WE BELIEVE...

that we create the future
As we move with the Spirit
in giving full expression
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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
FIRST SISTERS OUTSIDE THE CLOISTER
MINISTRY WITH YOUNG ADULTS
PARTNERS IN MISSION AT THE BORDER
THE NEW ST. JOSEPH’S CONVENT
CSJ JOURNEY DEEPER INTO GOD
THE SISTER TODAY... CSJ Doctor Honored
THE SISTER TODAY... At Maria Regina Residence
NEW ASSOCIATE CO-CHAIRS
THE SISTER TODAY... Parish Ministry
OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

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God Is Here!
Being present means
...not only being
present to another
human being,
but present to
the water we drink,
the flowers we see,
to everything that
comes our way—
everything,
every person,
every animal,
every plant,
every situation in life.

—Brother David Steindl-Rast
Dear Friends,

I am writing to you at the beginning of Holy Week as we experience high anxiety over the pandemic. We are all wondering where is God in all of this. Yet, our faith tells us God is here, in the midst of uncertainty and fear: love never-failing. The stories in this issue of Focus ing affirm that God is here in ordinary times through the presence and compassion of others. From our congregation’s foundation, women left the cloister to be present to those in need. Today we, along with our partners in mission, are present to the needs of so many separated from the privileges we enjoy.

Close to home, young adults are reaching out to nourish those deprived of food, clothing and basic necessities while nourishing the spirituality of each other. They realize God is here and they can also be God’s presence. Others have partnered with us to be present at the Mexican Border to pray, provide transportation, basic necessities, (even a shoealce) and witness to God’s all-inclusive love.

God is here as our sisters ministering in parishes offering a place to nourish and deepen the faith of parishioners. Most important is the person to person response that includes all served in the many ministries within the parish, children, parents, the homebound, the needy, the lonely and those suffering and grieving. All involved create a place of peace where diversity can flourish because God’s love is all inclusive.

Jesus is noticeably present in the kitchen of Maria Regina. Here food provides nourishment. The individual attention Jesus provides nourishes the spirituality of each other. They realize God is here and they can also be God’s presence. Others have partnered with us to be present at the Mexican Border to pray, provide transportation, basic necessities, (even a shoealce) and witness to God’s all-inclusive love.

Our Associates and partners in mission make God’s presence known in many ways that are not depicted in these current pages. We welcome our two new co-directors of our Associates. We are so grateful to all of our partners for their dedication, even during this challenging time. They valiantly care for our sisters and others under their care and continue to enable our congrega
tion to function. We salute our educators who creatively connect to teach, mentor and encour-
age students and families alike. We do the small things that can have a huge impact, even the creation of pouches to protect orphaned animals abandoned during the unparalleled fires in Aus-
tralia. Our voices continue to be heard in arenas that promote justice, the integrity of creation, peace and reconciliation in these times of uncer-
tainty, division and exclusion.

So yes, GOD IS HERE! During this Easter time, we strengthen our hope and deepen our faith in God who never abandons us but invites us to share in God’s unfolding love. We keep all of you in our prayers.

Sister Helen Kearney, CSJ

Many of you have supported and prayed for us during the months our Motherhouse Convnet was renovated. You will read, first hand, of the gratitude of the sisters who have returned to the more spacious and safer space created for them. Through it all, they were prayerful and patient, always remembering those who needed to feel God’s presence in their lives.

We continually celebrate our relationship with our sisters of the Congregation of the Infant Jesus. It is a privilege for us to journey with them as they move to completion. We share communi-
ty living, prayer, supportive relationships and yes, celebrations, as we continue to learn how close we are in history, spirit and witness to God’s incarnate love.

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Ministry with Young Adults

Marie Mackey, CSJ

In his opening line of Tale of Two Cities, Dickens wrote, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” Much can be said about the times we find ourselves in at this moment. On the one hand we enjoy living in a country where we are afforded many freedoms along with extraordinary educational opportunities, exceptional healthcare and breathtaking natural beauty. On the other hand, millions of Americans live at or below the poverty level, experience food insecurity and lack adequate healthcare and housing. As our social fabric deteriorates some in our country choose to hoard the freedoms and economic opportunities that we enjoy rather than share them with others – especially the poor and most vulnerable.

Since March 2020, Covid-19 has wreaked havoc on our personal lives, social lives and our economy. Our world has been turned upside down and the Coronavirus is the great equalizer.

