that we create the future
As we move with the Spirit
in giving full expression
to our giftedness as women in the Church
Sharing equally in its mission—
In living a life that is simple
  prayerful
  courageous and
  compassionate —
in proclaiming with prophetic voice
the Gospel to all people—
in strengthening our corporateness
as women in community—
in demonstrating our belief
in the dignity of the human person
and the call to secure this dignity
for all women and men—
in expressing our solidarity
with the poor and oppressed.

IN FAITH AND HOPE
WE ACCEPT
THE CHALLENGES
THESE BELIEFS IMPLY.

Sisters of St. Joseph • Brentwood, NY
— Vision Statement

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Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

This issue of Focusing is entitled “Moving the Mission Forward.” As Sisters of St. Joseph we firmly believe that our mission to love God and neighbor without distinction is critical to our world and the survival of our earth. In this season of Pentecost we rely on the Spirit to inspire us and give us the courage to continue to proclaim God’s word with passion and joy. As we see the conflict, exclusion, violence, domination and overconsumption in our world we realize that the message of love, unity and reconciliation, inherent in our mission, is desperately needed. This impels us to join with others and bring God’s compassion and healing where there is the greatest need.

Over the years our sisters, associates and colleagues have gathered in committees around specific areas of interest such as Justice and Non-Violence, Earth Matters, Technology and Liturgy and Retreat. Through their dedication, study and ongoing involvement they have moved us to use our influence to promote justice, counteract violence in its many forms, work for peace and take positive action to reverence and respect all of creation. As you read the articles in this issue you will see first-hand how the efforts of many continually challenge us to connect with other groups and associations to learn from them and share our mission.

At the end of this month our sisters and associates will gather with Ilia Delio, OSF Director of Catholic Studies at Georgetown University at our Convocation. In her book, The Unbearable Wholeness of Being, she describes a Eucharistic community as a “new energy field by which relationships generate new patterns of love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness.” We are each called to be “co-creative agents of love,” not only as individuals but connected as a community. We invite each one who reads this issue to unite with us in searching for new ways to live out the mission of Jesus expressed in the beatitudes of mercy, peace, charity and humility.

The Sisters of St. Joseph

FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONGREGATION COMMITTEES
Moving the Mission Forward

Jeanne McGorry, CSJ

Our Congregation has eight standing committees: Justice, Earth Matters, Non Violence, Wellness, Liturgy/Retreat, Technology, Formation and the Coordinating Committee, which has a representative from each of the other committees.

Several of the Committees have been in existence for over twenty-five years. They were formed to address a specific need in the Congregation and/or in society. The Non Violence Committee was formed by S. Chris Mulrey so that members could address violence issues in their own lives and then move to address societal issues. Chris also formed the Justice Committee, Earth Matters Committee and a Women’s Committee which now permeates the other committees. S. John Raymond McGann formed the Retreat Committee so that Sisters (now all our neighbors, co-workers, family members) can experience retreat on our properties at an affordable cost. The Liturgy Committee plans all major Congregational celebrations including Jubilees and the annual Mass for deceased Sisters. The Committee tries to keep the role of women front and center in these celebrations. S. Rose Matthew Lynett and Cynthia Parrett grounded the entire Congregation for years in sacred, joyful celebrations. Before their deaths they worked tirelessly with Sisters Pat Manning and Grace Edna Rowland to be sure all celebrations reflected the CSJ mission today. Both Grace and Patty continue to work with all of us to further that desire.

The Sisters for the years the committees have been in existence joined a committee around which they had a passion. Some Sisters have been on that committee for all of its existence. Some Sisters join for awhile, share their gifts and move on. Today all the committees have Associates and Co-ministers as part of their membership.

Seven years ago the committees started to meet once a year to meet together. Those gatherings have brought all of us to a better understanding of what each group is about. With a deeper understanding of what each group was doing we noticed we could be more helpful to one another. From Earth Matters, for example, we learned to be more mindful of our “footprint.” Our Justice Notes reflect what all the various groups believe in. As a Congregation we have been working tirelessly for immigration reform and better anti-trafficking laws.

