



imagine
ONE

CONGREGATION OF THE
SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH

FALL/WINTER 2016
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**ROOTED
IN LOVE**

A timely look at
Catholic Social Teaching

imagine ONE

FALL/WINTER 2016
VOL. 8 | NO. 2

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Our mission as Sisters of St. Joseph flows from the purpose for which the congregation exists: We live and work that all people may be united with God and with one another.

We, the Congregation of St. Joseph, living out of our common tradition, witness to God's love transforming us and our world. Recognizing that we are called to incarnate our mission and charism in our world in fidelity to God's call in the Gospel, we commit ourselves to these Generous Promises:

- We, the Congregation of St. Joseph, promise to take the risk to surrender our lives and resources to work for specific systemic change in collaboration with others so that the hungers of the world might be fed.
- We, the Congregation of St. Joseph, promise to recognize the reality that Earth is dying, to claim our oneness with Earth and to take steps now to strengthen, heal and renew the face of Earth.
- We, the Congregation of St. Joseph, promise to network with others across the world to bring about a shift in the global culture from institutionalized power and privilege to a culture of inclusivity and mutuality.
- We, the Congregation of St. Joseph, promise to be mutually responsible and accountable for leadership in the congregation.

WE CARE ABOUT ALL CREATION

In awareness of our mission, the Congregation of St. Joseph is pleased to present this issue of *imagineONE*, which has been produced in an environmentally sustainable way through the use of recycled paper manufactured by windpower and printed using soy- and vegetable-based inks.



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ON THE COVER

As the world continues to experience violence and abuse of every kind, and as the 2016 national elections approach, we offer articles in this issue to stimulate thinking and reflection on Catholic Social Teachings as guideposts for our thoughts, actions and decisions. We hope this issue challenges you.



▲ Sister Christine in her garden

One of the great loves of my life is to spend time in gardens—touring, walking, and working in them. There’s something very re-creative and contemplative in getting earth under my fingernails planting, weeding, watering, and tending the garden. As we move into autumn, we enter the season of gathering the fruits of our gardens, the fruits of summer’s largesse. The fruits we gather, whether edible or flowering, nurture our bodies and spirits. They come from the sowing and tending we’ve done throughout spring and summer. Without this sowing and tending there would be no harvest, no gathering, nothing to sustain life.

Considering this issue of *imagineONE*, the garden image seems an apt metaphor for our life right now (yours and mine) as we move through this election cycle and consider how to discern/decide what will be most supportive for the Common Good of our nation and world—knowing from experience and history that inevitably we will reap from what we have sown. As a congregation we give ourselves to sowing the seeds of unity and love, of reconciliation and mercy—in our work, the concerns we have, the issues we support, our prayer, our presence with others. We need only glance at a newspaper, watch the evening news, or get caught up in the constant stream of electronic posts to realize how essential these “seeds” are for our earth and world.

My prayer for all of [my disciples] is that they will be of one heart and mind, just as you, God, and I are — that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us...

JOHN 17:21

If you’re like me, the forces of disunity, discord, and self-interest are a constant threat, and at times can feel pretty disheartening and overpowering. By myself I can feel powerless in the face of all the negative energy and messages that surround us. It is only when I know myself to be “*of one heart and mind with*” the Sacred, and with others called to this mission of unity that I can respond with love and continue to give myself to being part of the force for good.

In this issue of *imagineONE*, we gather and offer you some of the fruits of this season of our congregational activity, flowing out of our mission of unity and our commitment to the social teachings of the church in this Holy Year of Mercy. Both of these movements illustrate the heart of Jesus’ own life and mission. They point to his deep understanding of and union with the God he knew and was known by. There is little doubt that our earth and world are as much in need of these movements today as they have ever been. Each of the stories here illustrate our ongoing commitment to put our lives and resources at the service of the gospel and our mission of unity, as we come together with you, and others who share this vision, to respond to the world’s needs today.

Christine Parks, CSJ

Sister Christine Parks, CSJ
Congregational Leadership Team



We Circled the City With Love

July 17th, 2016, was a day unlike any other in Cleveland, and not just because the Republican National Convention was set to start there the next day. Upset at hearing disturbing sound bytes relative to the RNC and its potential for violence, thousands of people banded together on a bridge near the convention site and showed the world what can happen when we choose LOVE over hate, PEACE over violence, and UNITY over separatism.

