

Connections

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SISTERS, ASSOCIATES AND STAFF
OF THE CONGREGATION OF ST. JOSEPH



Photo by Sr.
Karen Van de
Walle

THE EASTER SEASON - NEW HOPE

Our Easter journey offers us moments of insight if we look for them and live in them. Small sacrifices of love and service bring us closer to each other and closer to the realization of just how loved we are by God. A profound darkness may present itself sometimes but, just as we do during each day of Holy Week, we surrender and trust in God and, suddenly, new hope is born. Jesus taught us that love is infinite - we will never run out. And if and when love takes root and grows in surprising ways - ways that we never could have foreseen - this is when we witness, with awe, the true wonder of God's plan. Look for the many things in creation that we have been entrusted to love and protect and care for. Trust that God's hand will guide you in all that you do. Your heart will always be full.



S. Cynthia Sabathier,
Cherry Riggs, Jo Dale
Ales



Marla Silverberg, S.
Joan Laplace



S. Adele Lambert
Cherry Riggs



Dana Murray, Holly
Randow, S. Adelaide
Williamson



Debbie Gelpi, Elise
Fryou, S. Anna
Schellhaus



S. Evelyn Mee and
her sister, Associate
Juanita Bozeman



Opening Prayer
Service



Elise Fryou, Ann
Bertsch, S. Frances
Landry



Josephine Orgah, S.
Sandra Blanchard



Sandy Brown and
Sharon McCarthy at
the Info Table



Debbie Gelpi, Mari
Tremminello, S.
Adele



Service Day began with an Opening
Prayer Service



Sorting snacks
from the collection



Kristy Roubique, S. Cynthia Sabathier,
Katherine Cambre

Baton Rouge Associates and Sisters took part in a Service and Fellowship Day in April at Hundred Oaks. Associates began with a prayer service, then spent the morning visiting and working with the Sisters, including enjoying light refreshments and learning about CSJ ministries. The service project involved collecting (and sorting) snacks, necessities and monies for donation to our Dear Neighbors at the St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room.



(Left and below) As an Easter service project, Sisters in **Wheeling** gathered to assemble cheerful Easter baskets for outreach programs at the Laughlin Chapel. Easter baskets for Students in the Afterschool Program in East Wheeling held sweet candies and joyful, encouraging cards from the Sisters. Unsheltered women in the Blossom program received "Uplift Your Spirit" Easter bags. "Spirit" bags included basic necessities, such as socks and lotion, but added special items like candy and makeup to enjoy as holiday treats.

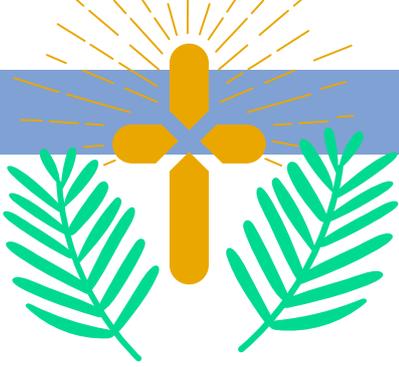


(Right) Living A Life of Compassionate Service in La Grange Park - During Fridays in Lent, the Sisters living in Joseph House in La Grange Park gather with **Jackie Schmitz CSJ** and **Carol Crepeau CSJ** to pray, reflect, share and act. The Gospel of Matthew 25 - when I was hungry, thirsty, homeless, naked, sick, in prison - was the source for this gathering. This text is sometimes called the “no excuses teaching of Jesus” because, no matter what our situation in life, Jesus calls us to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need.



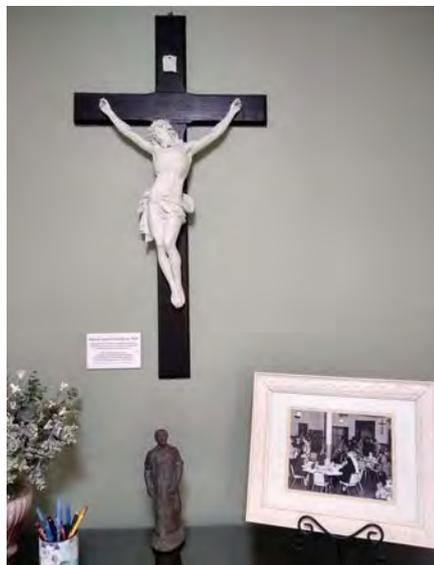
In the photos, participants are gifting some of their best and favorite clothes to those who need them ... no excuses!

Above: **S. Pat Willems, Fr. Joe Dowling and S. Michele Elfering; S. Janet Bolger**



Holy Week

Sisters **Kathy Brazda** and **Sarah Simmons**, along with **Father Stan Chu Ilo**, participate in the Holy Thursday ritual of feet washing during Mass at our center in La Grange Park. The ritual symbolizes humility and service and highlights those on society's margins. Father Stan, who officiated the Mass, is a priest of Awgu Diocese, Nigeria and a research professor of World Christianity and African Studies at the Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology at DePaul University in Chicago.



(Left) Sr. **Marcella Clancy** was invited to preach at the Good Friday liturgy at Gesu Parish (Detroit). To hear her inspiring talk, you may access the livestream video on Gesu's Facebook page.

(Center) In Cleveland, many remember the crucifix that hung in the Main Dining Room of the old Motherhouse. The crucifix was carefully stored during construction and the move, and it was recently resurrected and displayed in time for Easter. It holds a place of honor outside the new Main Dining Room, along with photos and artifacts from its original spot.