This year’s Combined Committee Weekend was cancelled due to snow. Instead, we had a full day’s meeting with Mary Ragan as facilitator. Each committee was asked to give a report – but not the usual type report. We were encouraged to choose a venue that would bring the work of the committee to life and to show how that work had advanced our Chapter 2011 Directives. There were videos, music, movement and singing, all expressing the work accomplished by the sixty-five Sisters, Associate and Co-ministers representing all the committees. We came to recognize that all have been moving the mission forward and now, we are beginning to work as one.

As a follow up to the Combined Committee Day and S. Beth Johnson’s talk, “Ask the Beasts,” and the CSJ Convocation, Earth Matters would like to sponsor a Day of Contemplation as we ask “What is Earth saying to the Sisters of St. Joseph?” Our desire is that all the other committees will support the day knowing that all is one. Just as we recognize that justice and earth and ritual are one, we continue to work for Immigration reform and a place at the table for women and girls at all levels of society. Being on a committee is a vibrant experience. We continue to learn from one another and joined with so many others in the Congregation we are helping to move the mission forward.
COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Kathleen McKinney, CSJ

The concept of a collaborative structure has long been part of our congregational history. You may recall Mission Circles, SOGs and the Mission Board. Each structure was formed in response to the expressed desire of the congregation to meet around issues of importance.

In the fall of 2011, the newly elected Leadership Team convened the Coordinating Committee because it had become clear that much of the material that was presented for congregational prayer and discussion came from congregational committees that had emerged. Membership of this Coordinating Committee would include a representative from the Justice, Earth Matters, Liturgy, Vocation, Technology, Whole-Irving, Non-Violence committees. Membership also would include two members from the congregation at large and representatives of leadership. S. Jeanne McGorry acts as the chairperson.

The Coordinating Committee’s purpose is to enable leadership and membership in planning effective ways to engage one another around issues that will require discussion and decision making. The Committee meets monthly. Each meeting begins with a period of contemplative sitting followed by time for planning and developing ways for interaction with members of the congregation. To that end, each member of the community was invited to join a Conversation Group that focuses on material developed by the Coordinating Committee.

At present, the Coordinating Committee is working closely with the Preferred Future Planning Committee. We aim here to surface questions and material that was presented for congregational prayer and discussion around issues of importance. In the fall of 2011, the newly elected Leadership Team convened the Community Planning initiative.

other issues that have surfaced as we contemplate our Preferred Future Planning Committee and the community at large about conversation groups and the page is used to facilitate communication between the Coordinating Committee’s page.

On our community website -brentwoodcsj.org- there is a menu link for into the future. ing possibilities to insure the vitality of our mission as we move together with members of the congregation to access the Coordinating Committee’s page.

From our diverse places of ministry in the early 1980’s, we brought the concerns of our neighborhoods, our country, and the increasingly interconnected world of nations. Drug and gun violence, violence stemming from racial and gender bias, nuclear proliferation on our planet and nascent proposals to militarize outer space as earth already was, got our attention. All the while we did not lose sight of the critical need to become the change we wanted to see – the need to address the violence of heart and tongue in our own daily living. And so committee members took the vow of non-violence proposed by Pax Christi USA.

To the present, we continue our quest to “be” as much as to “do” the work of justice and non-violence. S. Karen Cavanagh, alluding to the Statue of Liberty, spoke of Brentwood CSJ’s as a union of five hundred women declaring solidarity with people on the edge. We hold up the light of welcome as we stand with them. The sign on the front gate of St. Joseph’s Convent says it all. Our membership in the CSJ Federation Justice committee has also been an important channel for our evolution toward oneness with other daughters of Joseph. S. Pat Lucas, a founding member and current representative, remarked that our passion for justice connects CSJ congregations around the country like a river carrying what each of us does individually and corporately to a deeper life-giving well.

Because we recognize that we can collude with the coverts as well as the overt violence in our society, our self-revelation during the committee sharing acknowledged what we repent of and hope to transform: gun violence, human trafficking, spending on military operations in the Americas and around the world; an abusive prison and detention system and more.