Sister Rita Petruziello, CSJ, who lives in Cleveland, came up with the idea for **Circle the City with Love**, in which she hoped to offer a peaceful witness demonstrating the power of love and unity. She got her wish and then some. With the help of a small but committed group of volunteers and staff and some timely connections, a largely grassroots effort grew to include over 3,000 people. “I was overwhelmed by the turnout and the positivity and love I felt that day,” she said. “Love is a very powerful force in the universe, and we put more of it out there that day.”

People from across the city and state, and some from farther away, joined hands in the 85-degree heat and stood in silence for 30 minutes on the bridge

Love is a very powerful force in the universe, and we put more of it out there that day.

SISTER RITA PETRUZIELLO, CSJ

that joins Cleveland’s East and West sides. The event drew a diverse crowd – men and women, black and white, young and old, and every age in between. People applauded, hugged and shook the hands of police officers monitoring the event and a few officers even joined the circle.

“When I saw later that week that there were no major violent incidents around the RNC I was very happy,” said Sister Rita. “I like to think that maybe our starting the week in peace helped.”

The name Circle the City With Love came from a song by Sister Kathy Sherman, CSJ. Those who could not participate in Cleveland formed circles of their own, praying and standing for peace at the same time as those on the bridge, in our centers and parishes, community centers, schools, and many other places across the country. The event was covered by local, national and international magazines, newspapers and television. ■





Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to come together, focus and love each other, the city, the World.

DENIESE via TWITTER



Your event was life affirming and life altering for me. I hope to be connected to you and what you represent for years to come.

PATTI via TWITTER





It was an awesome experience!
I feel so blessed to have been
included.

DIA via FACEBOOK



Such a beautiful event. Always
proud to be an associate member.
Thrilled to see such an outpouring
of love.

JEANNIE via FACEBOOK



THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF Catholic Social Teaching



CARE FOR POOR AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Catholic Social Teaching emphasizes that Jesus identified himself intimately with the poor and marginalized people in society and that we must always treat them with respect, dignity, and care. This concern extends beyond one's own area to people suffering throughout the world.

◀ *Sister Agnes Weber, CSJ, Director of Pastoral Care at the Wichita Diocesan Catholic Care Center, ministers with a dear neighbor.*

THE UNITY OF ALL PEOPLE

The church teaches a basic solidarity among all people and a responsibility to work together for the benefit of all. The call of the Gospel is to live in harmony and peace among all people, respecting other nations, cultures and religions.

▶ *Sister Dianne Fanguy, CSJ, ministers with young adults in Nicaragua.*



HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The documents of the church proclaim that all people have the right to food, water, shelter and clothing, and that Catholics must be personally responsible for safeguarding these rights. The state also is responsible for ensuring these basic rights for each citizen.

◀ *Together Baton Rouge, a volunteer organization, helps close the grocery gap for people with unacceptably low access to grocery stores and fresh food.*



▲ Sister Wilma Apack, CSJ, blesses a participant of a faith program in Cleveland, Ohio.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY AND FAITH COMMUNITY

The church teaches that family and communities rooted in faith are the foundation of both church and society, living and teaching the values of the Gospel. Every government has responsibility for protecting, supporting, and encouraging the family for the basic well-being of the entire society.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR STEWARDSHIP

At the core of the environmental crisis is a moral challenge that the U.S. Bishops address: that we use and share the goods of the earth, what we pass on to future generations, and how we live in harmony with all of creation.



▲ The Well Spirituality Center in La Grange Park teaches kids about our planet at Earth Day retreats.



HUMAN DIGNITY

The Church has proclaimed as a basic principle that each person is created in the image of God. Every society is responsible for ensuring that human life is protected from the moment of conception until natural death.

◀ Sisters in Kalamazoo work to stop human trafficking.

THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The church teaches the need to respect employees and their rights to a just wage, decent work, safe working conditions, disability protection, and security in retirement. People have priority over capital; people are more important than profit. It was this issue that led Pope Leo XIII to write his encyclical letter, "Rerum Novarum" (on capital and labor), during the industrial revolution when many factory workers were mistreated and abused in the workplace.



▲ Sister Mary Ellen Gondeck, CSJ, (left), a member of our Peace & Justice Team, participated in a panel discussion about Labor Trafficking at the 2016 US Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph conference in Orlando. Also on the panel were Lupe Gonzalo of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (center) and Shelby Mack of the Student/Farm Worker Alliance. Both organizations work together for the rights of farm workers.



