HARVESTING THE RESULTS OF OUR LABORS
WE BELIEVE...

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

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
THOSE BELIEFS IMPLY.

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

What we plant in the soil
of contemplation,
we shall reap in the harvest of action.

—Meister Eckhart
Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Featured in this issue

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What we could not fathom doing when we were young, we find great joy in when we are old.

Like the seasons through which we move, life itself is a never-ending series of harvests, a different fruit for every time.

—A Full Harvest
S. Joan Chittister, OSB
This is a time to harvest the fruits of labor, yielding nourishment in many different ways. Faithful to our mission of unioning love of God and neighbor without distinction, we see the fruits of building relationships for the sake of justice with faith-based groups and the powerful relationships that exist among those who are seeking a just and peaceful world.

There is great power and potential in relationships nurtured in our CSSJ Federation and we are so grateful to our sister, Maryellen Kane, for assuming the position of Executive Director of the Federation. Related to Sisters of St. Joseph in the United States and Canada, we are connected to thousands of Sisters of St. Joseph around the globe. These relationships will enable us to understand the great gifts of diversity and the challenge to live inter-culturally, as we seek to meet the needs of our global neighborhood and all creation. The local efforts of partnering with faith-based groups, as those in Queens Power, help us to realize that like-minded persons, committed to justice for all, can truly have a positive influence on the complex issues of our time.

Living out of our beliefs requires actions that reflect these beliefs. We are grateful to have the opportunity to plant seeds that will yield a harvest of awareness and understanding that how we live our lives impacts others and all of creation. Our Jubilarians have sown countless seeds through their 50, 60, 75 and 80 years of educating and nurturing thousands of persons to see and respond to God’s love in their lives. Companioning with our Joseph Worker volunteers enables them to discern how they can use their gifts and talents to promote justice and foster a sense of community in our very individualistic society. Our CSJ Associates gather regularly to affirm their commitment to our mission and nurture their spirituality as they discern where the Spirit is leading them.

Discernment is critical for this time if we are to continue to go out into our world and do whatever needs to be done to witness to God’s all-inclusive love. We invite you to ponder the stories and poetry in this issue, spend some time contemplating how God is present in your lives. In that time, be open to the Spirit revealing how we can continue to bring God’s truth, goodness and beauty into our world. Believe what Master Eckhart has told us: “What we plant in the soil of contemplation, we shall reap in the harvest of action.”

Sister Helen Kearney, CSJ
CSSJ Federation Names New Executive Director

CLARA SANTORO, CSJ

The Leadership Assembly of the CSSJ Federation has affirmed S. Maryellen Kane as the new Executive Director. Maryellen has had many experiences with the Federation that she believes have enriched her religious life. In the years 1994 to 2000, while serving on the Brentwood Leadership Team, she was a member of the Governing Board for the Federation. In addition she spent two summers studying our foundations at the Bearers of the Tradition Program, provided several presentations to the Atlantic Region of the Federation, participated in programs at the International Centre, and was a mentor in the second cohort of Leaders as Leaven as well as a presenter at all three cohorts of the program. Most recently, she served on the Mission, Vision, and Values subcommittee in the reconfiguring process of the US Federation.

Maryellen’s participation gives witness to her deep love for the US Federation and a broad knowledge of its past history and present realities. She believes in the power of relationships and trusts that the Federation’s commitment to expand its membership and widen its tent is the opportunity and challenge of this time in our history. Her experiences working with diverse cultures, races, and faith traditions throughout her ministerial career have blessed her life, helping her to look at situations from various perspectives which will serve her well in her new role. The Leadership Assembly believes strongly that Maryellen’s capacity to be a bridge builder is what the Federation needs as we transition from what has been to what will be.

When asked of her interest in this position, Maryellen responded, “I am encouraged to apply for the position of Executive Director of the Federation by my great love of and appreciation for our Charism of Active Inclusive Love. More than ever as militarism and terrorism tighten their grip on our way of life, we need to support each other in the task of unconditional love. This moment in history requires us more than ever to not just talk of, but also to realize the power that we have in our relationships. In a society fueled by the politics of difference, where some people are valued more than others and some are not valued at all, unity and reconciliation are in great need. I see the Federation as the vehicle through which we can join together with others in the healing of a broken world and broken lives.”

Maryellen is ever excited about how the power of relationships brings about real change in the public arena. With extensive training and experience in community organizing, Maryellen will bring her skill in the art of building public relationships, and coupled with her energy, enthusiasm, and outside-the-box-thinking make her the right choice for this time in our history.