Reflecting on these years gave rise to remembrance, celebration and the passionate belief that action for peace may yet flow like a river and have a fresh priority of sharing our life, and learning from others is alive and the door is open to next steps which are both challenges and opportunities for our committees.

We dedicate this reflection to the cloud of witnesses who “ran the race” with us from the early days and have “won the crown”: Sisters Chrissie Mulready; Francis Teresa O’Riley; Mary Bradley; Rosarine Quinn; and Ms. Mary Ellen McLoughlin.
“In our time we are citizens of the planet, technology has made us all neighbors.”

—CSJ Chapter 2011

We live in a time that no generation before us has experienced. It is a time when we have developed the technology to see our earth from outer space—a time when we have the technology to enable us to change our entire perspective of who we are and to see ourselves as a part of a living planet, undivided by artificial boundaries and united in shared life with all peoples and with all other creatures.

We, the Sisters of St. Joseph, have the technology to communicate instantly across the planet and the technology to truly be “dear neighbors.” With this knowledge comes a responsibility. As we have used all prior technical advances from the printing press to jet planes to understand and communicate with the earth community, now it is our responsibility to use the technology we have available to do it in a deeper and clearer way. The technology of our time affects how we think, how we make decisions, and the type of humans we will evolve into. As a congregation, the possibilities for communication among us and with the wider world are endless. The Internet can create close ties in the community by spreading information, facilitating discussion, re-establishing connections and providing possibilities of expanding the mission on a global scale.

We need to be literate and facile in the use of computers because the technology they generate affects everything. We can be more productive in one day and accomplish more in a lifetime than our grandparents thought possible. The pace of change is blinding and if we are to be relevant we have the responsibility to move with it.

Did you know?

• A Google book search scanner can digitize 1,000 pages every hour.
• Americans have access to one trillion web pages, 65,000 iPhone apps, 10,500 radios, 3,500 magazines, 200 cable TV networks.
• Over the last 25 years, newspaper circulation is down 7 million, or the last 5 years new readers of online newspapers have increased by 30 million.
• NBC, ABC, and CBS have 10 million unique viewers each month; MySpace, YouTube, and Facebook have 250 million unique visitors per month (none of these sites existed six years ago).
• The average American teenager sends 2,272 text messages per month.
• 93% of all US adults own a cell phone.

The pace of change has been dizzying. With the invention of debit/credit cards, cell phones, ATMs, computer technology in our cars, laptops and portable devices, we are in the age of technology and it doesn’t show signs of stopping.

Just as we would not consider using a horse and carriage instead of a car or a scrubbing board instead of a washing machine, we should embrace the computer for what it is—a marvelous tool that enhances our lives in communication, medicine, travel, industry and commerce and so many other ways we haven’t discovered yet. Computers are just complex machines that we can master to our comfort level.

Therefore, the technology committee was formed in June 2013 to help to bring the congregation into that comfort zone, to upgrade our equipment, to enable digital communication, and to respond to the 2011 Chapter Direction Statement. Members were appointed according to specific areas of expertise. The present committee includes Sisters Grace Avila Seckendorf, Karen Burke, Kerry Handal, Helen Rooney, and Clara Santoro and Associate Cathy Liberati.

Did you know? The Technology Committee has...

• Conducted Tech Committee meetings via Skype or ooVoo (virtual meetings).
• Evaluated the number of computers in local houses and their current state of usability.
• Purchased new equipment to enable us to LiveStream congregational meetings and events this year and in the future.
• Formed a group of sisters and associates willing to assist sisters with technology needs.
• Conducted Tech Committee meetings via Skype or ooVoo (virtual meetings).
• Connected the CSJ Website with our Facebook page that has more than 600 LIKES (fans/members).
• Evaluated the number of computers in local houses and their current state of usability.
• Purchased new equipment to enable us to LiveStream congregational meetings and events this year and in the future.
• Formed a group of sisters and associates willing to assist sisters with technology needs.
• Conducted Tech Committee meetings via Skype or ooVoo (virtual meetings).
• Upgraded the sound system in the St. Joseph Convent community room.
• Organized more efficient planning for groups who need to use our technology in the Joan de Lourdes Room.
• Offered the first classes for sisters who need more instruction in using the web and computers.
• Conducted Tech Committee meetings via Skype or ooVoo (virtual meetings).

