simply because of the color of their skin, their mother language, their country of origin or neighborhood in which they grew up. As part of a mostly-white religious congregation, Sr. Mary Olive and Sr. Eustace set an inspirational example of shared responsibility for the common good. A teacher and a cook could have reacted to the poverty around them by saying, "That's not my job." Instead, both sisters heard the voices of the marginalized and they responded. And what a ripple effect that created!

The Ripple Effect in 2020-2021 Pandemic Times …

We could share many stories of how this ripple effect has continued throughout the years and particularly through the recent pandemic.

Here is a glimpse of how that continues to happen in Brighton and beyond. Throughout the pandemic sisters, associates, agrégées and partners in mission have donated food and gift cards to The Literacy Connection. These have been distributed not only through the back door of The Literacy Connection but also on street corners and in parking lots throughout the neighborhood. Patricia Cushing, CSJ, is among those who volunteer to feed their neighbors in other areas of Greater Boston. Similar initiatives continue this ripple effect of quietly partnering with others to alleviate food insecurity. By their very nature, many of these "back door" stories have gone untold and un-photographed.

Pictured top to bottom:
A neighbor receives a gift card for groceries from Pat Andrews, CSJ, at the back door of The Literacy Connection.

Maria, a resident in the neighborhood, stops by for a few groceries donated to The Literacy Connection.

Patricia Cushing, CSJ, during her volunteer ministry at Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc. in Devens, MA.

Still Living the Dream

By Cathy Clifford, CSJ

Top to bottom: Honorees Mary Ann Jordan and the Honorable Regina Quinlan Doherty

There was no clinking of glasses, no hugging, no joyful personal reconnecting, but somehow we managed to be in close proximity to one another and to our Host, Karen Holmes Ward, from WCVB, Channel 5, our President, Lee Hogan, CSJ, our honorees Mary Ann Jordan and the Honorable Regina Quinlan Doherty and to all who joined us virtually.

We listened to the prayer, to the testimonies of women who have been helped through The Literacy Connection, The Women's Table, Casserly House and St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries. We listened and we were touched. So much good has been done. We listened and felt we were there.

Many sat a little teary-eyed (or a lot), as our sisters sang *Sancte Joseph*. Their singing of this well-loved hymn continues to fill us up and touch our hearts. What very good women they are. And, on another note, the very real care and love of Mary Black, CSJ, and the CSJ Community by Jim Carmody, was touching and tangible. What an example he is to others.

The welcome and the prayer by Lee Hogan, CSJ, were warm and inclusive. Through their words of introduction for Regina and Mary Ann, Cathy Clifford, CSJ, and Dennis Leonard brought these two women to life. They filled in the profile of these women in unique and endearing terms. As usual, Gail Donahue, CSJ, brought smiles to our faces, tugs to our wallets and hope to our hearts.

Most of all, there is you. All of you who are reading this article, who watched this Gala on March 25th and who may have contributed your time, your talent and/or your treasure. How good you are to us! Truly! You have been with us for many years on the journey. You are faithful, kind and generous and we are grateful. The funds that came from you in the amount of **$1,000,000+** are incredible. You gave what you could. You gave from the heart and make no mistake, we are touched. **Thank you so very, very much!**

To view the virtual gala
follow the QR code here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch-nIF6_pGk

Our online virtual chorus continue the tradition of singing and playing *Sancte Joseph* at the end of each gala. Images include sisters and agrégées from throughout the congregation as well as sisters at St. Joseph Hall and Fontbonne Convent.

An Interview with Representative Kevin Honan

By Carol Mack

The Privilege of Serving Our Community

Rep. Kevin Honan with Sisters Carlotta Gilarde, Betty Cawley and Pat Andrews at the Massachusetts State House in 2016

Just a few days prior to my interview with Kevin Honan, I bumped into him by chance at our Virtual Living the Dream Meet and Greet! This should not have surprised me as Kevin is a familiar presence supporting and attending so many of our events. And so, I am delighted to introduce Representative Kevin Honan, longest serving member of the MA House of Representatives as well as a great friend to the Sisters of St. Joseph!

Born and raised in Allston/Brighton, he still lives with his wife, Colleen, and daughter, Molly, here, in this district that he serves. Kevin was educated by our sisters at St. Columbkille's School as were his mother, Mary, siblings, Brian and Clare, and his godparents. Colleen was also taught by our sisters at Cardinal Spellman High School. He remembers how the sisters' instruction in race, immigration, slavery, poverty and injustice helped him to develop the strong sense of social justice that informs his work today. Recently, he stood side by side with the sisters at a local vigil against racial injustice.