The young people that I minister to and with at St. Joseph’s College and our sponsored ministries have been showing God’s love and mercy in so many ways during these past 6 months. From day and weekend retreats, Winter Service Trips and service experiences at the Brentwood Motherhouse that included opportunities to engage in Sharing the State of the Heart with Brooklyn Vetter and S. Joannie Cassidy, SSJ, the students fed their spiritual longings to go deeper with God and each other Spiritually fed they went out to nourish others – especially the poor and most vulnerable.

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Three Theology Cafes offered speakers on discernment, spiritual direction and developing your spiritual life. Plans were in place to welcome St. Joseph Workers from St. Paul, students from University of Southern California and DePaul University for Vocation and Service Weeks but had to be cancelled due to Covid-19.

During this time of social distancing our Young Adult and Vocation Ministries have gone online via Zoom, FaceTime and Google Hangouts. Still, there is much to do to help alleviate the pain and suffering of this global pandemic. So many young people desire to be women and men for others. Consider the pain and suffering of this global pandemic. So many young people desire to be women and men for others. Consider the pain and suffering of this global pandemic. So many young people desire to be women and men for others. Consider the pain and suffering of this global pandemic.

Since the family separation policy was announced in May of 2018 for North American women religious, the work at the southern border has been galvanizing. In line with our Congregationally affirmed Corporate Statement on Immigration (https://brentwoodcsj.org/justice/corporate-statements/) we know we cannot do this work alone and have encountered productive and inspiring collaborations along the way.

Annunciation House, El Paso, Tx is a volunteer network that has offered hospitality to migrants and refugees since 1978. Sisters and Associates have volunteered there for the last two years serving meals, packing to-go food bags, distributing hygiene products, assisting with phone calls to sponsors and providing transportation to bus and airport facilities.

The New Sanctuary Coalition NYC is an interfaith network that supports immigrants. A major initiative is the Accompaniment Program in which an individual or a group accompanies a “friend” to court, an ICE check-in, or any other appointment to visually remind officials that this is a human person deserving of dignity.

The Congregation has hosted NSC Accompaniment trainings for the Suffolk County community and individual sisters have served as companions in New York City.

Witness at the Border: Brownsville,Tx-Matamoros, Mx is an advocacy conglomerate of individuals that holds a constant vigil of watching and giving presence to the situation at the border. The CSJ community has gone to the border checkpoint at Brownsville,Texas across from Matamoros, Mexico to show public opposition against unjust policies such as Migration Protection Protocols and to love our immigrant brothers and sisters. We witnessed injustice with people on ICE planes, in tent courts, and tent camps.

At the Border in El Paso: Marianne Mocarski, Rita Cavanagh, S. Karen Cavanagh, S. Karen Burke

Sisters Janet Kinney, Joan Gallagher, Susan Wilcox with CSJ sisters from Orange, Philadelphia, Congregation of St. Joseph, St.Augustine, and local volunteers

Partners in Mission At the Border

Bryanne Devlin, SJ, Nicole Skaluba, SJ, Susan Wilcox, CSJ

The humanitarian crisis at the US southern border has been well documented over the last decade. Large numbers of families are fleeing Central America to escape violence, death and poverty and are met with a system in the US developed for single, male, migrant workers. Over the years, different strategies have been put in place but little has maintained the dignity of the human person and those of us in faith communities have found a call in this governmental impasse.

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great numbers of refugees were and are being “returned” by plane or bus to their own or other countries or to Mexico’s crowded city streets. Theirs is a doomed fate away from the USA.

We never saw thirty guests in a day but we heard and saw, on the faces of our newly arrived neighbors, the realities of unwelcome, cruelty, detention, embarrassment, violence and expulsion to doomed futures. Most were stripped of their identification and most personal possessions, to say nothing of their dignity. What could I say?? How would I speak comfort to these weary ones?

I watched 8 year old Eduardo who was lame trying to keep a laceless sneaker on his foot as he exited a bus without any assist. Border Patrol, with bullet proof vests and guns at side just stood there. While crying I learned that most refugees were “stripped” of shoelaces and the tongues of their shoes/sneakers pulled out. It was one more horror while limiting their mobility and a sense of security. They could be “tripped up” both physically and psychically in a hot minute!

Eduardo’s smile as he chose new sneakers and two pairs of shoelaces is with me forever.