The nature of technology itself has undergone a transformation—it is no longer just leaving us all as consumers with a sense of breathlessness and expectation—what next? Technology will enable more efficient communication in every sphere. It will bring people and organizations together; closer. Loosely structured smaller groups and wider networking seem to be characteristic of the postmodern technological world into which we are moving.

A recent study conducted by eMarketer showed that iPad use among seniors has grown more than 200 percent over the last two years. Since its inception by Apple, the iPad has made some adaptations that make it even better for seniors. Members of the Technology Committee have assisted our sisters in purchasing and using iPads. Some local houses are using iPads for community prayer.

As women religious, by the use of social media, the Internet and other technology, our charism can spread into a widening community without needing physical proximity. For example, technology allows our congregation to micro-finance eight women in developing countries (Kiva.org). Religious communities can find more and more in common by connecting through the Internet. It is an easy vehicle by which to express their views and it provides communities with a means to establish a public presence with very little cost.

Technology can easily provide a rich heritage of spiritual insights and modern spiritual thinking with a click of the mouse. It also provides a way for communities to share their own spirituality with people they may never know—people all over the globe forming networks of spiritual energy that can flow into the global consciousness.

The potential of technology for us as women of the gospel, people committed to being a force for good in our world, and women able to encourage and energize the younger women in our communities to carry our mission and charism into their future is vast. Our committee is willing to do all we can to help others to be comfortable in its use and aware of its possibilities. We hope that we can help our sisters see that technology is not a mystery to be avoided but a tool too valuable to ignore. Pope Francis understands this for the global church. He has called the Internet “Something truly good, a gift from God.” “Let us boldly become citizens of the digital age. By means of the Internet, the Christian message can reach to the ends of the earth.”
A
ter twelve years in office, serving as Superior General during the challenging
times that spanned pre- and post-Vatican II, Mother Immaculata Maria Clark
reflected on her experience in her address to the delegates at the first
pre-Chapter meeting held in January of 1968. It was a future that would
include very difficult decisions, and she noted that it was “significant that the Church
has placed directly into the hands of the Sisters themselves their own renewal and
adaptation.” She reminded them of the admonishment of Perpetua Carmona, the
Vatican document concerned with the renewal of religious life, that there were two
fundamental norms to be kept in mind at all times: the message of the Gospel and the
spirit of the Congregation’s founder. Mother Immaculata added that Chapter prepara-
tions would not be complete without the “awareness of the implications in the social
councils” of Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI. “Once we grasp their import,” she
noted, “we can bring the forward-looking and far-reaching ideas of these saintly men to
our Chapter decisions.”

The years that preceded this address saw days of unprecedented change in both the
world and religious life. We witness these changes and Mother Immaculata’s response
to them as they unfold in her letters to the Community. “Her serenity in facing
problems and in posting solutions serves as an estimate of her God-centeredness,”
averred Sisters John Baptist Hull, John Raymond McGann, and Vincent Thérèse Tuohey in
the Response to Mother at the 1968 Chapter. In the early years of her term, we see
that she struggled with the intrusions of the secular world that were slowly but surely
affecting religious life. Attempting to restore the balance of liturgical and private prayer,
she made changes to Community prayer, shortening it in order to intensify it. The ideal
of sanctity was emphasized and this carried through as she faced the continuing impact of
a quickly changing world. “The words of St. Paul to the Philippians could almost have
been written to us,” she wrote in a community letter in 1961. “You live in an age that
is twisted out of its true pattern and among such people you shine out as beacons to
the world, upholding the message of life.”

Early in her term as Superior General, holding ground against the secular world,
Mother Immaculata steadfastly forbade the individual usage of transistor radios, care-
fully monitored the use of televisions, and reproved careless reading, all while
hoping to guide the Sisters to sainthood, sharing the hope of foundress Mother Saint
Fontbonne. But the “accelerated tempo of living” could not be shut out, and by the
end of her second term, she was praised for the “spirit of openness, sincerity and
service” that characterized the achievements of the Sisters of St. Joseph under her
leadership.