Kevin recalls how the sisters responded with prayers, visits and consolation when tragedy struck his family with the death of his beloved brother, Brian. The Honan family responded to this tragedy by building a living memorial, a community resource – The Brian J. Honan Charitable Fund, which supports education, recreation, housing and healthcare on a local and national level.

Kevin's relationship with the sisters has lasted through the years. I asked him why. He explained that the sisters are like family. What they do, how they minister to the community resonates with what he believes and works to achieve in his own life. "They work tirelessly to help the community. As some of the first residents of this area, they have taken leadership roles, stepping in where there is a need." He referenced The Literacy Connection and The Women's Table in particular and the way sisters have worked in education, healthcare, outreach to the homeless and more.

Kevin joined Sisters Denise Kelly, Zita Fleming, Maureen Doherty, Rita Welch and other local community partners in serving a Thanksgiving meal to neighbors in need in a pre-pandemic time.

The numerous awards Kevin has received for his public service attest to his compassion, devotion and attention to needs of "the dear neighbor," especially in his concern for the issues of housing in the Commonwealth. For seventeen years he chaired the Legislative Housing Committee addressing statewide issues, including homelessness and affordable housing and issues of poverty. He truly believes, as do our sisters, in **"the privilege of serving our community."**

Mission Advancement

By Carol Mack
Director, Mission Advancement

Friends & Partners

Friends … one of the greatest joys in life! We are so grateful to have so many generous and loyal friends! You are more than friends, you are truly our partners as we work toward unity and love for our "dear neighbor."

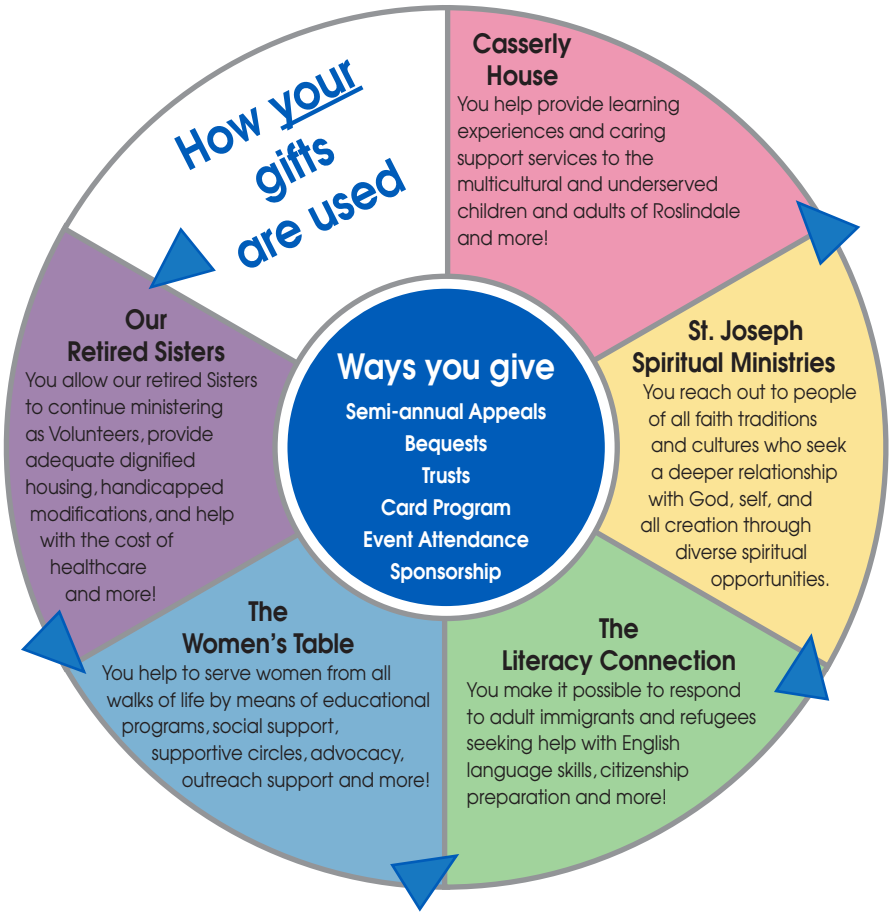
The best part of my day is talking with you when you call to order cards, ask a question, or share news, and I love the notes you send in with your donations and read each one. It is inspiring to see how much the sisters have touched your lives and the lives of your loved ones.