What words can be put on the experiences of our Central and South AMERICAN neighbors? Can you imagine how fear, violence, terror, humiliation, desperation, loneliness, poverty, hunger and mistrust can do battle with faith, hope or trust in anyone’s heart? The slightest hurt paralyzes me at times.

Language limited and almost speechless I became the “vulnerable one” receiving the embrace of courageous asylum seekers and children. It can’t be understood and may never be comprehended but to have had a time with these “dearest neighbors” can and will be ever in my heart. As I sought to find a way to “speak a word to the weary” they spoke God’s word to me!

I learned to speak in “heart language” and with welcoming hands while cleaning floors or washing cots, in playing with children and hearing “gracias” at meal serving, while assisting clothing selections, packing travel bags and driving to planes, trains and buses. All were powerful but transporting folks was the most emotional. “Your prayer and financial support for us to be with parents and children, as they set out in hope for a new, safe life and home is a most powerful way for all of us to “secure the dignity of all” —VISON STATEMENT 1982. GRACIAS!

“Where the Sister is-there is the Congregation!”

Dr. King’s words remind me how God speaks to and in us and in the words and deeds of “dear neighbors.” As Sisters of St Joseph we seek to “create the future … move with the Spirit … fully express” God’s dream for our world. I’m blessed on this CSJ journey with so many Sisters, Associates and Partners in Ministry whose lives and generosity are not silent but “speak a word to the weary.” —Isaiah 50:4

I’ve had numerous opportunities to do so…in classrooms, teen clubs, parishes, nursing homes, retreat centers, prisons, advocating for trafficked women, feeding babies in Haiti and accompanying immigrants and young men seeking new beginnings. At those times the words seemed to come.

I write now of a time I felt speechless.

In February S. Karen Burke, Marianne Mocarski, my niece, Rita and I went to the Border in El Paso. With five other CSSJs we volunteered at Casa del Refugiado. The Casa - a warehouse turned sanctuary - could accommodate several hundred guests. Last November, at the Border, the numbers began diminishing. In dark night and daylight
I know that conscious connection to God is life-giving, and that life with God is experienced, not in vague abstraction, but in tangible experiences of everyday living, such as:

✽ upon leaving the swiftly moving elevator’s here that talk to me, reminding me to get on and off,
✽ I step onto the wood-like flooring that feels “cushy” and kind to my calloused feet,
✽ with no door sills to challenge me throughout the halls and into all rooms,
✽ where I have a full view of luminous nature bathed in morning or afternoon sun streaming through ubiquitous windows all around me,
✽ enhanced by the pure white woodwork throughout our edifice which daily cleanses my spirit,
✽ and is amply interrupted by the lovely white lattice-decorated radiator covers everywhere,
✽ stepping into my comfortably accommodated room, whose largesse is accentuated by the rolling door concealing my very own “powder room”.
✽ I leave the happy sounds coming from the living room and support area where both sisters and staff may be sharing “the state of the heart” in between activities designed to refresh our minds, spirits and bodies.

While I savor this grace-filled residence, I remember all who have made this possible, as well as, my brothers and sisters in the world, who have so far to go to be “at home”, and for them, I pray.

—S. Ave Regina Gould in her new surroundings

I’m not always happy when I talk about the “Golden Years”, but on January 17, 2020 I experienced a great appreciation for our move from building 4 to building 3, our newly renovated convent!

The old expression, “they saved the best for last” very well describes my reaction to what I’ve experienced in our new home. It’s beautiful, quiet, bright, attractive, safe, comfortable, spacious. Prayers, and gratitude are very sincere for all who made all the plans, decisions, choices, researches that made the above possible! I am most grateful! Everyone has been so good to us and helpful in this long process.

At the dining room table we frequently heard S. Cecilia Ann tell us about the previous night’s dream. It took place in the “new convent” and it was going to be very beautiful. Ceily was absolutely correct! Thank you one and all! Ann
**Home At Last!**

**S. Marie Lalande McMullen, CSJ**

We are home at last! On January 17 a group of intrepid pioneers (aka Sisters of St Joseph) completed the trek from St Joseph Renewal Center to the newly renovated Convent. It was a joyous homecoming - returning to a beautiful, bright and shining building. The main floor, always an impressive parlor, is even more striking now: refurbished parlors, spacious offices for professional staff, and a totally new look as one enters the building. The beautiful marble main staircase has been removed but it has been replaced by a handsome and functional reception area. Each Sister has received a small paperweight fashioned from a piece of the marble stairs— a token of our connectedness to a sacred past.