She was elected Superior when, for various reasons, Sisters were leaving religious life
in great numbers and fewer young women were entering the Congregation. At the
same time, the Catholic population in schools was increasing, thereby creating an acute
Sister/teacher shortage. Two new bishops were in place: Bishop Bryan J. McIntegart,
appointed to serve Brooklyn after Bishop Thomas Molloy’s death in 1956, and Bishop
Walter Kellenberg, serving the newly created diocese of Rockville Centre. Changes
also were in store for the entire Church when Pope John XXIII was elected in 1958,
calling for aggiornamento with the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Mother
Immaculata must have been heartened by the words of Cardinal Leo Jozef Suenens, one
of the leading voices at the Council, when, in writing about the mission of the nun in
the world, he said, “our aim is to help them deploy on a global scale the inexhaustible
wealth which characterize the achievements of the first Sisters of St. Joseph under her
leadership.”

Without mentioning the March at Selma, this pilgrimage of Mother Immacu-
lasa as Superior General would be incomplete. Mother supported Sisters
Alice Meehan (Maria Eucharia) and Regina Coll (Saint Thaddeus) who, as
members of the Catholic Interracial Council, took part in the demonstra-
tion for civil rights in Selma, Alabama, in March 1965. When she received let-
ters full of hate, protesting the presence of Sisters at the march, she made
her stand quite clear: “In keeping with the spirit of our beloved and saintly
Pope John,” she responded, “we are becoming more and more aware of the
need for those who profess loyalty to Christ to translate their theories into
action. For too long a time, we have been sheltered from the social prob-
lems; it is our role now to be witnesses wherever our presence can further
the ends of justice and charity.”

Mother Immaculata Maria Clark: a woman exquisitely balanced, holding
firmly to the vision of the first Sisters of St. Joseph, yet unafraid to face the
world in its ever-changing complexity. Her strength tempered by gentle-
ness and the familiarity with the end, a woman of prayer. When faced with
seemingly overwhelming situations, she was often heard to say, “I have done
all that I can do here; for the rest, I can only pray.”

Consider remembering the Sisters of St. Joseph in your estate planning.
Contact S. Rose Viceconte
631-273-1187 Ext. 126

Rev. Mother Immaculata Maria Clark
Sisters Antonella Lenihan, Francis Antonia Fay and
Mary Borja Franklin.
Gathering around the mission is the new face of vocation development. In the past few years, the Vocation Development Committee has worked with the CSJ Leaders Program in our high schools. The students have participated in days and overnights in Brentwood and volunteered at Hampton Bays. Through their participation, they have deepened relationships with sisters and their sense of the CSJ mission. It is the mission that attracts the students and empowers them to share their experience with other students and invite them to participate in the mission by responding to the needs of our world. Recently, on a Saturday morning, girls, who had been part of programs last summer, were invited to reconnect. The response was amazing and the site had to be changed to accommodate the group. They “updated” some of the maxims affirming the living reality of our mission and charism today.

In January a group of Sisters from a variety of ministries met to begin a discussion about how to invite others to share in our mission as we respond to today’s world. We affirmed the relevance of the mission. We also acknowledged the number of people who are searching for spirituality and meaning in their lives. They have a need for a communal sharing of this journey. At our last meeting, each of us agreed to have a one on one conversation with five to ten people about their spiritual search. Once we know the desires and needs, we will discover the “how” of gathering them around the mission.

As we participated in the Combined Committee meeting, we heard the needs of the city and ways that we as congregation are working with others to address these needs. Finding ways to invite others to gather around the mission is a way of assuring that our mission lives into the future.

The Liturgy for Silver and Golden Jubilarians reflects the renovations that include chairs in the row in front of the pews and a new lectern in the body of Sacred Heart Chapel.

