

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

Journeys



Women of Spirit, Courage and Vision

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania



SSJ Leadership Team (l-r): Joyce Lowrey, SSJ; Mary Ellen Dwyer, SSJ; Moira Sullivan, SSJ at the 150th anniversary liturgy and celebration.

A Note of Thanks

More than 350 years ago, six women in France responded to God’s call to serve the neighbor. Our 150th anniversary theme, WOMEN OF SPIRIT, COURAGE AND VISION, honors those Sisters as well as our foundress in the Erie Diocese, Mother Agnes Spencer, and the generations of women who went before us. We paid tribute to them recently as we visited the cemeteries where 455 of our Sisters are laid to rest.

We commenced our celebration on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, with a Eucharistic liturgy at St. Peter Cathedral followed by a reception with invited guests. On June 26, we dedicated our new administrative office building along with landscaping items, rooms and a labyrinth – gifts from generous benefactors. This new building is home to our staff of Sisters and laity whose ministries support our work with the dear neighbor and, is located just a few steps from our Community Living Center. During the dedication and prayer service, we buried a time capsule that contains momentos from this point in our history. It will be opened in 25 years.

Included in this issue are thoughts and stories about some of our Sisters that were shared by others. It is clear that through their experiences together, many lasting impressions were made. In this issue, we honor Sisters who are celebrating anniversaries in religious life during our 150th year. They live their faith through many diverse ministries as they continue to serve God’s people, receiving and leaving lasting impressions along the way.

In the midst of our celebration, we give thanks to you, our dear neighbor. Thank you for the many ways you have given to us. You have allowed us to serve you, to minister along side of you and you have made us part of your families. You have allowed us to help you heal, to teach your children, to feed the underserved in our community and to journey with you spiritually. *You* have made a lasting impression upon us. We are privileged and blessed. You have our deepest gratitude.

You are a big part of our history and you are essential to our future -- to furthering our mission of uniting neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God. A gift to the SSJ annual fund is an opportunity for you to make a lasting impression on the lives of others.

It is our hope that we can find a renewal of relationships with each of you this year. Let us hear from you—call us or send us an email, visit us on our website www.ssjerie.org, connect with us on Facebook, call or use our website to place a prayer request, share a story or memory about our Sisters and check out our new online digital museum (available via our website).

As we look ahead, we reflect on the words that Josette Gocella, SSJ used in the 150th anniversary prayer she wrote for our Congregation: *“With utter dependency on your faithful presence, we embrace an unfolding future, sometimes ambivalent, perhaps complex yet always transformative in its call.”*

Thank you—for making our history so meaningful and our future so full of vision and promise.

Mary Ellen Dwyer, SSJ
On behalf of the Leadership Team



Mother Agnes Spencer, SSJ

On the cover: Center: Ann Amen, SSJ. Clockwise from upper left: Ann Donohue, SSJ; Mary Carol Hoke, SSJ; a group of early Sisters; Eleanor Ann Rudy, SSJ; Teresa Marie Bohren, SSJ; Mother Agnes Spencer, SSJ; Michele Healy, SSJ; Barbara Ann Vavreck, SSJ; Bernard Sheridan, SSJ.

A SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Our 150th Anniversary

Over the last 150 years, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania have been involved in numerous and varied ministries. These works, though, do not stand alone. Countless acts of service are the fruits of the spiritual lives that ground each Sister to the heart of Christ. The zeal and generosity that has enabled these ministries flows from the discipleship of each member whose interior life seeks union with the will of God.

In the Church, there are many religious congregations doing a great deal of good work.

Each group brings a distinct charism, or gift, to the service of God's people.

What are the spiritual gifts that the Sisters of St. Joseph brought to northwestern Pennsylvania for the last 150 years? The answer lies in our Consensus Statement, or the central ideas of our founder, Fr. Jean Pierre Médaille. The statement begins, "Stimulated by the Holy Spirit of love and receptive to God's inspiration, the Sister of St. Joseph moves always towards profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction."

For 150 years, we (daughters of Fr. Médaille) have strived to live this invitation to all inclusive love both of God and of the "dear neighbor" wherever we found ourselves at the service of the



Left-right: Sisters Kathleen Kirsch, Claudia Dombrowski, Ann Stephanie Stano and Marie Paul Ashworth at the 150th Anniversary Liturgy.

Church. While ministering to the young in schools, the elderly in nursing homes, the sick in hospitals, the poor through social service, it has never been about what we are doing, but about *who* we are.

Building relationships with others while living out the great



commandment is an essential element in our vocation to religious life. Whatever the ministry that a Sister finds herself engaged in, her true desire is not just to be of service, but to create unity. Uniting people with God and with one another is at the heart of being a Sister of St. Joseph. We often ask that the prayer of Jesus, "that all may be one" might be fulfilled in us for we desire to draw all people to God through continuing the reconciling mission of Jesus.

The Consensus Statement also calls the Sister of St. Joseph to live in a spirit of humility and charity. At our profession, we promise to live these virtues, along with the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. This commitment is what has enabled Sisters to move from ministry to ministry always focused on the will of God and the needs of God's people, and often counter to our own personal preferences. In imitation of the self-emptying love of Jesus, we strive to respond to the needs of the era and area. That call took Sister Benita Repasky to the Prince of Peace Center in Farrell, Pennsylvania; Sister Andrea Bennett to Saint Martin Center; Sister Brenda Marie Vines to Villa Maria Academy; Sister Rebecca Fogelbaugh and Sister Anna Marie Sullivan to Saint Vincent Health Center; Sister Rosalita Boyle to Saint Mary's Home; Sister Doloretta Thorn to Villa Maria College; Sister Berenice Leary and Sister Callista Wright to St. Joseph Home and countless others whose only concern was that God's will was being done through numerous ministries throughout the Diocese and the world.



Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ (left) and Sister Moira Sullivan, SSJ at the 150th Anniversary Liturgy.

As we celebrate these past 150 years, we look back on the countless ministries undertaken by a group of dedicated women committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the genuine desire to live as a follower of Jesus Christ.

May God be praised through our Jubilee celebration!

WOMEN OF SPIRIT, COURAGE AND VISION

Our Celebration

As we anticipated the coming of our 150th anniversary, we gathered, brainstormed, reminisced and ultimately set the plans for this celebratory year. The process was as important as the outcome as we desired to involve as many Sisters as possible. Together we considered the backdrop for celebrating: *What is our reason for celebrating? Who/what will be different as a result of this year of celebration? Will these events relate to or lead us to our desired future?*

“Winterfest” in January 2009 was an event to help us release our energies to pray, play and work together during the coming year to plan and prepare for our 150th anniversary. Each Sister chose a committee (we called them “Circles”) to participate in or, if unable, promised many prayers. Ideas began to flow gen-



Above: Sister Ann Stephanie Stano, SSJ, addresses the Sisters at the Winterfest Celebration in January 2009. Left: Sister Rose Anne Fedorko, SSJ, the Winterfest “Snow Queen.”



erating volumes of suggestions, hopes and dreams. The richness,

insights and interactions of this many Sisters is the secret to the spirited events planned throughout the year. We chose a theme, “Women of Spirit, Courage and Vision,” which has proven to be a powerful mantra especially when coupled with the words of our new tagline, “Connecting with God ~ Connecting with You.”