It was reported while the renovation was in progress that the elevators would have an additional stop between floors. How mysterious was that! But it happened! Access to the dining room is now possible without negotiating the stairway that connects the dining room to the main hall of the Convent. The familiar Resolution Room has been converted into a comfortable sitting area and will contain a library that is to be located on the main floor, always an impressive area, beautiful, bright and shining building. The main staircase has been removed but it has been replaced by a handsome and functional reception area. Each Sister has received a small paperweight fashioned from a piece of the marble stairs— a token of our connectedness to a sacred past.

The upper floors house bright, spacious bedrooms and comfortable gathering areas for socializing, reading or simply relaxing. The very sketchy narrative would not be complete without mentioning the new rear entry way. A large portico provides an area where cars can drive directly up to the door: Some remark that our rear entrance is now every bit as handsome as the front! We are greatly blessed and offer deep gratitude to God. We also thank most sincerely all those who made our new home such a splendid reality.

**A Memorable Move**

**S. Babz Barry, CSJ**

Moving is usually a Herculean effort, but moving the Sisters and our belongings from the Renewal Center to the renovated Convent also included moving nursing, physical therapy and social service departments as well as dining and food services and the many accumulated treasures found in the attic. A conservative estimate, by the wise among us, calculated three or four days for a moving company to accomplish this job.

On moving day we were advised to spend the day on the first floor of the Convent, either in a parlor or in chapel. It was a wonderful surprise at 3 o’clock in the afternoon to learn that we could go up to our new rooms. It was a bigger surprise upon opening the door to find the bed made, my clothes hanging in the closet, and a suitcase waiting to be unpacked! We were soon called to a gala supper in the Courtyard. It was a bigger surprise to learn that the dining room as the moving company, which had just finished the last run to complete the job, waved good-bye.

I have had the pleasure of assisting the Sisters in selecting and installing in their new rooms a 24 x 16 inch canvas picture. Each choice was made from our Sister Patti Manning’s beautiful book, BE ONE WITH THE EARTH, which features over three hundred of her photographs taken in the United States and Canada. This large collection challenged each Sister to select one memorable vacation site she had visited or simply to find a peaceful land or seascape, waterfall, sunset, or animals in their natural settings. All have been thrilled with the addition of their outstanding pictures.

For the pictures and the wonderful changes to our living conditions in the renovated Convent, we are sincerely and prayerfully grateful to all those who worked and sacrificed to make it possible!

**Dispensing meds at one of the nursing stations**

**January 18, 2020 Moving Day**

**S. Mary Ann T. McCarthy, CSJ**

Upon awakening we could hear the patter of many feet in the hall. Who were they? They were angels (no wings, feet and hands) come to help us make our big move home. These angels were nurses, aides and Sisters from all corners of Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk. (Oops, I forgot to mention members of our housekeeping and maintenance departments). We all departed to the Dining Room where a delicious breakfast awaited, thanks to the kitchen and dining room staff. After breakfast, we explored the first floor. All of a sudden from the elevator came some nurses pushing a hospital bed bearing our S. Pat Perry who had made it home. As she flew down the hall to the chapel, we burst into applause and yells. What would Mother Charles have said? Then following Mass and dinner, we awaited the call that the movers were finished upstairs so we could GO TO OUR NEW ROOMS complete with “in suite” bathrooms. Thanks to Sister Helen and the congregation for everything. Thanks to our angels with the hard hats, Sisters Pat Mahoney and Edith Maher. AND SO TO BED!
Let me begin with the CIJ Journey in Faith, which began in 1985 with the realization but not the conviction, that it had been almost 10 years since we had received a new vocation. S. Mary Nadine Casey was President and she was blessed with wisdom and vision. At the 1985 Chapter she challenged us to look to the future and assess our living situations and our ministries. We began our journey on roads that led to a Master-land Use Plan of all our properties and individual projections of where we saw ourselves living and ministering 10 years ahead.

We met our first crossroad in the 1993 Chapter when after painful discernment and frank discussion, we chose to stay together for as long as possible as an independent community and not to merge with another community – Merger did not “Fit” us.

The new Villa plans were implemented, and plans for divestiture of all other properties and our ministries began to be realized. The “exodus” to the Villa occurred in December 1996.