The Inter-community Formation Program of the Religious Formation Conference met in Brentwood. Sisters Mary Walsh, Ginny Murtha and Heather Ganz participated.
EARTH MATTERS

“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe” — John Muir

Mary Lou BuSer, CSJ

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his quote seems like such a simple statement, yet it is so profound — all is one. Everything is connected, interrelated and interdependent. The new story of God’s creation teaches us this. It is the story of evolution from the first flaring forth of God’s love to simple elements, eventually stars, the solar system, earth and life on earth. It is our story and it is this story that forms the heart and foundation of the work of the Earth Matters Committee.

It was S. Chris Mulready who called our group together in the 1980s. Chris was the Social Justice Coordinator for our Congregation and saw the issues facing our earth as justice issues. This becomes ever more evident to us.

Over the years, we availed ourselves of opportunities for spiritual growth and development in our relationship with nature. We now afford opportunities for others to do the same at our Ecology Center. To this end, we organized mission circles and hosted the symposium — “Awakening the Dreamer.” A resource was developed called “Living with Care” which helped individuals and groups to walk more gently on Earth. The changes we’ve made in our convent dining room express our own efforts to do likewise. We continue to acknowledge the precise rhythms of Earth by gathering for prayerful celebrations of the change of seasons. Also, our labyrinth invites all to use an earth form to center themselves in God.

An organic garden is cultivated on the grounds of St. Joseph’s Convent where fruits, vegetables and flowers are grown using only natural methods. The garden has been expanded to include bee hives, chickens, rabbits and goats. Adults who come to the garden can learn of the interrelationships at play in the garden. Groups of children come on a regular basis to experience the things of Earth first hand and learn to respect every aspect of Earth as God’s creation.

As we of the Earth Matters Committee review our history, we are encouraged to continue our work with action for earth justice and sustainable living by countering our culture’s excessive consumerism and ravaging of the planet’s resources.

THOUGHTS FROM THE GARDEN

Heather Ganz, CSJ

I am aware of Earth. I am aware of her beauty, her scars, her strength, her fragility. Mostly I am aware of my interconnection with all that is. The children know this, and we know it too, but for us grown-ups it is hidden under layers of years and experiences. Three year old Emily stood with her pigtails and bows ducking to the chickens. After a moment, she looked at me with her face lit up and exclaimed, “They understand me!” Who am I to judge the comprehension of a chicken? Emily knows – they are part of her.

Angelia and Emily and every kind of little one challenge me. What kind of world am I preparing for them? When I think of our Preferred Future Planning process that looks fifteen and thirty years down the line, I can’t help but imagine 34 year old Angelina and 33 year old Emily and wonder what their lives will be like. Will they have access to clean water? Will the air they breathe be life-giving or asthma causing? Will the rise in sea level wipe away their home? I recently watched the movie Chasing Ice about photographer James Balog who documented the rapid diminishment of glaciers. At the end of the movie he says, “When my daughters... look at me 25 or 30 years from now and say, what were you doing when... global warming was happening and you guys knew what was coming down the road, I want to be able to say, ‘Guys, I was doing everything I knew how to do.’” I would like to be able to say the same to Angelina and Emily and to all of the incredible life of which I am a part. That is my challenge.

Deepening the Journey

PATRICIA MONAHAN

ASSOCIATES
Commitment

Suzanne Michelle, Associate

New Associates with their sponsors: (l. to r.) Alice Gerson, Lucy Bayle, Darlene LaPenna, Marie Dolce, Tina Cafaro, Michele Zahradka, S. Jo Olimpieri, Joanne Flanagan, S. Pat Sullivan, Bobbie Clark, Ellen Anderson, Theresa Fantinell

Seven women were welcomed as Associates on April 26 at the CSJ Associates Spring 2014 Large Group Day. For the past year, Ellen Anderson, Bobbie Clark, Marie Dolce, Joanne Flanagan, Alice Geron, Darlene LaPenna, and Michele Zahradka have been learning about the CSJ charism and how the Associates support one another in trying to live out that charism. Our new Associates come from many walks of life and have been participating in their parishes and local communities. We are pleased that they have been able to answer the call to be CSJAs.