Maryellen’s tenure as Executive Director will begin on January 1, 2020. S. Patty Johnson, our current Executive Director, will work with Maryellen Kane to assure a smooth transition of leadership in our Federation.
Sisters of St. Joseph Join Queens Power-Metro IAF

SUSAN WILCOX, CSJ, OFFICE OF JUSTICE, PEACE, INTEGRITY OF CREATION

The charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph calls us to unioning love, love of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God. The decision to join Queens Power, the newest organizational body of Metro Industrial Areas Foundation is rooted in this understanding of our spirituality and our call to social justice. By supporting Queens Power, we help join Queens with East Brooklyn Congregations, South Bronx Churches, Manhattan Together, and Long Island CAN among others to focus on local, public issues such as affordable housing, education, public safety, and senior citizens.

On a rainy Thursday evening in early November, S. Maryellen Kane spoke to an impressive size crowd at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Queens Village. Present were representatives from the 30+ places of worship, non-profits, and schools that have committed financially and with dedicated persons to Queens Power. She spoke of the IAF leadership training to help people gather the neighbors, to speak and listen to what is in their hearts and minds, and then bring those concerns back to a larger group to not only organize and petition for improvements but also to bring in creative solutions. This gathering marked the birth of Queens Power. In attendance were S. Grace Kathleen Lynch and S. Josephine Barbiere of Our Lady of Lourdes, one of the founding churches of Queens Power. Also in attendance was the staff of the CSJ Office of Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation, S. Susan Wilcox and SJWs Bryanne Devlin and Nicole Skauba who are also Queens residents.

S. Maryellen Kane spoke at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Queens Village about Queens Power, the newest organizational body of Metro Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF).
At the CSJ Convocation held in the Joan de Lourdes Room on June 8, the featured speaker, S. Carol Zinn, SSJ Philadelphia and Executive Director of LCWR, focused on the practice of Contemplative Discernment.

1. It is not change we are looking at but transformation. Change is external. We have the same form and the same function. Our buildings have different people, different activities but the same form and function. Transformation is an internal activity. It is core. The result will be a new form, a new structure, as the caterpillar morphs into the butterfly. We are in a time of transformation in religious life, in politics, in family life, in all religions. There is a huge shift. Discussions and debates are rational work. A purely rational approach will not be able to give clarity. For Transformation Contemplation is needed.

2. Contemplation is a long loving look at reality, at church, at religious life, at politics until one can see what God sees. The Practice demands stillness of heart, and inner silence. Listen! Listen! Contemplation hollows space for God. Our work now is to hollow out a space individually and collectively.

3. Discernment is not a decision. It is not deciding between two goods. It is the ability to perceive beyond our senses. It does not make sense to our rational mind. We need to listen under words to the nuances, and recognize what is not seen.

4. In this Communal Process, we need to carry each other like an acrobat. The qualities needed are trust, no going back, risking, letting go, reaching out. Acrobatic skill is developed in 10,000 hours, just as our skill in Contemplation and Discernment requires 10,000 hours.

5. Relating with each other in the process.
Carol Zinn stated, “if we accepted each other, what a vibrant community we would have.” Each person could speak truth and be accepted for who she is. We know each other well in certain ways, characterizing what we expect from 20 years ago. “Let this be a new moment in history when we wrench our hearts from our common ways to view each other anew.” Let’s have an internal revolution that will ignite the spirit. Certain asceticism is needed to refrain from judgment of others. Prayer is needed before the process to let go of old prejudices. Look at responses in a new way, reframe. Maybe the statement is not profound but the sincerity, good will and ability to risk are important spiritual qualities.

Contemplation and Discernment

My heart is a realm of unknowing
Hidden vault of beauty, knowledge, and aspiration
An aura surrounds my unspoken word

Goodness and Beauty are released
thru contemplative stance
God and Soul meet
Peace abounds, insight is released

Communication puts giftness into
courageous words of wisdom
Truth is manifested in voicing,
therein lies the Spirit of veracity

Streams of consciousness spues forth
abundant life
Communal revelation unearths discernment
the spirit is present
The now and the future are in progress

— S. Margaret Kohler
PRAYER FOR THE SEASONS

God of all seasons,
Bless us who stand today
Beneath the lintel of this autumn,
Threshold of faith,
Of unremitting trust,
The new fledged joy,
Enduring fellowship.