We keep you all in our prayers.

Keep In Touch

Would you like to know more about the sisters in between issues of *the MORE…*? We are happy to send you our free monthly E-Newsletter. Just email Karen Yee, the editor at Karen.yee@csjboston.org.

You can also visit our website at www.csjboston.org for up-to-date listing of events and activities or to make a donation or by scanning this QR code



It's All Because of YOU!

$1,000,000+

Yes, that is the amount of money that was given
to the Sisters of St. Joseph
at our most recent Living the Dream event.
How blessed are we and how thankful we are
to all of the people who contributed to this.
Your gifts, both large and small, are so valued.
Please know that we will, and do, pray
for each and every one of you.
You have really touched our hearts
and we are so very grateful.
Sisters of St. Joseph

If you were not able to be at our March 25th event you can view it on our website or by scanning this code

A Dream Come True

Yes, we had an enjoyable, engaging and gratifying Living the Dream event – even though it was Virtual! We are indeed grateful to each of you who joined us.

However, as you can probably imagine, there were many "behind the scenes" people who contributed to this great success. They are the committee who met for months planning every detail.

These men and women gave of their time, ideas, connections and enthusiasm and spent many hours meeting over Zoom!! We are so grateful for their generous support and enthusiasm to help spread our mission.

The Committee

Mary Black, CSJ
Jim Carmody
Cathy Clifford, CSJ
Eileen Connors
James Curvey
C. Michael Daley
Regina Quinlan Doherty
Gail Donahue, CSJ
Ralph Fuccillo
Joanne Gallagher, CSJ
Jeanmarie Gribaudo, CSJ
John Harrington
Lee Hogan, CSJ
Barry Hynes
Mary Ann Jordan
Nora Kennedy
Tara Kenney
Dennis Leonard
Rick Lord
Carol Mack
Joe Nolan
Robert O'Neill
John Remondi
Ron Rodericks
John White
Frances Wool, CSJ
And …
Carol McKean, Consultant
Karen Holmes Ward, WCVB TV-5, Emcee
Tippingpoint Labs, production

Tribute Cards

Many of our friends choose to celebrate the lives of loved ones with one of our tribute cards. Cards are available "In Memory of" to remember the deceased and for other occasions to honor the living. The Sisters of St. Joseph remember in their prayers both the recipient and the donor. All donations are acknowledged.

Displayed here is a selection of card designs available. A full list of cards is available on our website www.csjboston.org

To order please indicate how many of each card you wish on the line by the card's title

___ 1 Madonna and Child
___ 2 Resurrection
___ 3 Morning Rose
___ 4 God
___ 5 St. Joseph
___ 6 Rose by the Ocean
___ 7 Happy Birthday Cypress
___ 8 Celebrate Life
___ 9 Tulips
___ 10 St. Joseph Cohasset
___ 11 St. Joseph with Pansies
___ 12 Carmel Lilies
___ 13 Ships in the Harbor
___ 14 Spring
___ 15 Swan Boats
___ 16 Get Well Iris
___ 17 Get Well Wildflowers
___ 18 Congratulations
___ 20 Remembered in Prayer
___ 21 Thank You

Cards may be ordered by visiting our website **www.csjboston.org** or by sending this form to:

Carol Mack
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
637 Cambridge Street
Brighton, MA 02135
Or email her at:
carol.mack@csjboston.org

Name _____

Address _____

_____

City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

In Memory of

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Birthday

6

7

8

Blank

9

Remembered In Prayer

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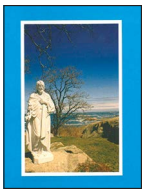
In Honor of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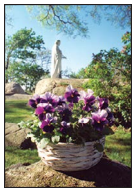
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Thinking of You

14

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Get Well

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17

Congratulations

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Thank you

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God of Great Love,
Your son, Jesus, was nurtured by St. Joseph.
May we look to Joseph as our model of justice,
gentleness, and humility.
May we, with Joseph, nurture the life of Christ
in our lives and in the lives of others
Uniting all people and all creation
with God and with one another.
May Joseph's life inspire us
to be a hopeful, healing presence
within our world.
Amen.

– Joanne Gallagher, CSJ

Cover Art: *Saint Joseph Patron of the Universal Church (2021)*
By Brother Michael O'Neill McGrath, OSFS
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