We agreed on much, specifically, that the Eucharist is the source and center of our lives, therefore our celebration would open with a Eucharistic Liturgy. We also agreed on the importance of remembering our deceased Sisters with reverence and an awareness that we have inherited their magnificent legacy. And, we agreed that the focus for the year would be thanksgiving. With deepening gratitude, we recognized the multitude of blessings we have received through our ministries and all the people who have been with us along the way. In every event, there would be a spirit of gratitude to our families, friends, benefactors for their presence in our lives and ministries over the years.

Prior to the official opening of our celebration on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, Sisters and Associates began praying an anni-

150th ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Holy Beloved One,
we stand, blessed, at a threshold.

Behind us rest 150 years of gifts, challenges, fruits.

Behind us have walked women
of courage and spirit,
of conviction and grace.
Behind us lies a pursuing testimony
of unifying love.

We bow in grateful praise as we look
to tomorrows of invitation and promise.

With utter dependency on your faithful
presence, we embrace an unfolding future,
sometimes ambivalent, perhaps complex
yet always transformative in its call.

Free us to accept the mystery
as we pray in the oneness of Trinity.

Amen

Josette Gocella, SSJ

**SISTERS OF
ST. JOSEPH
OF NORTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA**

Connecting with God • Connecting with You

versary prayer composed by Sister Josette Gocella. We also held a lively Mardi Gras for Sisters and Associates as a fun prelude to Lent during which a Graced History Retreat provided an enriching opportunity for our Sisters' spiritual preparation for the anniversary. The retreat was a time of reflection and sharing of both personal and communal histories, enriched by a call to reconciliation and hope.

The opening celebration itself included a liturgy at St. Peter Cathedral and a reception at the

Bayfront Convention Center for invited guests. It was a beautiful day and we enjoyed celebrating with our families, friends and benefactors. A week later, we set out on a pilgrimage to honor



Sisters gathered at the gravesites of deceased Sisters to pray and honor the legacy of the women who went before them.

our deceased Sisters. We met at Calvary Cemetery in Erie where we placed a wreath, prayed and sang. We then moved to nearby Trinity Cemetery, the burial place of Mother Agnes Spencer. Many continued on to the site of our first mission in the Diocese at Corsica, Pennsylvania where we laid a wreath and prayed at the grave of Sister Victorine LeQuier who is buried there. We hosted elected officials at a brunch to thank them for their support over the years and to receive their commendations.

In our effort to reconnect and to thank people throughout the 9,600 sq. mile diocese, we will also host receptions in other areas where we have ministered -- Ridgway, Meadville, Bradford, Sharon.

In July, the public is invited to two concerts being given by Bruce Morton Wright, conductor. These will be held on the Villa Maria Academy promenade. Another highlight of the year is a Homecoming Celebration with former members being invited to join us for a Liturgy and brunch. A commemorative book about our history by Leonie Shanley, SSJ will make its debut on October 15 – the traditional date of our founding.

As part of our anniversary year legacy, the Leadership Team is focused on the Congregation's ongoing commitment to assuring Catholic education for young women. We will continue providing scholarships for young women as well as resources that will assist



Celebrating Mardi Gras! Clockwise and (l-r) from above: Sister Margaret Joseph Makes, SSJ; Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ; Mary Kay McNelis, SSJ; Maria Ines Patino Giraldo; Bernadine Gehringer, SSJ; and Mary Kevin Palazetti, SSJ.



in the sustainability of the Villa Maria Academy campus for years to come. We will move into the future with the spirit of the 150th anniversary celebration, as women of spirit, courage and vision.

In considering again the backdrop, *what is our reason for celebrating?* Perhaps it's twofold: getting reacquainted with the women of spirit, courage and vision who went before us and whose legacy we're living and to re-connect with and give thanks to all those we ministered with and to throughout these years. *Who/what will be different as a result of this year of celebration?* Renewed relation-

ships are always transformative for all involved. *Will these events relate to or lead us to our desired future?* As stated in the prayer by Sister Josette, "we embrace an unfolding future – sometimes ambivalent, perhaps complex, yet always transformative in its call." Led by the Spirit, we pray that this year's celebration will lead us into our desired future which, as always, is closer union with God and neighbor.



Continuing the Celebration of our 150th Anniversary

August 15, 2010	10:00 a.m. Circle of Friends
Sept. 26, 2010	2:00 p.m. Celebration in Ridgway
Oct. 15, 2010	Leonie Shanley, SSJ Book Signing
April 1, 2011	7:00 p.m. Eileen Marie Rush, SSJ Celebration in Meadville
April 2, 2011	6:30 p.m. Eileen Marie Rush, SSJ Celebration in Erie
April 3, 2011	2:00 p.m. Eileen Marie Rush, SSJ Celebration in Bradford
Dates to be determined	Celebration in Hermitage Closing Celebration

A GLIMPSE AT OUR HISTORY IN THE ERIE DIOCESE

Following is an abbreviated look at our history in the Diocese of Erie. It is not possible to include all the ministries and works that Sisters have undertaken throughout the years, but we have compiled some highlights. We feature the Superiors and Leadership Teams of the Congregation and the dates of their terms --the women of spirit, courage and vision who, by following God's call, have brought us to this point in our history.

1860-1877 Mother Agnes Spencer, SSJ

1860 Sisters arrived in the Erie Diocese and assumed direction of St. Ann's Academy in Corsica, Pennsylvania.

1864 Established St. Joseph Convent, St. Joseph Orphanage and St. Joseph Hospital in Meadville, Pennsylvania. St. Joseph Hospital later became Spencer Hospital.

1865 Opened first convent in Erie on East 4th Street.

1868 Established the first Motherhouse in Erie.

1875 Founded Saint Vincent Hospital in Erie.

1877-1883 Mother Ambrosia Powers, SSJ

1877 Reorganized St. Joseph Orphanage and Motherhouse.

1883 Purchased land for Saint Mary's Home on East 26th Street in Erie.

1883-1886 Mother Clotilda Weinheimer, SSJ

1884 Opened Saint Mary's Home of Erie.

1886-1917 Mother Eugenia Quirk, SSJ

1892 Established Villa Maria Academy (grades 1-12) at 8th and Liberty Streets in Erie.

1901 Established Saint Vincent School of Nursing.

1911 Began staffing Harborcreek School for Boys.

1917-1942 Mother Helena Dillon, SSJ

1924-1981 Staffed Erie Day Nursery.

1925 Founded Villa Maria College, the first Catholic College for Women in northwestern Pennsylvania on the 819W. 8th St. campus.

1928 Villa Maria Academy split into two schools, elementary and secondary.

1942-1967 Mother Aurelia A' Hearn, SSJ

1942-1956 New Ministries: religious instruction to the African American community in Erie; staffed Saint Martin Center; staffed Mercer County Catechetical Center; organized Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Erie; founded Villa Madonna in Columbus, Ohio.