*Cathy Lanning Knittel
and Sister Pat Kozak on the
campus of Saint Joseph Academy
in Cleveland.*

Photo by Susan Love

ROOTED IN LOVE

A Conversation Between Friends About Catholic Social Teaching



▲ Pat Kozak,
circa 1964



▲ Cathy Lanning
Knittel, circa 1967

In 1964, Pat Kozak was a senior and Cathy Lanning was a freshman at Saint Joseph Academy in Cleveland, Ohio. As both of them were going through those tough teenage years, the world was also changing as it possibly never had before or maybe since. The Vietnam War was raging, the Civil Rights movement was expanding, and the Second Vatican Council was coming to a close.

In the early 70s, Pat and Cathy met again as they began their teaching careers at the Academy. Cathy was married and Pat entered the congregation, but through the years, they have maintained a professional relationship, but more importantly a friendship.

Pat became interested in two classes Cathy is teaching; one is focused on Catholic Social Teaching; the other is a pilot course on the American Experience using the framework of an international organization, *Facing History and Ourselves*. She co-teaches this class with history teacher, Nick Roaldi. The intent of the class is to make the connection between our civic responsibilities and our invitation to live the message of the Gospel using a variety of current issues.

PK: This course you and Nick are teaching sounds both challenging and fascinating, but before we get to that, let's talk about Catholic Social Teaching. I know there are seven themes that have shifted in emphasis over the years but where did they actually come from?

CK: While we have always valued justice and social responsibility in our faith tradition; scripturally and within the life of the Church, in 1998 the American Catholic bishops wrote a groundbreaking pastoral letter entitled, *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching; Challenges and Directions*,

which highlighted seven principles that serve as the foundation of the Church's social teaching.

PK: Cathy, I confess to remembering four or five, but what are the seven?

CK: Sorry to say, you are not alone. The principles of Catholic Social Teaching are probably one of our best kept secrets. They are Human Dignity/Respect for Life, Family Community Participation, Rights and Responsibilities, Option for the Poor, Work and the Workers, Solidarity, and Stewardship.



Undergirding all of these ideals is our understanding of what we call the Common Good; our responsibility to live in a manner that helps *all* people access their right to live a dignified life. As you can tell, they are all-encompassing, providing guidance on matters that are personal *and* public, local *and* global. I think they are all connected as well; human dignity and respect for life are the lynch pin – nothing else matters if one does not believe in that principle. The fact that we are relational, societal beings who have many, varied rights each with corresponding duties; personal as well as those which deal with “the group” is a huge concept to grasp and really believe. It is essential we believe that we are truly brothers and sisters to one another (solidarity), that we need to care for those who cannot or will not care for themselves – that is part of our work as human beings – all the while caring for the earth, indeed cosmos we share.



Photo by Susan Love

PK: The way you speak of Common Good seems especially relevant today. When I consider what’s going on in our world, and maybe especially as we approach national elections, it seems that our lack of understanding of or appreciation for the Common Good is an underlying factor in so many of the struggles we see in our own country and all over the world. All of us seem to see only from our own personal perspective and from the self-interest of our own country.

CK: Absolutely! Can I give you one concrete example that really resonates with me and with the girls?

PK: Sure, go for it!

CK: Nick and I do a unit on education in which we show the documentary, *Waiting for Superman*. The gist of the film is that even though we say that in the U.S. every child has the *right* to a free, quality, public education, the reality is that does not happen everywhere especially for kids who are living in poverty, or for children of color. We talk about this phenomenon as an example of institutional racism and elitism. We want our students to understand that there is a personal and societal obligation to ensure the rights of others. Although our approach is from a decidedly Catholic

Christian perspective, we are quick to say that this is a *human* responsibility; we have a responsibility to ensure the rights of others to a good education, a decent job, adequate food, shelter, and health care, the ability to immigrate and emigrate, and on and on. Good Lord, this isn’t new! John XXIII talked about these and many other rights in 1963 when he wrote *Pacem in Terris*.

PK: Cathy, I am struck that what you’re saying sounds so “CSJ.” In all of this, relationships are key, not only relationships between people, but even the relationship between one decision and another. Everything is



connected; the themes of Catholic Social Teaching are connected as I mentioned previously; our responses all impact one another, and the changes we hope for in society spill over one to another. We can't say we care about human dignity and not care about the option for the poor or fair wages; we can't say rights and responsibilities are important and not care about the right to health care or the right to vote. One theme seems to naturally draw us into the next.