It was one thing to have the plans on the drawing board and another to be faced with such a major move, but we were able to let go with the grace of God, the sharing of our mutual grief and loss and the firm belief that this was God’s plan for us and God had never failed us yet!

Little did we know then that we were embarking on an inner journey of transformation. We had not yet learned that “Transformation occurs in the heart and not in the head”!

This transformation was the journey of several years, as we worked at deepening our communication with one another and a deeper sharing of our life together as we co-created our Community life at Villa St. Joseph.

The balance of solitude and community in the Villa allowed for a rich, vibrant Community life to emerge. We were 76 Sisters in Community.

The landscape of the Community was enriched when 10 Sisters of the Cenacle joined 57 CIJs in community in 2005.

The next crossroad on our faith journey occurred in 2013. As a result of Strategic Planning and intense Focus Groups at the 2013 Chapter, we were able to affirm that our next step on this journey was to own our reality of the Community, coming to the completion of our Mission. We chose to seize the window of opportunity to plan for this ourselves when we were still able to do so.

The approval of the direction which called for Leadership to pursue a Covenant relationship with another Community. We were 46 Sisters.

A covenant relationship is a commitment between two religious institutes to face the future together. The two communities promise to journey with one another as separate independent institutes while offering support and at some point Canonical leadership for the Community that will be coming to completion.

The consensus of the Sisters was to ask the Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood first, as the two Communities have had long standing relationships with one another on a communal and personal level.

The leadership of the CIJs and CSJs

We are now 6 years into this ever evolving, nurturing, wondrous, relationship. Following the formal unanimous approval by both communities in 2016, the journey has been shared on many levels especially by having 17 Sisters of St. Joseph become residents in the Villa Community. They witness every day to the commitment to support us on our journey as we live Community life together. We are 29 CIJs in Community.

We are moving closer to the time when we will be looking for Canonical Leadership from the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Commissary (Canonical Trustee) is the spiritual and administrative leader of the Congregation and holds the office of President of the Congregation. She exercises the authority given a general superior in the Code of Canon Law and the proper law of the Congregation. She will be responsible for the Sisters of the Congregation of the Infant Jesus. She will have three advisors from the Congregation of the Infant Jesus to assist her in meeting the spiritual, emotional, social and physical needs of the Sisters.

The CIJ Community has embarked on yet another road in our journey in faith. We have begun a Journey of the Heart to prepare ourselves personally and communally to accept with hope and joy our Canonical Trustee. We are once again letting go – at times painfully but still always hopeful that it would lead to a new creation, a new witness to Christ’s Incarnate love in the world. Trusting always in the God who has led us so faithfully and lovingly to where we are today.

The Leadership of the CIJs and CSJs
A good shepherd hospice honors S. Alice O’Shaughnessy, MD

Alice O’Shaughnessy, CSJ, MD was board certified in Internal Medicine in 1973, she went on staff at St. Francis and North Shore Hospitals and joined a three person practice in Port Washington. At that time, and for the next 27 years she became the primary physician for many sisters in Suffolk and almost all the sisters in Maria Regina.

Her practice style included; helping patients understand their own role in protecting or restoring their health and relieving distressing symptoms. The patient’s goal was the goal of care. This way of doing medicine was beginning to be called “palliative medicine” (and for patients near death, “Hospice”) in 1989. Dr. O (as she is often called) became for a short time, the part-time Director of what has become Hospice Care Network.

In 1990, she became Medical Director for Mercy Hospice and, when it merged with Good Samaritan and St. Charles Hospice, of Good Shepherd Hospice (department of Catholic Health Services) she continued as Director until her retirement in 2011. Until 2018 she continued to see patients in the Good Shepherd Acute Inpatient Center in Port Jefferson.

During those 20 years, Dr. O’Shaughnessy passed Boards in Geriatrics and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She taught principles of palliative medicine to physicians, medical students and nurses. She served on many committees, involving medical ethics for the public including Bishop McGann’s advisory committee for the pastoral letter “Comfort my People.”

Last year a long awaited Acute Inpatient Hospice Unit was established at Mercy Hospital. The staff Conference Room was named in honor of Dr. Alice O’Shaughnessy. Jacqueline Spencer, MD, S. Alice and Kerrianne Page, MD, Medical Director of Good Shepherd Hospice at event in Alice’s honor.

Who knew Jesus went food shopping?