1950

Established first collegiate

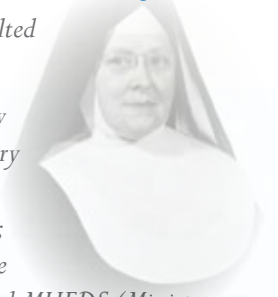
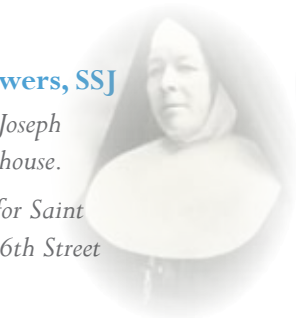
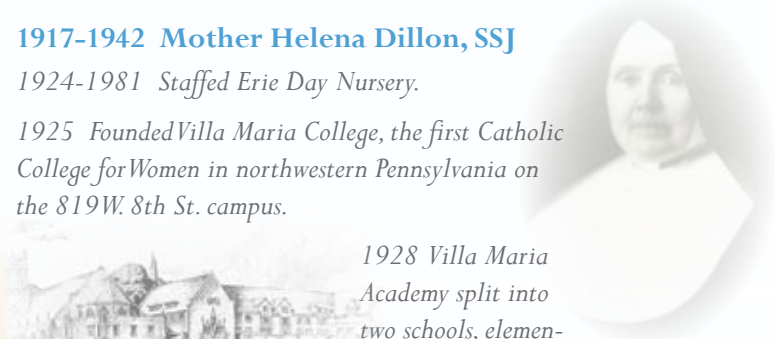
School of Nursing in northwestern Pennsylvania at Villa Maria College.

1962 Villa Maria College moved to 2551 West 8th St.

1967-1973 Mother Marie Baptiste DeGroat, SSJ

Began implementing the directives that resulted from Vatican II

1972-1974 New Ministries: Ministry abroad in Ethiopia and Australia; Community House for Women; founded MHEDS (Ministry Health Education Delivery Systems).



1973-1981 Sister Leonie Shanley, SSJ

1974-1986 *New Ministries: Center of Spirituality; foster care for babies awaiting adoption through Catholic Charities; ministries abroad in Tanzania; ministries in Florida; Prayer Call Ministry.*



1999-2003 Leadership Team: Nancy Prenatt, SSJ; Ricarda Vincent, SSJ; Phyllis DiFuccia, SSJ

1999-2000 *New Ministries: Heritage Apartments; Villa Maria Townhouses and Apartments;*



SSJ Neighborhood Network; Bethany House ministry.

2000 *Catholic Rural Ministry, a collaborative ministry begins.*

2001 *Opened Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge.*

2001 *Ministry abroad in Labrador.*



1981-1989 Sister Leonella Gingenbach, SSJ

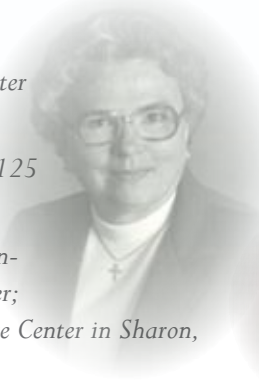
1984 *St. Patrick Haven opened.*

1985 *Spencer Hospital merged with City Hospital to become Meadville Medical Center (no longer SSJ ministry).*

1985 *Sisters celebrated 125 years in Erie Diocese.*

1988 *New Ministries: Annual Thanksgiving Dinner; established Prince of Peace Center in Sharon, Pennsylvania.*

1989 *Villa Maria Academy became co-ed institution and welcomed young men as students.*



2003-2007 Ricarda Vincent, SSJ;

Mary Ellen Dwyer, SSJ; Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ

2003-2006 *New Ministries: Christian Meditation; SSJ Poustina; Hospice.*

2004 *The U.S.*

Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph opened the International Spirituality Center in Le Puy, France where the congregation began; Sister Josette Gocella, of Erie, was named to the first Administrative Team.



1989-1999 Sister Mary Fromknecht, SSJ

1989 *Villa Maria College and Gannon University merged.*

1993 *Sisters moved to and dedicated new Community Living Center (CLC) at 5031 West Ridge Road in Millcreek.*

1993 *Erie DAWN, the first collaborative ministry formed by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Benedictine Sisters and the Sisters of Mercy.*

1996-1997 *New Ministries: Maryvale Apartments; Courage to Come Back (Spirit of Courage); St. James Haven, Meadville (first SSJ Associate ministry).*



2007-2011 Moira Sullivan, SSJ; Mary Ellen Dwyer, SSJ; Joyce Lowrey, SSJ

2007 *Opened Carriage Homes at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge.*

2007 *Catholic Rural Ministries II began to serve Oil City Deanery.*

2007 *New medical office building at Saint Vincent Health Center dedicated and named in honor of Sister Margaret Ann Hardner, long-time hospital CEO.*

2010 *Opening of new SSJ Administrative Office building on CLC campus.*

2010 *Sisters celebrate 150 years in Erie Diocese.*



SHARING STORIES

In our desire to reconnect during our anniversary year, we issued an invitation for others to share stories of Sisters past and present. We realize that it is in others where much of our history lies. We are grateful for the memories, anecdotes and inspirational reflections we have received and we share some of them here.

*I grew up knowing many Sisters of St. Joseph: my mother's friends, **Sisters Joseph Mary and LaSalette**; nuns from Saint Vincent, **Sisters Elise Ann, Marie Claire** and many others. But the one who probably influenced my professional*

life (other than my own mother) was Sr. Rebecca. She hired a naïve and inexperienced practical nurse in 1965.

She had high expectations of her staff, from

the proper making of a bed to the expert care of mothers and infants. Any mother entering the O.R. for a C-section had a St. Gerard relic

taped to the palm of her hand and Sr. Rebecca to care for her newborn. Forty years later, I can still hear her say "no, no, no!" when something was not done to her liking. She was tough, but she cared about her mothers. She softened as the habit changed; the veil was shortened and then came pierced ears!

*I am the nurse today because of my mother and Sr. Rebecca.
Congratulations on the 150th anniversary in 2010.*

Sincerely, Pat Murphy

Sister Frances Therese used to live at the convent at St. Leo's in Ridgway, Pa. I remember her substituting occasionally. She was a favorite. It was sad to see her go. She would always call me a quiet mouse because I never spoke very loud when she would ask me a question. I'm glad to see she is doing well!! It was nice to see a picture of her as well even though her face is always in my mind!! My maiden name is Krieg. I graduated from eighth grade in 1999. I don't know if she'd remember me, but certainly remember her.

Thank you,

Very Respectfully, Melissa Holmes

The Sisters of St. Joseph have been in my life since birth, this is true. I was named after my aunt, Sister Kathleen Kirsch, ACSW, SSJ, too!

While attending Holy Rosary, the Sisters were supportive over the years... They invested in me, believed in me and I

can still hear their cheers!

Besides my aunt, Sisters Dorothy Wilwohl, Ricarda Vincent, Phyllis Hilbert, Stephanie Wagner and Millicent Zimmer have influenced me, just to name a few. These Sisters have graced me with their presence and we have shared many a church pew.

At my Mum Nancy Shelly's funeral mass, my family entered the church door. The Sisters' lovely voices sounded like heavenly angels to cherish and adore.