(Right) Sisters **Henrietta Hibbs**, **Julie Cannon**, **Mary Lou Sterling**, and **Michele Elfering** put their finishing touches on the Easter eggs they colored for Easter Sunday. Beautiful!

Our Sacred Work

Sr. Valerie Binder of Nazareth was so moved by the tragedy and chaos of the people in the Ukraine, she volunteered to serve at a Humanitarian Aid center in Poland. She traveled with a group of 20 others from her parish, St. Clare of Montefalco in Grosse Pointe near Detroit, and together they served at a center in Przemysl, Poland from April 4 to 13.

There, she cleaned and prepared overnight and living spaces for the endless wave of refugees, people shocked and worn by their sudden displacement as a result of Russia's invasion of their country.



Sr. Valerie remembers of her time there, "It was heartbreaking to see the busses coming in, constantly full of women, children and the elderly, carrying what they could or dragging suitcases, some crying, all looking dazed. I pray every night for them and that the Holy Spirit moves to put an end to this war."

We pray for them, and for ALL the victimized and oppressed of the world, that they may know SAFETY and PEACE.



Wheeling recently welcomed two new Associates... **Kathy Muscari** (left) and **Rose Marie "Ro" DeBias** (right) made commitments as CSJ Associates.

Wheeling also welcomed two new residents to the Wheeling Center - **Sr. Joan Kreyenbuhl** arrived from Parkersburg, WV and **Sr. Evelyn LaGory** moved from Cincinnati, OH.

The Sisters and Wheeling Community celebrate the new faces and look forward to spending many happy shared times together with them.

The Congregation of St. Joseph Sustainability Committee, once again, participated in the Save Our Monarchs program by offering free milkweed seeds to Sisters, Associates and employees at each of our Centers. Monarchs act as pollinators, an essential part of our food chain, and without pollinators, food supplies suffer. One out of three bites of all the food you eat is there **because** of pollinators. Milkweed is the only source of food for the Monarch caterpillar, and because of land development and the widespread use of weedkiller, both the Monarch butterfly and milkweed plants are down by 90% from their 1992 numbers.



By planting the seeds in our gardens and containers, we are helping the sustainability of this precious resource and its impact on food supplies. In addition, this year's packets have a QR code on it that allows you to enter the address where you plant your seeds to track the progress of the Congregation's plantings.

You may check to see if seeds are still available at your Center, but if you would like to order them from the organization, they are available at www.saveourmonarchs.org. Their website offers an option of how to order free seeds by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the organization's address.

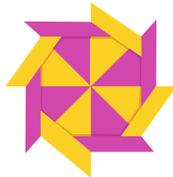


La Grange Sustainability members prepare packets of milkweed seeds for Earth Day distribution. Standing are Associates, **Linda Matonich**, **Diane Constantine**, and **Sr. Juli de Tarnowsky**; sitting **Sr. Frankie Dutil** and Associate, **Pat Collins**.





Sisters were invited to come sign the beam which will be installed in the new Student Commons building, currently under construction. Seen above, left to right: **Sr. Joan Laplace, Sr. Lucy Silvio, Sr. Dianne Fanguy, Sr. Anna Schellhaus, Sr. CynthiaSabbathier, Sr. Evelyn Mee, Sr. Frances Landry, Sr. Chris Pologa and Sr. Adele Lambert**



In Cleveland, **Sr. Carrie Vall**, seen here with **Sr. Rita Petruziello** and **S. Hope Greener**, held an art class at the Center. **Sr. June Hansen** (center) and **Sr. Madeline Lammermeier** and **Sr. Carrie Vall** (right) display their beautiful spring-themed projects, complete with butterflies.



In Wheeling, Sisters had a spring wreath craft day, intermixing colors, ribbons and trims to brighten their doors and rooms. **Sr. Ruthann Scherer**, (left) **Srs. Joan Singer and Caroline Benken** (center) and **Sr. Evelyn LaGory** (right) show just a few of their many outstanding creations made that day.



Outings



Sisters, residents and staff from Mount St. Mary toured the “Old Mount” located on the property of the Mount St. Mary Center and currently used by St. Francis Ministries. There were several comments made on how clean the building was and how wonderful that the space continues to be put to great use. Seen above, seated, **S. Zita Oberle, Joann Wenzl, Angie Baaman, Sr. Martina White**, (standing) **Rebecca Kelly, Shirley Besette, S. Connie Beiriger, Steve Trevette** and **S. Anne Dolores LaPlante**.

With the end of winter and the start of spring, Sisters have had a chance to venture to nearby points of interest and celebrate spring events. (Top left photo) Sisters in **Baton Rouge** enjoyed a tour of the Old State Capital - **Kristy Roubique, S. Lucy Silvio, S. Anna Schellhaus** and **S. Julie Kraemer**. (Top right)



Opening Day in **Cleveland**, Sisters watched the game on the big screen with appropriate baseball snacks and team clothing. **Sr. Delphine Kennedy, Sr. Dorothy Turk, S. Mary Hough,** and **S. Pat Finn**.



Above, lower photos: **Sr. Mary Ann Rosenbaum, Sr. Kathleen Durkin** and **Sr. Carmella Campione** made a day trip to Godaway Farms in Belmont County, Ohio to visit former MSJ employee, **Shannon Works**, and her nine new baby goats. **Sr. Mary Ann Rosenbaum, Sr. Kathleen Durkin**, and one of the sweet baby goats.