Our new Associates were guided in their journey by the presentations of S. Pat Turley, A. Liz Tully, S. Phyllis Esposito, A. Cathy Liberatori, S. Pat Lucas, A. Tina Cafaro, and A. Kathy Rabbito. The CSJA ceremony followed its traditional model: welcoming a group of Associates, the Sunday Gospel reading and this year’s interpretation by Mary Ann Gaiser-Sadler, CSJA, the Rite of Commitment and Commitment Renewal, and concluding prayers. The Associates and Sisters are grateful to S. Noel Cullen for adding wonderful guitar music to the lovely day.

This particular Large Group Day also featured S. Mary McConnell, speaking in the morning about St. Luke’s gospel question to all of us: “Who do you say that I am?” Is each of us able to look in the mirror in the morning and say “Good Morning, God’s Beloved” to the face we see looking back? Are we able to forgive each other and our own selves our many mistakes? Or, too often, do we hold on to them? S. Mary reminded us of the words of Julian of Norwich: “Between God and me there is no between.”

The afternoon held a bi-annual standard business meeting: a recap of Associate elections (we are in need of another board member), a brief summary of winter-spring events (the CSJA annual retreat in January, the annual Long Island Associates’ Day, several mornings of prayer), requests for volunteers (various CSJ-CSJA activities that need hands and hearts), and a look toward the upcoming months (a morning of prayer; the CSJ Community Day and the Convocation). The next Large Group Day will be in November, when we celebrate and remember the lives of Sisters and Associates, and welcome prospective Associates to begin their journey with us. A good day and a good year, Amen!

Dante Restaurant

DOROTHY A. DELANEY, CSJ

How do you measure generosity? Is it by fidelity, selflessness, attention, years, love, by expecting nothing in return? Imagine it is all of these and much more! We in Holy Family Convent, Flushing have been the recipients of such generosity for SIXTY YEARS. And how often? Once a year; once a month; once every six months? No, ONCE A WEEK! This is how it all happened.

Mr. and Mrs. Carmine Piacentini opened Dante’s Restaurant on Union Turnpike and 168th St., Flushing in 1953. Mr. Piacentini was the Chef and Mrs. Piacentini was the Manager and Waitress. For the next thirty years they worked long hours and attracted many. The Piacentini’s had two children, Karla and Peter. According to their address, they belonged to St. Nicholas Parish but there was no room for them there. However they were accepted in the newly opened Holy Family School. In gratitude to the Sisters of St. Joseph, Mr. Piacentini sent a huge Italian meal to the Convent. And thus it began! From 1953 to 2013, every Wednesday evening an Italian meal has been delivered either by Karla or Peter. They have taken over the management of Dante’s and have continued the tradition that their parents started.

We enjoyed spaghetti and meatballs, ziti with cheese, angel hair pasta with salmon steaks or chicken cutlets, ravioli, Alfredo in white sauce, linguine with fresh veggies, spaghetti with zucchini and onions-just an idea of the variety.

Also a loaf of fresh Italian bread came with the pan of pasta. At Christmas time, a case of tartufos was sent. Each tartufo was so big that we cut them in half and they lasted until February.

Now this chapter in the story of Holy Family Convent has come to a close. Dante’s was sold. Escalating costs and change in the neighborhood made it impossible to continue. But the legacy that the Piacentini family has given to the Sisters of St. Joseph will remain forever. The goodness of this family merit a special place in CSJ history. They will be in our love, gratitude, hearts and prayers. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
So who are the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood?

In a small town in Le Puy, France in the mid 17th century, women gathered together to share a common vision. Their primary focus was a deep love for God and neighbor. As they organized and were accepted as an institution of the church, other women joined them and together they evidenced their deep concern that God be honored and glorified in all that they did.

As they were then and as they are now, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood are a group of women responding in faith and freely choosing to live out their baptismal commitment, through a vowed life, lived in community and giving public witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Their congregation has gone through change that resulted in turbulence as well as excitement, fear as well as hope, deeper questions as well as answers. Today they remain a group of women who gather together to share a common vision:

- by living lives that are simple, prayerful, courageous and compassionate;
- by proclaiming with prophetic voice the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who remains their center and vitality;
- by demonstrating their belief in the dignity of the human person and the call to secure that dignity.