Their presence and their voices comforted us and welcomed my Mum into Heaven above. I have witnessed the Sisters' power of prayer and the work of God's healing love. Since I was a child, a teenager, an employee at Saint Vincent and even when I became a wife, I have truly been blessed to be surrounded by the Sisters of St. Joseph all of my life. Thank you for letting me share with you.

Kathleen Shelly-Amoriello, LCSW, MSSA

I would like to share my memory of a wonderful Sister of St. Joseph. She is my aunt, Sr. Brenda Marie Vines. I know she was a great teacher because she was a great person.

Sister Brenda Marie would come to visit us in Pittsburgh and later in Beaver Falls, Pa. When I was small, one of my memories of Sister was baking. Putting an apron over her habit she would start getting ingredients ready for cake baking. Being so small I would stand on a chair to help. I don't know how much of a help I was but my aunt never complained.

As I got older and had a new driver's license, I was the one to drive Sister to daily mass, and what a ride that must have been as her rosary appeared as soon as the engine started.

Our trips to visit in Erie were always special. We were introduced to the other Nuns which made us feel so important. I am certain there are others who remember my aunt and special Sister, Sister Brenda Marie Vines.

*My mom, Virginia, was the sister of Sr. Brenda. She was also known as Annamae!
Virginia (Ginger) Fischer Riley*



Sr. Kathleen Kirsch



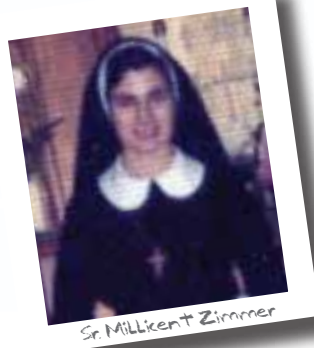
Sr. Elise Ann Haener



Sr. Marie Claire Kearney



Sr. Rebecca Fogelbach



Sr. Millicent Zimmer



Sr. Brenda Marie Vines



Sr. Frances Therese Mattia

This is a short, short story about a long, long time ago: - Once upon a time there were "2 little girls" who were classmates in first grade at Holy Family School. In second grade we of course made the sacrament of First Holy Communion together, along with several other children. Before the 3rd grade school year rolled around, my family moved out of town as dad enlisted in the Marine



Sr. Betty Ruza (circled)

Corp. Unfortunately, we "2 little girls" lost contact with each other. In a couple of years, our family moved back to Erie, and life went on. However, somehow through the years, a mutual friend, Glenn Kuzma, and Holy Family school classmate, and also one of the communicants, informed me that our dear little friend became a Josephite nun!

Many, many years later, in 1998, after working, marriage, raising a family, working again and then retiring, I decided I needed to do some volunteering. I then became a volunteer at Saint Mary's East with the "Friends of Saint Mary's"— It was then that we "2 grown up mature ladies" crossed paths again. On a day of volunteering, I reported to the activity room, and came upon a person I thought I recognized, and the feeling was mutual! There she was, my little sweetheart friend from so, so many years ago. Sr. Betty Ruza-We see each other often now, and enjoy chatting together!

Love ya Sister and bless you and all the Josephites for all you do!
Friends forever, Pat (Kinem)Wingrove

use the utility rooms as needed. When he had his kidney removed, our family was treated so well!! Sr. Brenda Marie was so good to us!

Mary Pudlo

I remember so many things that Sr. Margaret Ann said, did and taught me by example. I still laugh when I remember her saying; "I am told we need you at Saint Vincent even though I have no idea what you do." I figured if she was that honest, Saint Vincent would be a good place for me.

Edward M. Overfield, M.D.

Dear Sister Leonie,

Merci! Merci! Merci!

Thank you for being my inspiration! Your French class set me on my path to my profession as a French teacher. I loved your class. You always had such energy and joy as you guided us through this new language. Every time I read something in French, I am delighted, because I can understand it!! And, every time I do, I remember you, Sister, and I say "merci".

Your very grateful student,

Jetta Ferraro Savelli, Class of 1958

Sister Benigna truly was the right teacher for this 4th grade class at St. John's. Sister believed children should be taught love of God, family and country. Sister taught us many prayers to be said at bedtime. She would tell us about her family and teach us how important family is to all of us. Sister loved her country. Sister instilled a love of country in us. Sister loved music and she taught us many, many patriotic songs. Sister wrote songs also. Msgr. Miller was turning home from the hospital and upon his first visit to school, he was greeted by the entire student population and faculty. Yes, they were singing to him a song written by Sister Benigna. Sister took care of us during air raid drills. There was many a frightened child under those coats. She also made sure that we could spell her name. Sister "BENIGNA" was on every spelling test we took.



Sr. Benigna Hess

Dear Sister Josette Marie-

I'm not sure if you remember me; I graduated from VMA in 1976. You can follow the next 34 years in my bio!

I am writing to thank you for the insightful and moving verse you wrote re: St. Joseph. I received the card last week and was particularly touched because March 19 holds significance in my life regarding the conception of my now 16 year old daughter... "Free

to accept- even enjoy- the mystery."

Thank you for the beautiful words. I hope you are well. Pray for me/us! Karen Engro, VMA '76

Dear Sister Margaret Ann,

I saw your picture in Faithful Servants and it brought so many memories back to me after 25 years.

I want to congratulate you on your service to the Lord. With the God-given talents you did a fantastic job with Saint Vincent. In this day and age, Erie has a truly Catholic Hospital. In DuBois with the merger, we lost a lot of the Catholic influence.

I still am very thankful for all the care given to my brother, Fr. Robert Pudlo. It helped me very much to do his daily care-and I could



Sr. Margaret Ann Hardner

On a personal side, Sister was friends with my late Aunt Rose Babo. My Aunt had passed away many years before my birth. Sister made her come alive for me. She told me that I had skin like my aunt. She also told me many of her personal traits. Sister would be happy to know that I teach patriotic songs to my grandchildren and write songs for them too. My favorite song, that I have written is "There is no Grandma like my grandma." Rest in peace, Sister!

Judith Babo-Dufala SSJA

14th Annual



Since 1997, more than 60 people have been honored for their spirit of courage and their stories continue to be an inspiration for others. Please join us this year for an unforgettable evening as we honor:

2010 SSJ Spirit of Courage Honorees

- Kimberly A. Fabrizio
- Patricia Fronzaglia
- Leroy "Baby" Hammond
- Nell Hardy
- Misty Siegel

Unity Award Recipients

James and Margaret Stolley

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

**Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center
Individual dinner tickets \$35**

For additional information, please contact the Development Office
(814) 836-4202 or kristina.huber@ssjerie.org

Nominations are accepted throughout the year.
Complete an application online at
www.ssjerie.org or mail a nomination to:
SSJ Spirit of Courage

Sponsorship Opportunities

PARTNER ~ \$10,000

(2 Honoree Tables and 2 Tables)

Patron ~ \$5,000

(2 Honoree Tables and Your Table)

Benefactor ~ \$2,500

(1 Honoree Table and Your Table)

Subscriber ~ \$1,000 (Your Table)

Donor ~ up to \$999

*Please return sponsorship payment
or pledge by September 1, 2010.*

MOTHER AGNES SPENCER, SSJ LEGACY SOCIETY Becoming A Member

You can become a member of the Mother Agnes Spencer, SSJ Legacy Society with a promise of a planned gift to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Your gift can help to continue the work of the Sisters of St. Joseph well into the future - *making a difference in the lives that follow*. For information on member benefits, please visit our website www.ssjerie.org

You may think that you don't have enough money to make a difference or that if you do, you will not be able to give your heirs something. Even a small gift can make a significant difference and you can do both... some charitable gifts may actually save your family money by decreasing inheritance taxes (see box).