—M. Immaculata Muldoon, CSJ

CONTEMPLATION AND DISCERNMENT

Poets tell
and in their telling gift us
with meaning
essence
vision.
—Eileen O’Hea, CSJ

VESPER S

I came in
From the long cold unlit hall
Fatigued in body
Fatigued in mind
Eager to forestall thought
To embrace Morpheus
Put away the things of the day.
Upon entering my room
I found that
Someone
Had spilled sunset all over the place
Walls, ceiling, floor
And everything contained therein
Was awash’ in warmth
I was caught in
A suffusion of surprise
A suffusion of promise...
Outside my window,
My companion tree,
Once green
Said farewell to a lovely orange leaf
That did not merely fall
But funned its way down
Pretending for all it was worth
Swooping and swaying
Playing with the wind
And I
Tired now no more
 Joined in a vesper’s dance
Timed to ancient chants...
So glory be to Someone
Praise to my creator God!

—Anna Marie Macklin, CSJ

Autumn Gold

Autumn has a Midas-touch
Turning all to gold
Golden maple, golden linden,
Gold like amber gold.

Yet in Brentwood I have seen
This amazing thing;
Pines resist the Midas-touch
Keep the green of Spring!

—Mary Ignatius Meany, CSJ

Full Circle

Poetry is prayer pressed down,
Running over into song;
Wonder like the phoenix grows
When the poet ponders long.

Past the heart’s stern citadel,
Past the sentried spirit slips,
Clamors loud at clenched bars,
Bursts like fire from the lips.

Who must run may never read
Where is prayer or where is rhyme,
While the singer scarce discerns
When eternity, when time.

Still all roads to Babylon lead,
Every music drowns in din,
Till he dares the pales of prayer,
Craves the grace to crawl within.

—M. Immaculata Muldoon, CSJ
Light and Darkness

Summer is too bright
too busy
too
our loud.
Winter is just right—
Snow blankets noise
Darkness wombs the earth
Wombs me.

Winter is contemplative time
Earth’s energy rests,
Goes underground,
Gives permission for interiority
Sanctions it.

I long for winter,
and if not winter,
night,
and if not night,
then quiet light—
space uncharged by anything
other than divinity—
 solitude.

Here
is where
I sit
In energy
Returned to its source.

—Eileen O’Hea, CSJ

This White Fire

Fear no lack of flames
In this fire.
The embers,
Holding the white heat of passion,
Are carefully banked
Against winter days.
Sing praise
To our Creator God
Who still comes
And comes, still, Bearing gifts
Through the
Seeking, seeking.
In the listening
And the speaking:
Being the
Ever present God
In the midst of
The swirl of change.
There is a call
To remember the range
Of holding on
And letting go.

Questions become milestones
On the road to Truth
Traveled until now
From earliest youth…
In lives
Concentrated in concentric circles
Of “who, how, and where I am”
In lives
Consecrated in prayer…
Finding mighty answers
In the minute.
And through it all,
There could be but one crime:
To miss the miracles
While the pendulum
Swings
On the clock of Time.

—Anna Marie Macklin, CSJ

pages 8-9 Photos by Lynn Caton, CSJ
ELECT
And have you ever noticed how a tree
By autumn's random taper set aflame
Will evermore possess identity
And wear its moment's glory like a
name?
No matter how anonymous with snow
The other trees, how nondescript with green
This one shines out elect. I know, I know
For I your heart's autumned self have seen
—Mary Ignatius Meany, CSJ

VISION
Vision changes as we age
Some of us wear glasses to read
Others remove them, to see better
Contact lenses appear to be the latest.
On the altar, still awaits another line,
A sacred line, divine contact, holy vision
For the Risk-taker, the Daring Pilgrim
To truly see, as if for the first time.
Take heed you Practiced Traveler
Beware, you common sense Commuter
For donning this awesome vision
Will lead you to a far different path.
Gone will be, “It can't be done.”
Fading tears will flash as faith
Invites us to sacred scenes seeing
New ways, new Vision and God.
I wonder where I put those glasses?
—Elaine Roulet, CSJ

THANKSGIVING
Then...
Bare broken days for
Indians who owned the land
Pilgrims who came to find a new world
Gave birth to the dream
Let us take what bread we have
Sit down, share, praise God
Call it Thanksgiving Day
And they did...