CK: Just today we had our last class. The girls each gave a two minute reflection on what the class

had meant to them. What I noticed in many of the responses was that they saw the upcoming elections, when they will vote for the first time, as an opportunity to be what the Church calls a "faithful citizen." One student commented, "People need to agree that they are willing to be an 'upstander' (the opposite of a bystander) regarding important issues in our society. People need to be educated on world topics and not speak before they fully understand. Once we have people who are 'all in' and willing to work for justice, they will help ensure we all have the right to live a good life in peace."

PK: What a wonderful example of what's possible when we provide both education and the environment in which young people can explore ideas and be challenged to address the complexity of the world we live in. When I think about the upcoming elections—whether local or national, I think our commitment to the Common Good needs to be at the heart of our decisions. It may be a concept central to our Christian and Catholic faith, but I think the Common Good was central in the minds and hearts of those who wrote the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. "... in order to form a more perfect union." I think they understood that this process is not an easy one. Politics often involves compromise and balance and deep wisdom with the long view in mind. There are no quick fixes and it seems that brashness and extremism almost always results in wrong judgments, in exclusion and still greater suffering, especially for the poor and most vulnerable. If your students are any indication at all, I think we have reason to hope for the Common Good and real progress toward "a more perfect union."

CK: Well said, Pat. The word that comes to mind is *essential*. It is my belief that we are beginning to see, much more perhaps than when we were in high school, that knowing what is loving and just alone doesn't cut it; we have to *do* justice. Along with you, I have great hope for the future. ■

*Every day we
were realizing how
connected
everything is!*

**We
really are
ONE!!**

*We met all kinds of
new neighbors: people
I never would have met
who look different and
live differently but at
the heart we are
all the same.*

*Our notion of
"neighbor" was
really stretched.*

*I met people who
love their work and
they work in some of the
poorest places I've ever
imagined.*

**I want to be
passionate about
my ministry like
they are.**

*I discovered that
even bees and
mushrooms are our
neighbors.*

**I want to
pour myself out
in love like the
sisters do.**

Community Builders for Peace

BY SISTER PAT BERGEN, CSJ

During a time in our country when peace feels like impossibility, when we wonder how to keep young people engaged and energized by Gospel values and ideals that work for the Common Good, Sister Pat Bergen and a team of sisters and associates continued a program (which originated at Catholic Theological Union) and brought it to fruition with young adults connected to the congregation. Community Builders for Peace was organized to empower individuals to actions that connect with others to foster peace and justice.

At left are just some of the comments from students who participated in the first Community Builders for Peace event held this past June at the congregation's center in La Grange Park, Illinois. Students discovered their sense of generosity, zeal, and

worked on developing the ability to listen for the next step to which the Spirit is inviting them. Connections of love, solidarity, the desire for the 'more' inside of themselves and in those they were serving were explored. Students, mentors, and all who

participated met God in new neighbors and discovered there is no distinction between themselves, the neighbor and God.

Community Builders for Peace is organized so that mentors can



▲ All smiles! Students and mentors from our Community Builders for Peace program. From left to right, students Abigail Polson from St. Joseph Academy in Baton Rouge, Emily Williams and Eileen Wisniowicz from Nazareth Academy in La Grange Park, Sister Pat Bergen, CSJ, and Student Mentor Jen Simiegielski.

Photos by Sister Joellen Sbrissa, CSJ



▲ Community Builders Emily Williams and Grace Calibria volunteered at Maria Kaupas Center. Working with Grace Ministries, they planted herbs and flowers in “slat gardens” made from shipping pallets which were then given to inner city families who often have no green space of their own.



▲ Student Mentor Hillary Buzaid found out that 1 out of every 6 Chicagoans goes to bed hungry. She along with a team of Community Builders volunteered to prepare bags of food that fed 11,000 families the following night.

carry the program into schools and communities. Mentors had been preparing since March 2016 and gathered in June to welcome students from Nazareth Academy in La Grange Park, Illinois and St. Joseph Academy in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

For one week, sisters and associates as well as young adult mentors, facilitated presentations and processes which led students into a deeper living of the Gospel in light of the mission of the Congregation of St. Joseph. Each afternoon students boarded buses to ministry sites throughout Chicago. One team was escorted by sisters and mentors to Harmony Hope and Healing, a ministry of recovery through music for women who have

The world will be ready to see their efforts as they move forward, led by the Spirit, to build community and bring forth peace!

suffered from addiction, and another team participated in the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation with formerly incarcerated African American teens. One team was hosted by the Martin de Porres Day Care Center for children, and celebrated a party in their honor prepared by those who live in Vincennes Nursing Home. Another ministry team met at Maria Kaupas Center, which is an after school center for children and teens. Here they learned about food deserts throughout the country and in the city

of Chicago and were part of planting a community garden. Ministry teams planted individual pots of herbs and plants for distribution to those suffering from poverty that will come to many of the Community Gardens throughout the city. The ministry teams worked at the Greater Chicago Food Depository with other adult volunteers, they worked at a Catholic Charities Food Pantry and also spent time learning how to live with zero waste at The Plant – Chicago’s innovative, sustainable food hub.