You can start today

- Make sure you have an up-to-date will (or living trust) that reflects your charitable objectives. Without these documents, you surrender control of your property and assets to the courts.
- Contact your financial advisor (financial planner, lawyer or accountant) and ask for help in establishing a charitable gift. A professional advisor can ensure you are getting the maximum tax and legal advantages allowed for your gift.
- You can gift stocks, real estate, insurance policies and personal property to the Sisters of St. Joseph.
- Make the Sisters of St. Joseph a beneficiary of your life insurance, pension plan or IRA.

Compare the Tax Implications of Gifts from your Retirement Earnings

\$100,000 Retirement earnings given to family through estate vs. giving to a charitable organization in 2010

	Your Family	Charitable Organization (e.g. Sisters of St. Joseph)
Value of retirement plan at your death	\$100,000	\$100,000
Federal income taxes (35% marginal income tax bracket)	(\$35,000)	(\$0)
Net amount paid to beneficiary	\$65,000	\$100,000

2010-2011 SSJ Appeal

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

An effect, feeling, or image retained as a consequence of experience.

www.thefreedictionary.com

One hundred fifty years of faithful service to God's people in the Diocese of Erie has provided many lasting impressions. Every encounter with each person we have been blessed to serve whether as students, patients, neighbors, parishioners or friends has made a lasting impression. We hope our ministries have made lasting differences in many lives, but more significant are the lasting impressions YOU have made upon us and others.

Your support of the SSJ Annual Fund helps make many future impressions.

In faithful stewardship, we followed the path God put before us. That journey has been filled with the impressions you have made upon us. Those effects, the consequences of our experiences together, are God's grace in our lives and what makes it possible for us to seek out and continue serving others. We pass along to others the effects of our experiences with you. Lasting impressions. The mission continues . . .

WAYS TO LEAVE A LASTING IMPRESSION

The Sisters of St. Joseph offer many opportunities for you to leave a lasting impression by remembering or honoring someone significant in your life. We invite you, through the SSJ Naming Program, to adopt a room, provide landscaping or honor someone with a gift and support the Sisters at the same time. The permanent recognition opportunities may assist you in selecting a gift most reflective of your interest and intentions. You can leave your own legacy, or make a memorial gift or tribute in honor of someone.

We welcome you to visit and see the opportunities first-hand, and to discuss how your gift can extend the Sisters' reach to the "dear neighbor."

Pledges for naming opportunities can be paid over a period of three years. Your employer's matching gift counts towards your naming gift. Once you choose a naming opportunity, you will receive a contract to complete and return with the information of how you would like it named and how you choose to make payments. For a complete list of naming opportunities, or if you have questions, please contact the Development Office at (814) 836-4202 or kristina.huber@ssjerie.org

Though we are celebrating 150 years and taking a look back at our history, today is just the beginning. You, with your gift and your prayers, help us to continue following the path God has shown us into our unfolding future filled with lasting impressions.



Give online www.ssjerie.org



This labyrinth, located on the grounds of the Sisters' CLC and Congregational Office Building was a "lasting impression" gift given in memory of SSJ Associate Esther Armbruster from her family.

Some SSJ Naming Opportunities

Congregational Administration Building

Building	\$1 million
Rooms	\$10,000
Technology	\$50,000

Conference Room	
Technology	\$50,000
Landscaping	\$200+

Community Living Center \$5,000 each

Parlor / Visiting Rooms	
Creativity Center	

FROM THE LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD TO THE GLOBAL NEIGHBORHOOD

by Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ
Social Justice Coordinator

The ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph prior to Vatican Council II (1962-1965), as was the case for most religious communities, were centered primarily in direct services in the areas of education, health care and social service. One of the most significant documents to come out of the Council, *The Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)*, declared that the duty of the Church in the modern world is to work for the improvement of human dignity and the common good. This call to work for justice by implementing the goals of Catholic Social Teaching opened up new approaches for us to serve 'the dear neighbor.'

It became evident that in addition to being called to provide for immediate needs, we were to work toward changing the unjust systems that perpetuate these needs. As a result, we are involved in activities and organizations that address and advocate for systemic change, both in social structures and governmental policies. We participate in peaceful protests opposing war or in support of civil rights, we lobby Congress to promote just economic policies, and we participate in prayer vigils for victims of war and violence. We sponsor programs raising awareness on important issues such as the death penalty, human trafficking, immigration reform and environmental degradation. Individually, as a Congregation, and corporately as a member of the U. S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, we issue public statements on the death penalty, the

war in Iraq, health care and climate change.

In recent years, we have broadened our vision and commitment globally. Although the international Congregations of St. Joseph, with members in more than 50 countries, have had a presence at the United Nations since 1979, it was in 1999 that the Sisters of St. Joseph received accreditation as an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) of the highest status with a full-time representative. An important outcome of this collaboration has been the commitment of more than 12,000 Sisters of St. Joseph and 5,000 of our Associates worldwide to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals. Chief among these goals is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, particularly by empowering women.

Although this may appear as an impossible agenda to most, we are convinced it is achievable if everyone accepts his or her responsibility to the global neighborhood.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead



CONNECTING GLOBALLY

One of the things we most look forward to this anniversary year is re-connecting with so many of you that our Sisters have enjoyed relationships with over the years. We have always recognized the importance of relationships and, a few years ago, embarked on a journey to reconnect wherever and whenever possible. The results of that effort are no less than amazing.

How blessed we are to live in this age of technological advancement! The Internet has provided many new and innovative ways to enhance our ability to re-connect with you, the dear neighbor. We first launched a website in the late 1990s. Since then it has undergone two re-dos – the most recent re-launch, in anticipation of our 150th anniversary, was in December 2009.

Our website, which can be found at www.ssjerie.org, has many new pages and features. In the Spirituality and Prayer section, you will find links to our Sisters who offer spiritual direction, a form to submit prayer requests online and a meditative walk on

our Faithkeeper's trail. You will find lots of information and links to our ministries; information about becoming a Sister or an Associate; and giving opportunities, including online giving! There's an in-depth Peace & Justice section, an online digital museum and Sister Linda's Blog! Check it out!

You can also find us on Facebook. This social networking utility has given us a way to reach a targeted group of people throughout the world who desire to be connected with us. It has been fun watching our Facebook "fan base" grow and especially

to see "who" has become a fan. We hope you do!

Meet us in cyberspace . . . it's one more way we can continue uniting neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God . . . throughout the world!



HEALTHCARE REFORM: A BEGINNING

by Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ
Social Justice Coordinator

A significant goal in addressing the healthcare crisis in the United States, after years of delay and neglect, was achieved on March 21, 2010 with the passage of the healthcare reform act (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, PPACA). The need in our country for action regarding this issue, both morally and economically, was without question.