Now...
Bare broken days for many
Not sure who are the Indians
Who are the Pilgrims
Certain, though, we are all searching
For a new world.
Can we rebirth the dream
To take what bread we have
Sit down, share, praise God
Still call it Thanksgiving Day
And we can...
—Elaine Roulet, CSJ
Wake-up Call
(Saint Joseph Villa, Hampton Bays)

Incredible!
The stillness surrounds me;
I bathe in silence
Of the morning sunrise;
Listen to the ancient chant
Of the gulls
Calling out of some deep need
To vocalize.
Who knows what
Motivates their morning prayer.
The water laps more loudly now
As the land meets water
Or the water meets land.
What demarcation
Designates reconciliation?
I wish I could have listened
For a longer time
To hear the rhythm
And rhyme
In this sunrise symphony
Accompanying Mother Nature’s art
Loomed on the latticework

—Anna Marie Macklin, CSJ

Contemplation

They sit each day
all day
just there: attuned
to night and day opened
to what is...
Waterlilies.

Poetry

The gift with energy and light
mystery
wonder
beauty
love
Poets tell
and in their telling
gift us
with meaning
essence
vision.
Sometimes I am one of them
but not today.

—Eileen O’Hea, CSJ

Of bare branches
Berries and crumpled leaves
Clinging
To the vestiges of summer
As I do
To the last vestiges of my
time here...

Oops!
I have been interrupted
By a featherless biped of the human kind.
She speaks of God
And service
And calls all Love
And that is a good thing:
I sing
A new
Old song
And the gulls
And I take wing!

—Anna Marie Macklin, CSJ

—Photo: Kerry Handal, CSJ

—Photo: Patricia Manning, CSJ

—Photo: Lynn Caton, CSJ
For 33 years, the CSJ Associates have been “companions on the journey” with the Sisters. In that time, 220 lay men and women have made a Formal Commitment as an Associate.

For 2019-2020, we are using the book *However Long the Night: Making Meaning in a Time of Crisis* as our focus. A Spiritual Journey of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), this is the story of how an organization found an alternate, contemplative way of working through impasse. Prayer Services based on chapters in this book, prepared by members of the Associate Board, are being used in all of our Local Associate Communities (LACs) during our monthly meetings.

To start this year, S. Lauren Hanley led us in a Morning of Prayer as we looked at *Journeying Together into an Unknown Future.* She reminded us that God is always choosing people and we have to allow ourselves to experience being chosen. Right now, we are in a time of transformation; we are called to be still and listen in contemplative prayer. Only then can we respond to the needs around us.

During our Fall Large Group Day on October 26, we focused on S. Pat Farrell’s Presidential Address entitled *Navigating the Shifts,* given at the 2012 LCWR Assembly. S. Cathy Sheehan, a participant in that Assembly, helped us to understand how the contemplative prayerful manner of "staying at the table" during times of conflict can eventually lead to resolution.

May these lessons be with all of us as we continue our journey!

Photos (right): Attendees at the Associate Large Group Day.
At the close of The Summer Day by Mary Oliver the question is posed, ‘Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?’ When engaging in conversation with millennials, they may not always be ready to provide an answer to this question; however they will state a desire for community, contemplative practice and to be about justice.

As our SJWP enters its third year, community is forming with six young women from across the United States. They are engaging in the contemplative practice of Sharing the State of the Heart and this grounds them as they seek justice for the dear neighbor without distinction.

In the tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the SJW community opens their eyes to the world filled with misery and strife, with the belief that the Spirit is at work through them to relieve life’s circumstances through compassion and care.

The encounters at their various ministry sites, Hour Children, JPIC Office, St. Michael’s Catholic Academy and CSJ UN NGO, open their eyes and ears to grow their attentiveness to the sufferings of the world and the impact on those with whom they are engaging. Through contemplative practice the SJW community touches into a holy disquietude, searching in order to understand how best to respond through their ministries.

Grounded through community and contemplative practice, the SJWs are prepared to roll up their sleeves for ministry and work with others in bringing forth justice without excluding the more humble, the less pleasing, and the less noticeable.

What is it you plan to do with your one precious life? SJW Kaylee Konczal responds, “I know I’m capable of doing other things and maybe I will do those other things. It’s just that right now, I’m only 21 and I have a whole life ahead of me, so why not spend the time now forming who I am and solidifying my values and making sure that I’m headed down a path that I want to go for the rest of my life, instead of just jumping in and being miserable when I’m 35? It’s harder to turn your life around at 35 than it is at 21.”

St. Joseph Worker Program: Discerning Life’s Direction

Joan Gallagher, CSJ

SJWs 2020 join with SJWP staff and Advisory Council following their Commissioning Ceremony on August 29 in the St. Joseph Renewal Center.