Of course, the students also had time having fun with one another. Millennium Park, Navy Pier and Chicago Pizza were some of the high points of their time together!

Each evening the students met and were led by sisters and mentors in theological reflection and Sharing of the Heart and Order of the House (spiritual practices which help to deepen communion and make connections with the topics presented that morning). Then students and mentors met to dream about how the experiences of the day were connecting to needs in their own communities. From these needs, dreams began to surface for projects which will build community within their schools and with other communities. These projects will integrate the mission of the Congregation of St. Joseph and bring about deeper peace.

Student project groups will develop these plans with the guidance of their young adult mentors during the coming school year. Mentors will meet with CSJ sisters who are serving as coaches to support and help them with their project groups. An Advent Retreat will find students and mentors coming together to continue building community and to see how projects are progressing. The projects will be presented, complete with dreams for their sustainability and their evaluation, when the students and mentors gather in May 2017. At this time students will receive certificates as CSJ Community Builders for Peace and mentors will receive certificates as CSJ Young Adult Mentors of Community Builders for Peace.

As students left after a jam-packed week in Chicago, they were excited to develop their projects. The world will be ready to see their efforts as they

move forward, led by the Spirit, to build community and bring forth peace! ■

Stay tuned for updates on the students' progress throughout the year which we will share in our eNewsletters, on Facebook and on Twitter. Sign-up for our eNews via our website at www.csjoseph.org.

Sister Pat Bergen, CSJ, is a member of the Congregational Leadership Team, a spiritual director and a retreat director. She holds a BA degree in Philosophy and Education, an MA degree in Pastoral Studies, and a Doctorate of Ministry. She also has a certificate in Spiritual Direction and completed an internship in directing 30-day Ignatian retreats. Pat's ministry experience includes work in CSJ vocations and formation, pastoral care, spiritual direction, and retreat direction.



▲ Students, mentors and sister coaches who are participating in the Community Builders for Peace program this year.



KEEPING THE PROMISE

Congregation continues effort to care for earth in new and creative ways

BY ED SUTORIS, MANAGER OF PROPERTIES

The commitment that the congregation has made to embrace the care of the earth is not an empty promise. Sisters, associates, ministries and partnerships that the congregation sponsors are continually striving for ways to make that commitment real, sustainable and relevant.

Four ways that the congregation is making inroads on this commitment to honor and save the Earth:

1

At the **Kalamazoo Nature Center**, we are integrating nature and the environment with education to teach kids from Kalamazoo about the benefits of the outdoors and to address the lack of access and experience that many children have to nature. To alleviate this nature 'drought,' we have entered into a partnership with the Kalamazoo Nature Center to create an urban outreach program. This program focuses on getting kids outside, into the forest and woods to appreciate nature during all the seasons of the year. Many of the children included in the program have not had the opportunity to experience the outdoors as a playground. The Kalamazoo Nature Center also incorporates healthy lifestyle nutrition choices into its program.

The response by various schools and groups in the Kalamazoo area who have participated in the program has been very positive. Some of the nature activities encouraging exploration have been taken place on the sisters' Nazareth campus which is adjacent to the Bow in the Clouds Nature conservancy. This great nature program looks like a match made in heaven for earth!

If you are interested in learning more about this partnership and how you can help support it, please contact Pat Milenius at pmilenius@csjoseph.org.



▲ Members of the Congregational Leadership Team and staff met with staff from the Kalamazoo Nature Center and were treated to a tour of the grounds and facility.





2

The sisters see an opportunity to change existing, sometimes destructive farming methods to more sustainable and environmentally protective methods over a period of time – beginning with their own land.

The sisters are stewards and owners of farmland in Indiana and Michigan that is leased to local farmers who grow crops for their livelihood. As part of the congregation's effort to promote sustainable farming practices, we are working with farmers to incorporate sustainable practices and encouraging them to adopt these practices on additional land they farm. The goal is to influence change around existing farming practices to more ecological practices. The sisters see an opportunity to change existing, destructive farming methods to more sustainable and environmentally protective methods over a period of time – beginning with their own land. Some of the key concepts of sustainable farming include no-till farming, planting cover crops and working with farmers to ensure economic viability during a transition period from traditional farming to more sustainable practices. The congregation has been incorporating terms into their lease agreements as a way to ensure that these practices are followed.