Manifesting the Love of Christ at Maria Regina

Michele Boccia, Pastoral Care Coordinator

This is what came to mind when I spied S. Elizabeth Looney coming in the side door of Maria Regina with two bags brimming with groceries. She explained that Mrs. Lawler only likes Munder cheese and S. Mary had a craving for bologna, and she added, “I bought special treats for the residents too.” And so her day began — one overflowing with her abundant love.

Later that morning S. Liz and S. Grace Keaveny were changing the decorations in the dining room. This happens often as hanging wicker baskets brimming with flowers and colorful table floral arrangements are replaced for each season. The dining room gets so decked out during Christmas, it rivals Macy’s. For holiday meals it’s transformed into a Michelin-starred restaurant. One may say, every day is a feast at Maria Regina for each meal is a well-thought out way to nourish bodies, as well as souls. Daily S. Liz feeds the multitudes, with a bit more variety than loaves and fishes.

Did you know that Jesus wears a white lab coat and a hairnet? This is what I often think when I witness S. Liz speaking with someone. She gives whoever is in front of her, all of herself. Whether a resident asking for a cookie or a nurse explaining a change in diet, she’s through her empathy and compassion.

Are you aware that Jesus not only washes feet, but dishes too? Our elegant director of food and nutrition gets right in there when someone is out sick. S. Liz scrubs pots, wipes down tables, and works the tray line with grace and a smile. There isn’t anything she won’t do to at Maria Regina to ensure our residents are fed and her kitchen runs smoothly. Jesus is very much alive at Maria Regina as he lives and breathes in Sister Liz Looney.

S. Liz Looney with Janine Valsamis, dietician and Janeen Bush, director of recreation at Maria Regina Residence

Being present means not only being present to another human being, but present to the water we drink, the flowers we see, to everything that comes our way — everything, every person, every animal, every plant, every situation in life.

— Brother David Steinle—pastor

Australia is one of the great biodiverse hotspots of the world. It is home to 244 species found only in Australia, including kangaroos, wallabies, and koalas. In June 2019, the unparalleled wildfires raged for over 6 months scorching 27 million acres of land, leaving 27 people dead, 2000 homes destroyed, and killing over 1.25 billion animals. Not only do bodies of burned animals lie on the scorched earth, millions of orphaned animals face starvation and have burns all over their bodies. It is this reality which confronts the naturalists of Australia. Responding to this crisis, Wildcare Australia Inc. made a global call for people to be “present” to these suffering animals in a unique way; making Joey pouches to comfort and protect the orphaned kangaroos, wallabies, koalas among others.

Initially those who responded came from all over the world and many were not familiar with Joey pouches. The naturalists clarified that Joey pouches are pouches for orphans. The naturalists also posted patterns that could be used as guides for making the pouches. Once again the response was overwhelming. S. Kathleen Loughlin joined this worldwide effort and made numerous joey pouches and sent them off to Australia. Currently, there are enough joey pouches for the animals, but Kathleen remains in contact with Wildcare Australia Inc. ready to continue making these pouches when the need arises.

Inspired by their commitment “to love all creation,” the Sisters of St. Joseph seek to identify new and unique ways to live out this commitment. An example of this is Kathleen’s effort to be present to every animal, every plant, every situation in life, in ravaged Australia. By doing this, it is one more manifestation of the Congregation’s love of all creation.

S. Kathleen Loughlin shows off one of her Joey pouches.

S. Maureen Heegan pays a compliment to Sisters Grace Keaveny and Liz on the floral arrangements in the dining room. Elba Mezquite, from the laundry department, agrees.
Over the past 30 years our congregation has welcomed and journeyed with our CSJ Associates. Seized by the same Charism, these women and men have joined us in our mission of unity and love. In recent years Maura Costello, CSJ and Cathy Liberati, CSJA have served as Co-Directors, providing the leadership that has brought the Associate program to this point in time. Maura and Cathy have expressed that they are ready to pass the torch of leadership and a search for their replacements has been fruitful. We are deeply grateful to Cathy and Maura for their dedication and commitment to the CSJAs. They have served with a generous spirit!

On March 19 on the Feast of St. Joseph, S. Helen Kearney announced that Cathy Roberts, CSJA and Catherine Ruvolo, CSJA have accepted the position of Co-Directors of the Associate Program. Both women come with a wealth of experience and expertise. They embrace the CSJ mission and seek to further it with our sisters and associates.