The SJWs, as they enter their year of service and seek to deepen their spirituality, sharpen their leadership skills, build community and be about good works, realize the importance to take time with community and just have fun!

SJWs designed the T-shirt for the Climate Strike held on Sept. 20. They distributed them to the CSJ Sponsored High Schools, sisters and friends, then joined the throngs in NYC calling for legislators to address the climate crisis.
WHOOF Your Way to Brentwood: Volunteer at an Organic Farm

Karen Burke, CSJ, Coordinator of Land Initiatives

WHOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) is an organization that originated in the United Kingdom in the early 1970s when a British secretary began organizing outings for urbanites on farms across the English countryside. WHOOFing is an educational and cultural exchange program. At its core, it is reciprocity: volunteers pitch in with farm labor in exchange for room and board. The movement grew as volunteers brought WHOOFing stories back to their homes and home countries. Nearly five decades later, WHOOF has chapters in more than 50 countries.

During the 2019 summer the Farms @ the Sisters of St. Joseph welcomed 14 WHOOF volunteers on our campus. The WHOOFers spent about five hours each day helping out on a farm and learning about organic farming and sustainable agriculture. In exchange, they received food and lodging in a repurposed area in the Academy of St. Joseph building. The WHOOFers worked on our campus farms with Island Harvest Food Bank Farm, the CSJ Garden Ministry, Thera Farm, Red Fox Farm, and Napolitano Family Farm.

WHOOF is a worldwide effort to link volunteers with organic farmers and build a global community conscious of ecological farming practices. We were blessed to have a diverse community of WHOOFers this summer. Aretha, Bonny, Bunny, and Phillip came for a month and stayed for three months! Aretha is Jamaican and lives in Brooklyn. Bonny is from Germany but spent three years living off the land in the rainforest of Australia. Bunny was born in China and works to promote “green” options in the fashion industry. Phillip is from California and has been working in musical theater for over ten years.

Other WHOOFers stayed shorter periods of time (2–3 weeks) but each added to the diversity of the WHOOF community as they shared their gifts and experiences. Andy is a primary grade teacher in Hong Kong and enjoyed his first trip to the US. Eric is currently studying fine arts at The Cooper Union College in Manhattan. Connie is a former flight attendant and has a PhD in social work. Colleen is a circuit judge in Chicago where she helped create and design a restorative justice community court. Samy, Jules, and Matthieu are studying Economics at the University of Paris La Sorbonne. Janine and Ingo are from Germany and spending a year WHOOFing throughout the world including Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam, and Costa Rica.

The WHOOFers also enjoyed meeting Sisters and CSJ friends. New relationships were formed at the annual CSJ Garden potluck supper, daily liturgy in the Maria Regina, impromptu farm-to-table lunches, and “Happy Hour” at the convent.

WHOOFing has not grown in a vacuum. The rise in its popularity has gone hand-in-hand with the organic and local food movement. Sustainable practices go beyond supporting buying local and organic. It’s a full circle process – knowing where your food comes from, the amount of energy/water used, limiting the amount of waste produced, and taking, yet giving back to the land via composting.

Although we did not know what to expect upon the arrival of WHOOFers on our campus, it was the mutual trust, commitment, and diversity of people that flourished on the Farms @ the Sisters of St. Joseph. Hopefully, the experiences of a few will lead to a transformation of countless lives globally. This cultural exchange involving sustainability and the shared ideals of the organic lifestyle presented an incredibly enriching experience for hosts, farmers, and volunteers. Read more about this movement at wwoofusa.org.
Long Island is a diverse mosaic of maritime grasslands, pitch pine, oak and beech forests, rivers, streams, tidal marshes, bluffs and beaches that are fragmented by human development. Much pollinator habitat on Long Island has been lost to suburban development. Although suburban land use can provide floral resources and benefit some pollinators, many pollinators are adversely affected when large tracts of habitat are broken up into smaller, isolated patches by suburban development that includes large parcels of lawn. Additionally, when rain falls over a lawn relatively little water will infiltrate the ground and recharge the aquifers. These aquifers provide nearly 3 million Long Islanders with their drinking water. The quality and quantity of the water contained in the aquifer system is directly impacted by the way we use and treat the land above it.