We know the Sisters here at the St. Joseph’s College as individuals, as colleagues and as friends who engage in the day to day operation of this great institution with a sense of dedicated service, laughter and love. They provide us with a model of humility, in imitation of their patron, St. Joseph, whose feast we celebrate today and as friends who engage in the day to day operation of this great institution with a sense of dedicated service, laughter and love. They provide us with a model of humility, in imitation of their patron, St. Joseph, whose feast we celebrate today and as friends who engage in the day to day operation of this great institution with a sense of dedicated service, laughter and love. They provide us with a model of humility, in imitation of their patron, St. Joseph, whose feast we celebrate today and as friends who engage in the day to day operation of this great institution with a sense of dedicated service, laughter and love. They provide us with a model of humility, in imitation of their patron, St. Joseph, whose feast we celebrate today and as friends who engage in the day to day operation of this great institution with a sense of dedicated service, laughter and love. They provide us with a model of humility, in imitation of their patron, St. Joseph, whose feast we celebrate today.

St. Joseph’s Day Mass
St. Joseph’s College, Patchogue

CSJs HONORED

ALICE O’SHAUGHNESSY, CSJ. In honor of her long-time service as Medical Director, Good Shepherd Hospice recently held the First Annual Sister Alice O’Shaughnessy Lecture, “Palliation in Medicine: Dealing with Human Suffering,” with speaker Alice O’Shaughnessy, at the DeMatteis Center for Cardiac Research and Education Auditorium in Greenville.

MAURA COSTELLO, CSJ is the Honorree of the Cleeary School for the Deaf Golf Classic at the Engineers Club on June 2, 2014.

JANE FRITZ, CSJ, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at St. Joseph’s College, has been awarded the Long Island Section - Athena Rising Popoulous Outstanding Educator Award. She received this award for the development of major programs in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines and constant dedication to education of disadvantaged groups.

ELIZABETH GRAHAM, CSJ, was inducted into the 2014 Hall of Fame of Christ the King High School. This honor was awarded for her ministry of loving service and commitment to the faculty and students of Christ the King HS.

LORETTA MURPHY, CSJ, was honored at the Parish Dinner Dance of Immaculate Conception School for her 50 years of service at the school.

ELIZABETH JOHNSON, CSJ, is receiving an Honorary Degree from Fairfield University. She is also being honored by the LCWR with their 2014 Outstanding Leadership Award at their annual meeting in August. Beth’s new book, Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love, has been published.

CATHERINE MEZZACAPPO, CSJ, is being honored by the Cellini League during their annual meeting in August. Beth’s new book, Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love, has been published.

CSJs from 13 countries gathered in Brentwood April 27-May 3 for a peace and justice meeting on how to solve some of the planet’s problems, including sustainable development. The meeting was conducted in English, Spanish and French. Griselda Martinez-Morales, CSJ, a representative of the UN, organized the event. Among the Brentwood attendees were Sisters Eileen McCann, Karen Burke, Karen Covaneh, Pat Lucas, Jane Reilly. The event was live-streamed thanks to Karen Burke and Kerry Handal.

REFLECTION

St. Joseph’s Day Mass
St. Joseph’s College, Patchogue

JoaAnn Vitello, Child Study Department

Principal of Our Lady of the Hamptons School, KATHY SCHLUETER, CSJ presided at the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Wellness Center on May 1, 2014.

JOANNE VITIELLO, CHILD STUDY DEPARTMENT

JANE REILLY, CSJ AND BABS BARRY, CSJ were honored by the Religious of Rockville Centre for their many years as Missionaries in the Diocesan Mission in the Dominican Republic.

CSJs honored
On Sunday, April 6, 2014 the Sisters of St. Joseph Guild held its annual Liturgy and Luncheon. Mass was celebrated by Msgr. John Martin in Sacred Heart Chapel. Luncheon followed in the Convent Dining Room. About 200 people participated in the joyous event. Sisters, Associates and many friends of the Congregation look forward to this event each year. Profits from this event will be used for CSJ ministries and for the care of retired sisters.