CATHY ROBERTS, CSJA, lives with her family in Setauket. An Associate for 30 years, Cathy remains a faithful member of the St. John’s LAC. Cathy has a breadth of experience which includes education, nursing, religious education and spiritual direction. Through these experiences Cathy has gifted her parish as a retreat leader; the Diocese of Rockville Center in co-authoring teaching manuals for religious education programs, and as a NACL committee member creating materials for catechetical leadership.

Cathy has worked as a nurse in Winthrop and St. Charles hospitals. She has also served as DRE in St. James, Setauket and Director of Family Faith Formation, St. John Nepomucene, Bohemia. More recently Cathy has worked with Sights on Health Medical Surgical Missions, a non-profit organization that is committed to providing quality, compassionate care for those whose geographic and/or social status limit their access to medical care. A dedicated group of physicians & health professionals from across the US along with allied healthcare students volunteer their time to provide free medical care, eye care and eye surgery to those in need in the US and abroad. Cathy has traveled with this group of professionals to Ecuador and the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota to be of service to the dear neighbor.

Catherine Ruvolo CSJA resides with her family in East Norwich. She is a faithful member of the Northport LAC. While Catherine is a newer CSJA her ties with the congregation date back to when she was a student at the Academy of St. Joseph. She is also a staunch supporter of her parents who have been CSJAs for over 30 years and of her husband who is a CSJA inquirer. Catherine brings a great deal of professional and pastoral experience to her new role as CSJA Co-Director. She served as director of the Psychology program at West Point, a leadership consultant and most recently as a small business owner. Her development and presentation of courses as a College professor and her Communications and organizational skills are in line with her new role. Catherine has always chosen to work in mission driven institutions and businesses. She believes it is the mission that drives the projects and actions, a belief she will bring to the Associate program.

In addition to family and career, Catherine is very active in her home parish of St. Dominic. She serves in the Ministry of Consolation, as a catechist, class parent coordinator; Ministry of Praise and marriage preparation. In addition Catherine created Kiddie Hour for her church, for a community of new mothers to provide practical and emotional support, safe and fun atmosphere for children to play, and parents to interact. Both Cathy and Catherine have expressed deep gratitude and appreciation for all that Maura Costello, CSJ and Cathy Liberati, CSJA have done on behalf of the Associates and the program. Over the coming months Cathy and Catherine will be transitioning with Cathy and Maura and will assume their official role as Co-Directors at the June 2020 Associate Board meeting.

CATHY RUVOLO

I watched the Verrazano Bridge rise from the waters off Fort Hamilton as a teenager. Bridge building between the English and Spanish communities is how I see my ministry at St. Joan of Arc parish in Queens.

God is here in this faith-filled community. These two communities often function along parallel tracks. I’ve worked to discover ways that both groups can join together for a common purpose. The Pastoral Ministry Office is the place for a cup of tea or coffee, folks checking out the refreshment table, adding it and offering a space to chat. Many gatherings are held here for Bereavement, bilingual Lenten programs and socializing with a potluck dinner to celebrate. Sharing food from all the rich culinary experiences of their countries unites us. Sometimes it is a quiet moment to share what is happening in life. Google Translate becomes a true gift to my limited Spanish. When people just drop by to talk: something beautiful happens. Presence unites!

When seeking new ministers to serve, I ask myself: “Who is not at the table?” The answer is reflected in a diverse team who serve by visiting the Homebound and sustaining Margaret’s Pantry for their community, to name a few. The Needlecraft group creates beautiful plastic embroidery items, Bible covers, house blessings and ornaments. Speaking different languages the group is able to show one another how to create beautiful things. All are gifts for the Homebound, new Catholics, even house blessings for New Orleans homes after hurricane Katrina.

I know God is here when a first-time visitor to my office, sipping her tea, sat back sighing, and said, “It’s very peaceful here.” Truly a place of peace where diversity can flourish with the reality that God is here.

Amidst this current pandemic, bridge building continues beyond the walls by phone calls, texting, email and unceasing prayer. God is truly here!
Nancy Campkin, CSJ

God is here...there and everywhere. We believe in God’s presence...and we try very hard to listen to God...What is God saying?! We are in the middle of the coronavirus, which is paralyzing us in many ways and yet...so many are far from paralyzed. Healthcare people are stretched beyond belief. Parents are parenting in ways not so typical. Kids have no sports, no dance class, no school, no religion class.