To learn more about sustainable farming, including the benefits to the earth and economic benefits to the farmer, please visit www.sare.org.

3

Through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), we have begun the process of organic certification for a 60 acre portion of our farm in Kalamazoo, Mich. The farmland has been used for many years to grow only hay and has not been treated with any commercial fertilizers. One of the largest impediments to organic certification is that the land has to be free from commercial fertilizers for at least three years before achieving organic certification. There is an extensive application process through the USDA which we are beginning. We also have the support and commitment of our current farmer to grow organic crops on these acres. We hope to have our first crop planted in April, 2017. The benefits to the earth with organic farming are less erosion, fewer chemicals in the earth and water, and healthier food; while the benefits to the farmer are a higher economic yield per acre.



4

In our efforts to think and grow locally and to encourage nutrition, each of our centers has committed to growing and harvesting microgreens. These are being used on a regular basis as part of the food service for sisters and staff at each center. Microgreens are seedlings of edible vegetables and herbs (arugula, basil and kohlrabi to name a few), and while they are hugely popular now, they are also a proven way to get these nutrients to the public. Though miniscule in size, microgreens are concentrated in nutrients such as vitamins C, E, and K, lutein and beta-carotene, many times more than the mature leaves of the same plants. Microgreens can easily be grown indoors all year long, in your house or apartment, hydroponically on grow pads. The time of planting to harvest is usually in just 7-10 days. ■

Congregation Helps Launch Human Trafficking App

BY SISTER JANET FLEISCHACKER, CSJ



A hand holding a piece of torn, light-colored paper with the words "NOT SALE" written in dark, hand-drawn letters. The background is a blurred, dark scene, possibly a protest or a public gathering.

The principles of Catholic Social Teaching compel our congregation to help end human trafficking and to respond to the needs of those who are trafficked. For us, working for the Common Good of all in our society, understanding the solidarity that means we are all one, and especially recognizing the dignity and holiness of every life, calls us to respond to this terrible reality.

In 2015 the congregation learned of an effort by Exchange Initiative and Washington University in St. Louis to develop an app for smartphones designed to help end human sex trafficking. The project was unable to get off the ground without additional assistance. When we learned about this, we were eager to join this partnership and to offer resources toward its development and implementation.

Exchange Initiative, which helps provide resources, information and networking solutions to combat sex trafficking, was founded by the organization that has managed the congregation's conference planning needs for many years. In working with local police agencies, and then with the FBI, Exchange Initiative discovered that their familiarity with the décor of various hotel chains is a great asset in helping law enforcement find women



YOU can help fight human trafficking

1



Grab your iPhone or Android

2

Look for this app and download it for free from the Apple App Store or Google Play



3



Use the app to take and upload photos of your hotel room any time you travel



Over 1.5 million photos have already been added to the database and are being used by law enforcement to help stop traffickers.

and children being sold in hotel rooms. When traffickers post pictures on the web of women or children they are advertising for sex, hotel conference planners can help identify the hotel chain, and sometimes even the city, just by the background in the picture.

The TraffickCam app empowers travelers to help in the fight against sex trafficking by taking photos of their hotel rooms and anonymously uploading them to a national database, which will be used by law enforcement

and investigators to locate victims and their pimps.

Thousands of media outlets, online publications and TV stations have written about the unique app. The story has been shared countless times on Facebook and nearly 19 million tweets have generated more than 27 million Twitter followers.

As a result, hundreds of new hotels have been added to a database of more than 1.5 million photos. This innovative

app is now available for people to download onto their phones. Everyone can join in the work of ending trafficking. The app guides users to take pictures of hotel rooms where they are staying. Pictures taken and marked with a location are sent to a large database available to law enforcement agencies across the country, as well as the Center for Missing and Exploited Children. We have already started to find and rescue a significant number of children and women through use of this app.

Another major effort of the congregation to answer the outrage of human trafficking is a partnership with Healing Action Network in St. Louis. Healing Action Network was founded by Katie Rhoades, a licensed social worker and trafficking survivor. Katie was familiar to the congregation

The TraffickCam app empowers travelers to help in the fight against sex trafficking by taking photos of their hotel rooms and anonymously uploading them to a national database used by law enforcement to identify hotels where trafficking is taking place.