The Church has long taught that accessible and affordable healthcare is a fundamental human right and in September 2009 the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph issued a statement on Healthcare Reform in which they referred to the inequities that were present in the system. In it they advocated for changes to a healthcare system, that, when compared to other developed countries, the United States was ranked 37th in healthcare outcomes despite spending twice as much per capita than these same countries. The Federation Statement called for legislation that would make quality and comprehensive healthcare accessible and affordable for all Americans, especially for the over 45 million lacking health insurance.

Provisions of the recently passed PPACA will begin to address the needs of many of these individuals immediately, while others will take effect later. Of importance to many are those provisions affecting persons with preexisting conditions. Soon, a national high-risk pool will be available for those denied coverage for this

reason and, in 2013, all new plans must cover these individuals and all children with pre-existing medical conditions. Beginning immediately, small businesses will be able to receive tax credits to offset the costs of coverage. By the end of September, adult children will be able to remain on a parent's plan until age 26. For Medicare beneficiaries there will be no co-pays for preventive services and for those who reach the "doughnut hole" in drug coverage there will be a \$250 rebate in 2010 and in 2011 they will get a 50 percent discount on drug prices. These are but a few of the provisions of the bill. Others include funding for preventive care and community health clinics and an end to lifetime limits on the amount of care received.

The bill is not perfect and will require changes in the years to come. It is, however, an important milestone in the struggle for healthcare for all. No longer in our country should poor people die or should families have to declare medical bankruptcy due to the lack of insurance or adequate healthcare. Nor should it be necessary for family or friends to hold fund raisers to pay medical bills for those they love. At long last, we can be grateful that these United States, the richest country on earth, has joined with all other developed countries of the world in facing its obligation to care for the health of all of its citizens.

SSJ ASSOCIATES MINISTRY

As the Sisters of St. Joseph celebrate 150 years of Erie community service, the Associate program is finishing their first year of leadership by Associate Co-Directors. For the first 25



Associate Co-Directors (l-r) Linda Kuhn, SSJA and Peggy Rusnak, SSJA.

years of the Associate program a Sister was at the helm, most recently Sister Ann Marie Cappello. While the Sisters are still involved as advisors, as of July 2009

Associates Linda Kuhn and Audrey McLaughlin became co-directors. Associate Peggy Rusnak replaced Audrey in November of 2009. Working together, Linda and Peggy have strived to build on the strong Associate foundation already in place, and move forward with renewed ideas. There are currently 231 SSJ Associates, both men and women, and 22 are in the candidate

formation program. They will become Associates in September 2010. An Information Night will be held August 25, 2010 for anyone interested in learning more about the Associate program. To learn more, call phone the Associate office at 814-836-4134, or email associates@ssjerie.org.

Teams consisting of both Sisters and Associates have been formed to enhance the candidate formation series, as well as Spiritual Enrichment programs and retreats offered to Associates throughout the year, including special "men's" Spiritual Enrichment programs. In an effort to draw the Associates closer to one another, neighboring "cluster" groups are being formed, a shawl ministry is in place, a deceased member's memorial is planned, as well as Dear Neighbor Day of Service.

In a continuing effort to go where we are needed, the SSJ Associates have taken full responsibility for St. Patrick's Haven, a 23 bed shelter for homeless men. The shelter has been a 25-year ministry for Sisters Mary Fromknecht and Marie Eileen Moyer. They are still involved with the ministry, but the responsibility and day-to-day operation of the Haven is now with the SSJ Associates. As Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph, we continue to live the charism of uniting neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God, without distinction.

A YEAR OF ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

During this Jubilee Year as we celebrate all of our Sisters who have served God in the Diocese of Erie during the past 150 years, we also celebrate the 50 and 60 year anniversaries of our Sisters. We asked them to reflect on the theme for this year's celebration: Women of Spirit, Courage and Vision, and share something about a Sister, living or deceased, whom she believes embodies the theme. Some of the responses are shared here. May God be praised and continue to bless our Jubilarians!



Marjorie Adams, SSJ
Formerly Sister Agatha
60 years



Ministry Highlights: Sister Marjorie Adams taught third grade at Holy Rosary School in Erie before attending Duquesne University. Following graduation from Duquesne, Sister served as Chief Pharmacist at Saint Vincent Hospital in Erie and subsequently as Pharmacy director, Purchasing Agent and Materials Manager at Spencer Hospital in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Returning to Erie, Sister Marjorie ministered at Saint Mary's Home as Pharmacist and Nurse Aide before pursuing further education at PACE University to become a Nurse Practitioner. The last 28 years of her ministry she served as a nurse practitioner specializing in pediatrics at the Booker T. Washington Center, Martin Luther King Center and Community Health Net. Currently, she is school nurse for the Erie School District (since 2008).



"Although we have had innumerable courageous and wise women over the past 150 years who have been instrumental in moving our community forward, Mother Agnes Spencer perhaps is the one with the greatest influence. It was through her strength and courage that she faced the Church leaders 150 years ago and established the first house of SSJs in the Erie Diocese."

Marie Paul Ashworth, SSJ
60 years

Ministry Highlights: Sister Marie Paul taught at Villa Maria Elementary and Blessed Sacrament Schools in Erie and at Holy Rosary School in Johnsonburg and St. Bernard School in Bradford, PA. After her graduation from Saint Vincent Hospital School of Nursing, she ministered at Saint Vincent Hospital/Saint Vincent Health Center as Staff Nurse, Head Nurse, Supervisor of Trauma and Coordinator of Outpatient Care. Sister Marie Paul presently serves as Equipment Coordinator at Saint Vincent Health Center.



"Sister Borgia (Spire) was the first person to suggest that I consider entering. At the time I did not take her seriously. Sister exemplified the 'simple life' that I admired in the Little Flower (St. Therese)."





Mary Margaret (Peggy) Balizet, SSJ
Formerly Sister John Daniel
60 years



Ministry Highlights: Sister Mary Margaret taught at Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Peace Schools in Erie. She also ministered at St. Joseph Home, Holy Rosary School in Johnsonburg, PA and at Mercer County Catechetical Center. Sister ministered as a staff nurse at Spencer Hospital in Meadville, PA. At Saint Vincent Health Center in Erie, Sister Mary Margaret served as Staff Nurse and later ministered in Pastoral Care as a Chaplain. She was Director of Adult Day Care at Saint Mary's Home in Erie and served as Case Manager at St. Benedict Education Center in Erie. Sister Mary Margaret also served as Directress of Novices for the Congregation. Currently she is a Personal Assistant for a Resident at Saint Mary's Home East (since 2008).

Hildegarde Boxer, SSJ
60 years



Ministry Highlights: Sister Hildegarde taught at St. Patrick, St. Ann, Holy Rosary, St. Joseph, Blessed Sacrament, and St. Paul Schools in Erie. She also ministered at St. Joseph Home and served for several years at Saint Mary's Home Adult Day Care Center. Sister was involved in the Religious Education programs at Houtzdale Catechetical Center, St. Francis of Assisi in Bradford, PA and at St. Matthew in the Woods Parish in Erie. For four years, Sister Hildegarde ministered as care-giver for her parents and subsequently for two friends of the Congregation. Most recently, Sister Hildegarde has served the Sisters in Marycrest in various ways. Currently, she serves the Sisters' Prayer Call Ministry (since 2005).