Two years ago, the Sisters of St. Joseph transformed three acres of lawn grass to a native grass meadow on the Brentwood campus. This fall we started the transformation of an additional four acres of land into two native grass meadows. These meadows will counteract the impacts of habitat fragmentation by increasing the amount and connectivity of habitat over broad areas and improving the water quality that is recharged into the aquifers. When planted with the right mix of native species, the meadows will not only provide practical, attractive and functional landscapes but also will provide valuable habitat as well.

Construction of native grass meadows involves restoring ecosystems for the specific purpose of providing habitat for individual species and potentially for the entire suite of species likely to be found in the Long Island bioregion. Increasing the amount of habitat present in a given area is a primary motivation for undertaking restoration, particularly where extensive ecosystem fragmentation and modification have taken place.
Celebrating CSJ Jubilarians

On September 8 a Liturgy was celebrated in Sacred Heart Chapel for those who entered the congregation 50 and 60 years ago. The second Anniversary Liturgy for those who came 70, 75 and 80 years ago was on September 21.

Front (l. to r.): Sisters Margaret Ann Kohler, Patricia Ann Chelius, Josephine Barbierie, Mary Louise Tweedy, Rosario Maria Morales-Urrutia, Karen Marie Cavanagh, Patricia Anne Lucas, Dorothy Veronica Rothar, Maureen Elizabeth O’Donohoe, Rosemary Ann Bellantoni.

THE GIFT OF AN IRA

In the last issue of *Focusing*, I wrote about how to leave a bequest to the Sisters of St. Joseph. Today I would like to tell you about another way to support the Sisters of St. Joseph with a much larger gift than you thought possible -- the gift of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

In 2015 President Obama signed into law a tax extenders package known as the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015, which makes the Charitable IRA Rollover provision permanent. The key charitable IRA provision (The Charitable IRA Rollover) allows taxpayers over 70½ to make donations directly from an IRA and they will not be taxed on the amounts—up to $100,000.

Many people who have an IRA take only the minimum withdrawals after the age of 70½, leaving undiminished balances well into their 80’s. This leaves substantial assets at death that when left to heirs become substantially diminished by the taxation mentioned above. For example, a $100,000 IRA after all these taxes can leave only $40,000 to heirs.

While IRA’s provide attractive tax benefits during your working years, they are subject to significant tax consequences when dealt with at the time of death. They are reduced by federal and state estate taxes, and they are subject to federal and state income tax when transferred to heirs.

An IRA Charitable Rollover to the Sisters of St. Joseph avoids this taxation, while other assets like securities and real estate can be left to heirs. With the passage of the PATH Act of 2015, and the restoration of the IRA Rollover provision, IRA accounts up to $100,000, owned by those age 70½, can be rolled over to the Sisters of St. Joseph without any tax implications to the donor. Since no tax is taken out, there is no charitable deduction, but it does lower your estate value and the value used to calculate your Required Minimum Distribution. Previously, if a donor rolled over an IRA to a charity, they still had to pay income tax on the rollover amount.

Another option with the same benefits is to simply name the Sisters of St. Joseph as a beneficiary of an IRA.

And so, making a gift to the Sisters of St. Joseph from your IRA has its tax advantages, and benefits the Sisters of St. Joseph in ways beyond what may normally be possible. For more information please contact James R. Rennert, CFRE, Director of Mission Advancement, – 631-273-1187 x150, e-mail: rennert@csjbrentwood.org. Of course everything will be kept in the strictest confidence.

James R. Rennert, CFRE
Director of Mission Development
GRANTS

Thank you to the following organizations for their generous grant funding:

**Suffolk County Dept. of Economic Development** - Water Quality Division
- $500,000 for Construction of Wastewater Treatment Systems

**Dollar General Literacy Foundation**
- $3,500 for The Learning Connection

**New York Community Bank**
- $2,500 for The Learning Connection

**New York State Energy Research and Development Authority**
- $16,000 for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

**PSEG**
- $17,904 for Convent Restoration Lighting Upgrades

**NY Landmarks Conservancy**
- Sacred Sites Program
- $30,000 for Chapel Restoration

**The Nature Conservancy**
- $10,260 for Monitoring the Sustainable Landscape at our Solar Array

**Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!)**
- $25,000 for handicapped bathrooms at Stella Maris Convent

“I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.”
— G.K. Chesterton

TO OUR BENEFACORS --
thank you once again for your gifts of prayer and financial support. May your happiness be doubled by wonder!
St. Joseph’s Convent
1725 Brentwood Rd.
Brentwood, NY 11717

Photos: Lynn Caton, CSJ