We here at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Islip are ministering with more active social media...more emails, texts, and live stream Masses. It's also a scary time not knowing where the coronavirus will strike next. Maybe we need to say to each other and in our parish family “Here is God”...almost “re-introduce” ourselves to God, and one another. We all need to develop a new normal / a Plan B. All this brings us to a deeper level. Our ministries, particularly our Religious Education, which is my ministry...where we educate, lead, inform and gather in so many ways...something more will become of it and all OLL parish ministries which number over 40, including Baptism Ministry, Pre Cana, Music, Ministry of Consolation, Art & Environment, Prayer Groups, Evangelization and Senior Groups.

We will minister in new and different ways. But hasn’t that always been what we do...always listen...always respond...and continue to join with all people as we together say ... God is Here!
A MEANINGFUL GIFT AND A TAX BENEFIT TOO!

With your gifts of financial support, you have been an “actualizer” of the mission and ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph. You believe in the work they do, have been a partner in that work, and you wish to see it continue.

Because of your commitment to the Sisters of St. Joseph, I have been writing in this column of how you can make even a larger impact with your gift of support. Past articles have covered leaving a bequest or an IRA to the Sisters. I have also talked about becoming a monthly donor.

Today I would like to tell you about making of gift of securities. Securities include publicly traded stock, mutual funds, treasury bills, corporate and municipal bonds. By making a gift of securities, you are able to make a much larger gift to the Sisters of St. Joseph than you may have thought possible, and at the same time enjoy a tax benefit.

How Can I Make a Meaningful Gift?

If you acquired stock in companies that have experienced significant growth over the years, you now enjoy the rewards of highly appreciated assets. For example, it is not at all unusual for stock acquired in the 1980’s for $2,000 to have a fair market value today of $20,000 or more.

However, selling the $20,000 block of stock mentioned above would result in a capital gains tax on the appreciated value in many states of about $3,000. So after selling, the asset value has shrunk to approximately $17,000.

Rather than deciding to sell the stock and ending up with less than $17,000 after capital gains tax, consider the impact of transferring the stock to the Sisters of St. Joseph. The transfer is rewarded in three significant ways:

1. First, there is a bypass of capital gains tax which may save $3,000.
2. Second, you receive a charitable income tax deduction for gifting the full value of the stock ($20,000) to charity, saving perhaps $6,000 in taxes.
3. Third, the Sisters of St. Joseph now owns the block of stock and is able to sell and receive the full fair market value of $20,000.

Now, the $2,000 investment of several years ago results in a $20,000 gift to the Sisters of St. Joseph and more than $9,000 in tax savings to you!

Some Things to Remember

1. The Sisters of St. Joseph does not hold your securities, they are sold right away. We are not using your gift to “play the market.”
2. If you are considering a transfer of securities to the Sisters of St. Joseph, it is very important to call us first so we can help you with the details of the transfer.
3. Finally, do not sell the stock first and then send the Sisters of St. Joseph a check. This will incur the capital gains tax. Securities must be transferred to the Sisters of St. Joseph first and then sold by us.

If you have any questions or would like to make a gift of securities, please call me, Jim Rennert at 631-273-1187 x150. I will be happy to help you, and all information will be held in the strictest confidence. This article is not meant to be legal or tax advice. Please check with your attorney or financial advisor.

GRANTS

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

**Long Island Community Foundation**
- $25,000 for Construction of Constructed Treatment Wetlands for Wastewater Management

**New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation - Green Innovation Grant Program**
- $1,000,000 for bioretention, porous pavement, and stormwater harvest and reuse at the Brentwood Campus

**Pritchard Charitable Trust**
- $75,000 for Construction of Innovative/Alternative Wastewater Treatment System

ST. JOSEPH CONVENT
Re-Opening Celebration Prayer Service
December 8, 2019
Morn

MARGARET KOHLER, CSJ

The Rising Sun greets the Morn,
Like light prismsed thru
an aura of rainbow hue
Mother Earth is a kaleidoscope of
changing colors

The dew on the honeysuckle,
nectar of the gods
its aroma permeates the atmosphere
All nature is intoxicated

Trumpeting through the mist
clothed in azure, crimson, ochre
come the voices of winged angels
chanting melodies to the heavens
like ascending puffs of smoke

Webs in loosely arranged symmetry
of proteinaceous silk
beckon creatures to come
try the trapeze
breakfast is at hand

Life with all its senses
rejoices in the resurrected sun
What hope
What Love
What a miracle

God is here!