"Reflecting on all the Sisters I had contact with for 60 years, it was hard to pick out one. I just want to thank all the Sisters for all they have done for me."

Agnes Marie Hughes, SSJ
60 years



Ministry Highlights: Sister Agnes Marie ministered at St. Ann, Blessed Sacrament, Holy Rosary, St. Andrew, St. Joseph and St. Patrick schools in Erie and at St. Leo School in Ridgway, PA and St. Francis School in Clearfield, PA. Sister also ministered at Erie Day Nursery, Houtzdale Catechetical Center and as an Infirmary Assistant in Rosary Hall at Villa Maria Motherhouse. Presently, Sister Agnes Marie provides home care for her brother in Osceola Mills, Pennsylvania.

"Sr. Anne Jane Dugan -- she was my First Communion teacher and she taught me how important it was to receive Jesus."



Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ
60 years



Ministry Highlights: Sister Mary Rita taught at Villa Maria Elementary, Sacred Heart and St. Peter Cathedral Schools in Erie. She also taught at St. Francis School in Clearfield and Our Lady of Peace School in Erie before being named Principal at Our Lady of Peace. Sister served as Administrator of Villa Maria Academy and Principal at Our Lady’s Christian School in Erie. Sister Mary Rita was appointed Vicar for Religious by Bishop Michael J. Murphy in 1984 and she continues in that ministry until the present day.

“As much as I would like to name an individual Sister, as you ask, I feel that so many Sisters exemplify these qualities. I’m most aware of this when we come together at a community meeting—or at a community gathering to celebrate! I can look around the room and see the many women who, in a variety of ways, display these characteristics!”

Ministry Highlights: Sister Mary Claire taught at Villa Maria Academy and at St. Peter Cathedral School in Erie. At Villa Maria College, she was Instructor, Chairman of the Chemistry Department and Associate Professor. She ministered at Saint Vincent Hospital as a Clinical Chemist as well as Instructor in the School of Medical Technology and the School of Nursing. Sister served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Wisconsin in the Institute for Enzyme Research and was Research Professor of Biochemistry at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Konstanz, Germany on the Faculty of Biology and was the Recipient of a Fellowship from the German Academic Exchange Service. Sister Mary Claire served on the Congregation’s Council and is presently the Social Justice Coordinator for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania (since 2000).

Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ
60 years



“There are many, e.g. Sister Marilyn Zimmerman’s bold and courageous move to provide housing for women that led to the establishment of Community House.”



Geraldine Olon, SSJ
60 years



Ministry Highlights: Sister Geraldine taught at Sacred Heart, Holy Rosary, St. Andrew and Villa Maria Academy schools in Erie and at St. Leo School in Ridgway, St. Mary School in Reynoldsville and Elk County Christian High School in St. Marys, Pennsylvania. Sister Geraldine was one of the founders of the Bread of Life Charismatic Community and is currently Director of Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center for the Diocese of Erie (since 1986).

Stephanie Wagner, SSJ
60 years



Ministry Highlights: Sister Stephanie taught at St. Andrew, Villa Maria Elementary, Sacred Heart, St. John, St. Peter Cathedral and Blessed Sacrament Schools in Erie. She also taught at Holy Rosary School in Johnsonburg and at St. Bernard School in Bradford, PA, and ministered at St. Joseph Home in Erie. Sister Stephanie served at Mercer County Catechetical Center and at Holy Rosary in Erie as Diocesan Consultant offering Religion programs for the hearing impaired and special education students. For several years, she ministered as coordinator of the infirmary at the Sisters' Motherhouse and at the Sisters' Community Living Center. She presently ministers at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge as a volunteer, visitor and Eucharistic Minister. She also visits other nursing homes for St. Andrew Parish in Erie.

"Through the years many nuns influenced me, especially when I began my ministry in Rosary Hall with our infirmed Sisters. Sister Catherine Ann Earley played a major role at that time. She had much foresight and wisdom. There are so many more nuns and priests who have impacted my life, especially my pastor who was a great inspiration to me."

Ministry Highlights: Sister Mary Herrmann spent many years at Saint Vincent Health Center both in nursing/patient services and in administration as Executive Vice President. She then ministered as Nurse Clinician at the Booker T. Washington Center in Erie. Sister Mary was Vice President of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph for ten years and she is presently Director of the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (since 1999).

"Answering this question, I started to list some of the wonderful sisters that I knew/know personally or from history. The list is too long. Some of the leaders of the past certainly have inspired but I also found myself reflecting on some of the less known, the quieter ones, the behind the scenes individuals. I conclude that all Sisters of St. Joseph are Women of Courage in various ways. The spirit of being one with God and one with the neighbor is evidenced in all."

Mary Herrmann, SSJ
Formerly Sister Rosemary
50 years



Carol Wilcox, SSJ
Formerly Sister Mary Gilbert
50 years



Ministry Highlights: Sister Carol taught at St. Andrew, St. John, Our Lady of Peace and St. Michael-St. Paul School in Erie and at Holy Rosary School in Johnsonburg and St. Leo School in Ridgway. Sister also was a teacher at the Perceptual Development School at Villa Maria College. Sister Carol served as an elementary school teacher and Director of Religious Education at St. Bernard in Bradford, Director of Religious Education and Pastoral Minister for St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Sheffield, PA and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Erie. Sister Carol presently ministers at the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network.

"Sister Virginia Ann Gardner was a woman of spirit, courage and vision. I remember her insistence on excellence in grammar and her devotion to good literature. Her vision for her students was that they excel and go far in life. She showed tremendous courage as she endured the painful decline of her health in later years. As a member of a Pastoral Team, she brought great wisdom and insight to the parish. Sister believed firmly that all religions have a piece of the Truth and she respected their beliefs also."

We Remember...

Mary Theno, SSJ



Mary Theno, SSJ, 85, died on Friday, July 3, 2009. Formerly Sister Mary George, she was in her 66th year of religious life. She was born on February 27, 1924 in Erie, the daughter of the late George and Edna (Krug) Theno.

She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on September 5, 1943 from her home parish, St. Mary's in Erie. She professed her final vows on August 15, 1949 and celebrated

her 60th anniversary as a Sister of St. Joseph in 2003.

Prior to her death, Sister Mary resided at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center. Her many years of active ministry included working in graphic arts at Villa Maria College and Gannon University. During that time, Sr. Mary also served on the U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph research team that was conducting an extensive review and translation of the Congregations' earliest documents dating back to seventeenth century France. Sister Mary's primary role was to utilize her design skills and artwork to provide visual expression for many of the translations that were published and utilized by SSJ Congregations

"I thank God for the graces that enable me to live as a part of the SSJ tradition," she said. "T.S. Eliot writes that the sense of tradition is not just a sense of the past but it is the sense of the timeless joining the sense of the temporal of our own time and place. This best defines our SSJ tradition dating back over three hundred years. Our mission then was the same as it is today — unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God. The difference lies only in our response to the needs of our day and the time in which we live."

Mary Theno, SSJ

throughout the U.S. Sister Mary also taught history and art at Villa Maria Academy and she taught at St. Andrew and Villa Maria Elementary schools in Erie and Holy Rosary in Johnsonburg.