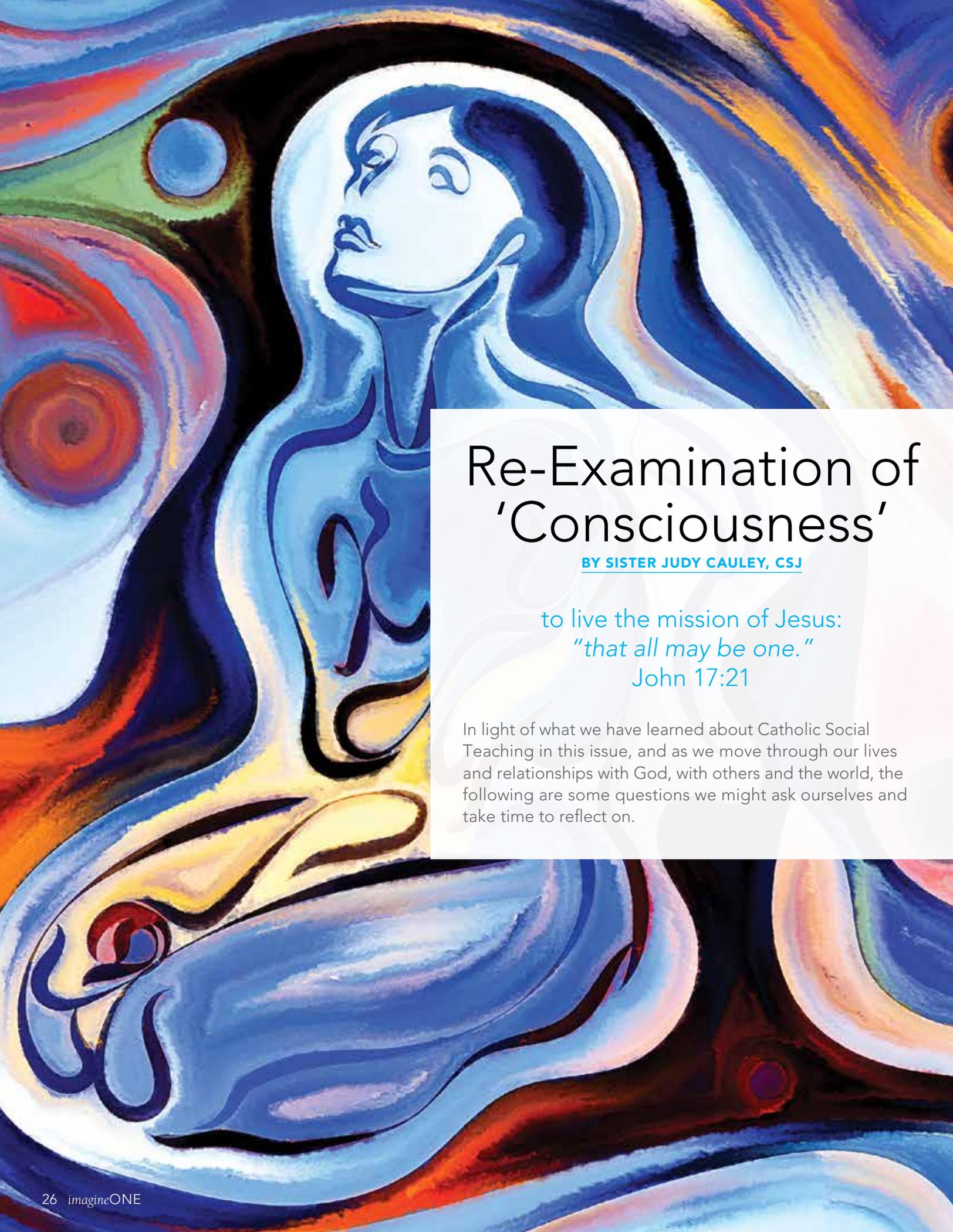
▲ From left, Director of CSJ Ministries, Sister Janet Fleischhacker, CSJ, founder of Healing Action Network and trafficking survivor, Katie Rhoades, and Senior Meeting Planner and Trafficking Coordinator for Nix Conference & Meeting Management, Kim Ritter. All three were part of a panel of presenters during the congregation's annual Assembly meeting in March, 2016, where the app was unveiled.

through her public speaking and education regarding trafficking. In addition to her awareness activities and legislative work, Katie had a vision of an organization that would provide support, safety, caring and services to women who have left “the life” or are struggling to get out of a life of being trafficked. This vision and the capacity to make this organization a reality was compelling to our CSJ Ministries. We are helping Katie as she works to directly assist victims of human trafficking.