In 1955 she earned a B.A. in history and art from Villa Maria College, Erie and a M.F.A. in Art from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. in 1962. She also attended seminars in art at Indiana State College in Indianapolis, Indiana and in history at Holy Cross University in Massachusetts. She graduated from Villa Maria Academy and Villa Maria Elementary schools in Erie.

In 1945, Sister Mary's great aunt, Rose Schlindwein and her husband, Dr. William Schlindwein gave the Sisters their summer home and property on the banks of Elk Creek in McKean. This property, named "Villa Rosa" by Dr. Schlindwein in honor of his wife, is still utilized and enjoyed for retreats and other activities by the Sisters.

Kathleen Blair, SSJ

*Teacher and librarian at
Villa Maria Academy*



Kathleen Blair, SSJ, 72, died on December 10, 2009. Formerly Sister James Marie, she was in her 56th year of religious life. She was born on February 5, 1937 in Erie, the daughter of the late James Sayre and Mary Elizabeth "Betty" (Felleisen) Blair.

Sister Kathleen entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from her home parish, Saint Peter Cathedral, Erie, on September 2, 1954. She professed her final vows on August 15, 1960. For 50 years, Sister Kathleen was involved in the ministry of teaching and spent 29 of those years as a teacher and librarian at Villa Maria Academy in Erie.

Sister Kathleen taught at Holy Rosary and Saint Patrick Schools in Erie. Subsequent assignments included Saint Francis, Clearfield, and Blessed Sacrament, Erie. From 1968-1976 she ministered at Saint Peter Cathedral Center in Erie. She served on the Erie County Library Board for nearly 20 years.

Have for God an expansive love which includes all that love is capable of and all that a heart can love in God and for God . . . a profound heartfelt love which is at your heart's center and cannot be uprooted by any created power.
SSJ Maxim

She graduated from Villa Maria Academy, Erie, in 1954. She earned a B.S. in Elementary Education from Villa Maria College, Erie in 1965 and a Masters of Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1977. In November 2008, she received the Villa Maria Academy Alumni of the Year award.

During her 50th Jubilee year in 2004, Sister Kathleen shared the following reflection on her vocation and ministry in education. "I believe that the seed of my calling to serve God as a Sister of Saint Joseph, a community whose mission is unity of neighbor

with neighbor and neighbor with God and whose charism (gift to the church) is love—love of God and neighbor without distinction, was planted in those early years at home where it grew and was nurtured in me,” she explained. “(And) I realized early on that teaching was what I really wanted to do. Working with children, instilling in them a love for learning and the desire to be life-long learners, is an awesome privilege which I value to this very day.”

Eugenia Dixon, SSJ

Eugenia Dixon, SSJ, 87, died on Saturday, March 20, 2010.



She was in her 60th year of religious life and would have celebrated her Diamond Jubilee this coming July.

She was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the daughter of the late Frank A. and Marie Fallon Dixon.

She joined the U.S. Coast Guard when she was in her early 20s and enjoyed deep sea fishing while training in Palm Beach, Florida, and marching behind a rider-less horse for three funerals in Washington, D.C. After more than five years of service in the Coast Guard, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in Erie.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

She served as a staff nurse at the Sisters of St. Joseph Rosary Hall, Erie; St. Joseph Home, Erie; Spencer Hospital, Meadville; and Saint Vincent Hospital (now Saint Vincent Health Center), Erie. She was a school nurse at St. John the Baptist, Villa Maria Elementary, St. Patrick, Holy Rosary, Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Peace Schools.

She was an instructor of pediatrics and EKG (electrocardiogram); taught at Mercer County Catholic Center and taught religious education at Houtzdale Catechetical Center, Houtzdale, and Holy Rosary School in Erie.

She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph September 1, 1950, from Holy Innocents Parish, Pittsburgh. She professed her final vows on August 15, 1956.

She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Villa Maria College, Erie and studied at Saint Vincent Nurses' Training School, Erie. She graduated from Langley High School, Pittsburgh, in 1942, and from Holy Innocents Grade School, Pittsburgh, in 1938.

Joanne Crawford, SSJ

Sister Joanne Crawford, SSJ, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern, Pennsylvania died at the convent in Johnsonburg, PA on May 31, 2010. Formerly, Sister Ann Joseph, she was in the 56th year of her religious life.

Born in Kane, PA on July 20, 1936, she was the daughter of Laverne Crawford and Mary Calhoun Crawford. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Joseph's Parish in Erie on February 2, 1955 and professed her final vows on August 15, 1960.



Sister earned her BS in Elementary Education from Villa Maria College in 1965 and Library Science certification from Edinboro University in 1967.

Sister taught in diocesan schools, including St. Patrick, St. Andrew, Sacred Heart, Blessed Sacrament, St. John and Holy Rosary in Erie as well as St. Brigid, Meadville; St. Bernard, Bradford; and Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg. She has ministered to the people in Johnsonburg and St. Marys for thirty-five years.

In addition to her parents, Sister was preceded in death by her sister, Lori Randolph.

We also remember SSJ Associates who died recently:

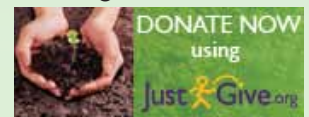
Susan Skeabeck – April 19, 2009

David Byers – February 21, 2010

Gifts and Prayer Requests Online!

The Most Secure Way to Give Using a Credit Card

Enclosed in this publication is a remittance envelope for gifts and prayer requests for the Sisters of St. Joseph. Please note – both transactions may be completed on our website.



Prayer Requests –from our home page of our website www.ssjerie.org click on **Spirituality and Prayer** and then click on **Prayer Request** to get to the page where you may submit prayer intentions to the Sisters.

Gifts –from our home page of our website www.ssjerie.org click on **Support Us** and then on **Donate Now**. All gifts made on our website are secure and confidential through the JustGive.org link on our website. Your information will not be shared with any other entity. You can feel secure in making your online gift to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Contact Us: If you have questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact the Development Office (814) 836-4202 or kristina.huber@ssjerie.org.



**SISTERS OF
ST. JOSEPH**
OF NORTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA

Connecting with God ✚ Connecting with You

Do we need to correct your name, title or address? Did you receive duplicate copies of Journeys or do you wish to be removed from our mailing list? Please let us know by faxing the mailing label with corrections to 814-836-4277 or mail it to us at 5031 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA 16506-1249.

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Erie, PA
Permit No. 228**

5031 West Ridge Road | Erie, Pennsylvania 16506-1249
PHONE (814) 836-4100 | FAX (814) 836-4277
WEBSITE www.ssjerie.org

Ever striving for unity
of neighbor with neighbor
and neighbor with God.



8th Annual

Circle of Friends Celebration

Sunday, August 15, 2010

Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center

5031 West Ridge Road

Erie, Pennsylvania

10:00 a.m. Liturgy

11:00 a.m. Brunch

12 noon Duck Races, games and fun!

RSVP by August 6, 2010 (814) 836-4100 or www.ssjerie.org

Bring
the whole
family!

Reserve your ducks
in advance!
(814) 836-4054
www.ssjerie.org



Become a fan!

Be Cool... Connect with us on

facebook