These two partnerships, the Exchange Initiative collaboration and the Healing Action Network, let us participate in the front lines of raising public awareness and making concrete efforts to stop trafficking.

Working for the Common Good...the solidarity among us...upholding the dignity and holiness of every life – these principles ground and continue to inspire the efforts of CSJ that all may be one. ■

Sister Janet Fleischhacker, CSJ, is Executive Director of CSJ Ministries, the sponsorship arm of the Congregation of St. Joseph that provides support and oversight of most of the congregation's sponsored ministries. Sister Janet previously served as president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth, Mich., for 12 years. Before that, she oversaw the client services at the YWCA Domestic Assault Program in Kalamazoo, Mich., working extensively with victims of domestic violence as well as engaging in community education and advocacy related to domestic violence issues.



Re-Examination of 'Consciousness'

BY SISTER JUDY CAULEY, CSJ

to live the mission of Jesus:
"that all may be one."
John 17:21

In light of what we have learned about Catholic Social Teaching in this issue, and as we move through our lives and relationships with God, with others and the world, the following are some questions we might ask ourselves and take time to reflect on.

ATTENDING

to what is happening in our world

- Am I noticing and naming the critical needs in society?
- What issues are getting my attention? Which ones make me frustrated or angry? Which ones energize me?
- What is shifting in my thinking at this time?
- What vision of the future is capturing my attention?
- How am I attending to the record, vision and values of political candidates to become aware of their potential for shaping a future that works for everyone?

ACCEPTING

the reality of all our relationships

- Am I receiving others as they are without judgment, labels or resistance?
- How am I expanding my circle of relationships, including persons with different backgrounds, different experiences and different worldviews?
- Do I accept the feelings, concerns and different viewpoints of others without censure, blame or judgement?
- How do I affirm the value in ideas and actions that align with *and* differ from my own point of view?
- Do I accept my responsibility for whole-making where there are divisions?

APPRECIATING

our shared struggle toward wholeness

- How do I show appreciation for my gifts and contributions and that of others?
- How am I growing in my appreciation and compassion for the suffering of refugees, victims of violence, oppression, exploitation, discrimination and poverty, and those who lack education, health care and employment?
- What is my appreciation for the impact of climate change on all forms of life, especially the economically poor?
- How am I deepening my appreciation for the presence of the Holy Spirit working within myself, within all persons and within creation?
- How do I appreciate my role of working with others to create a new world?

AFFECTION

of reverence, mercy and compassion for all persons

- How do I show hope and respect toward others?
- How am I reverencing beauty and goodness in nature and in non-human animals?
- Do I speak my truth with care, kindness and gentleness?
- Am I an open, respectful, listening presence with those who disagree or challenge me?
- How do I provide an open, welcoming space for others to share their thinking, questions and feelings with openness and transparency?

ACTING

as an agent for a movement toward wholeness

- What Gospel value questions do I raise about living together as a family, a community, a society?
- What questions can I ask to change the focus on problems to focus on possibilities?
- What am I doing to free the air of pollution, to free water of contaminants, to free our land of toxins?
- How am I acting as a community-builder in the neighborhood and in the workplace?
- What issue or possibility am I drawn to act on for the emerging future? What more could I do?
- How can I join and collaborate with all others to live the future now?



Sister Judy Cauley, CSJ, holds a BA in Education, an MA in Administration and Supervision. In addition to her certification in Teaching and School

Administration, she holds certificates in Spiritual Direction, Human Service Organization and Contemplative Dialogue. Judy's current ministry experience includes pastoral care, spiritual direction, retreats and explorations in the new cosmology.



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Join Us For Special Service Days!

Since August 2007, when our seven founding communities of St. Joseph came together to be one as the Congregation of St. Joseph, we have experienced the abundance of God's great love through our relationships with each other and with you.

The awareness of our many blessings has prompted us to plan special "service days" as one way we hope to share from our abundance and celebrate with you. On October 15, 2016, Founder's Day and on April 29, 2017 (close to St. Joseph the Worker Day) we are inviting you to participate in service with us in one of the areas of our country where a center exists or a group of our sisters lives and ministers. We hope that this might serve as a public witness and symbol of our love of neighbor and love for our communities.

If you are interested in joining us in service or would like to learn more about service opportunities near you, visit us at celebrating10@csjoseph.org

