

Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM MOUNT ST. JOSEPH

Congregation looks forward with New Leadership; New Vision

In a spirit of great joy and community, sisters, associates, and staff of the Congregation of St. Joseph gathered together in Chicago for our Chapter meeting April 17 - 22, with others joining by live-streaming from our centers and homes.

Community members elected a new leadership team who will serve a five-year term beginning in August. The newly elected team is a group of multi-talented women who are deeply committed to furthering the mission of unity in today's world. They are (from left to right) Sisters Kathy Brazda, Marie Hogan, Sue Torgersen, Helen Skormisley, and Pat Warbritton. Please join us in welcoming our new team and in gratitude for the leadership of our current team. ●



Clockwise: Sisters Ellen Poche and Rose Ann Hefner; Sister Mary Ann Rosenbaum and Associates Mary Novak and Rose Mathes; Sisters Kathleen Durkin and Erin McDonald; members vote to affirm a new visionary direction; Sister Helen Prejean during large group sharing.

Life at
*Mount
St. Joseph*

There is always something going on at the Mount! Our sisters enjoy a diverse array of mind, body and spirit offerings and activities which provide opportunities to connect with one another, and contribute to an overall vibrant living experience.

Here are a few recent snapshots of life at Mount St. Joseph!



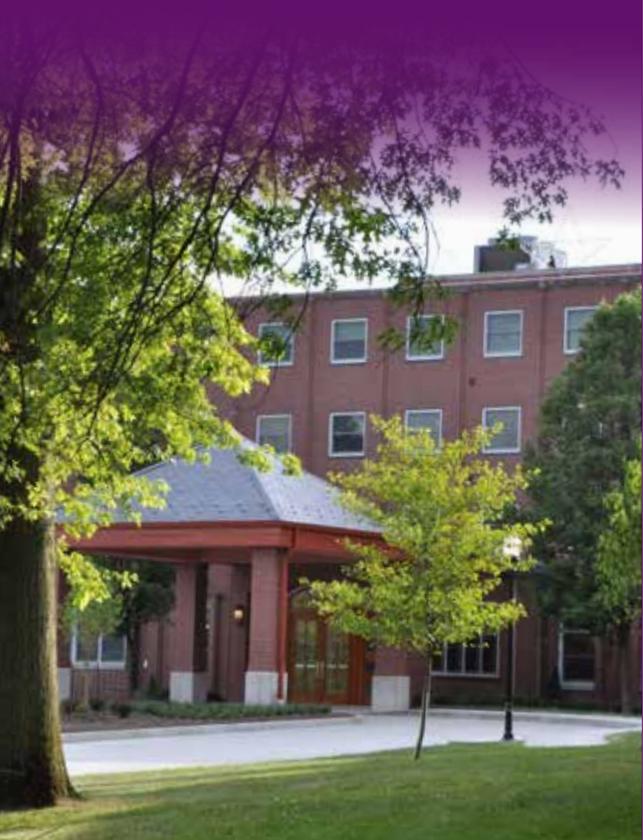
Sister Helen Skormisley (left), who was recently elected to the congregational leadership team (see cover story), was welcomed back to Mount St. Joseph with a congratulatory party in May. With her is Sister Virginia Yeager.



On June 2, National Gun Violence Awareness Day, sisters gathered in the Chapel at Mount St. Joseph to pray for all who have died or been affected by gun violence. They wore orange which is the color of the gun violence prevention movement. From left are Sisters Jane Cain, Jennifer Berridge, Barb Kupchak, and Kathleen Durkin.



Sisters Evelyn LaGory, Theresa Metz and Mary Clark demonstrated their baking skills recently while making embossed shortbread cookies, which of course they shared with everyone at the center!





On May 4th, sisters gathered in the dining room to celebrate “Derby Day” with a Kentucky Derby party. They donned fancy hats, played a table derby game, and enjoyed pie with ice cream. Sister Rosie Coughlin (left) and Sisters Theresa Metz and Eva Marie Schlag (center) enjoy the treats. Right, Sister Joan Kreyenbuhl advances each sister’s horse.



Spring clean up! Sisters Alicia Weiskircher, Joan Kreyenbuhl, Theresa Metz and Mary Clark (not pictured) prepare the Serenity Garden at Mount St. Joseph for spring planting. The garden was created in 2012 in memory of longtime friend and supporter of the congregation, Alice Riley.



Recently, sisters took part in an “armchair traveler” activity at Mount St. Joseph when they virtually visited The Netherlands. After learning a bit about the country and its history, the sisters enjoyed a taste of Dutch cuisine prepared by the kitchen staff, and viewed travel videos to take in the sites and learn more about the country. They were also treated to a video of traditional Dutch clogging.

Jubilee

2023

The following sisters who live at Mount St. Joseph and others from our founding community of Wheeling, are celebrating Jubilee this year. Jubilee is the anniversary of a sister's entrance into religious life.

Congratulations to all our sisters who are celebrating from around the Congregation this year!



Sister Joyce Ann Waltz, CSJ
(Sister Mary Leonard)

70 Years



Sister Joan Kreyenbuhl, CSJ
(Sister Joan Marie)

60 Years



Sister Jane Harrington, CSJ
(Sister Miriam)

65 Years



Sister Pat Murray, CSJ

25 Years



Sister Joan Singer, CSJ
(Sister Paula)

65 Years

To view sister biographies, visit our Jubilarians page at CSJoseph.org

† IN MEMORIAM †



Sister Rosalie Bucci, CSJ

Entered into eternal life
on January 4, 2023,
after 75 years of
religious life.



Sister Rita Marie von Berg, CSJ

Entered into eternal life
on October 25, 2022,
after 83 years of
religious life.

Earth Celebration 2023

On Sunday, May 21, the second annual Earth Celebration took place on the beautiful grounds of Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling. Sisters, associates, staff, and many friends and neighbors joined in the festivities that included music by local musicians, nature and garden displays, art installations, demonstrations, kids activities, petting zoo, and exhibits by some of the congregation's partners in mission including St. Joseph Retreat Center, Uplift WV, House of Hagar, Grow Ohio Valley, and more. You could even get a photo with Pope Francis (well, at least a life-sized cut out of him)!

“The Congregation of St. Joseph is dedicated to caring for Earth, our common home,” said Sister Kathleen Durkin, Spiritual and Retreat Director at St. Joseph Retreat Center. “We are committed to taking the steps necessary to strengthen, heal, and renew the face of Earth, and to collaborating with others who share in this mission.” ●



Holy Family Child Care Center

In May, Sisters Joan Singer, Rosie Coughlin and Joan Kreyenbuhl visited Holy Family Child Care Center in Wheeling, which was founded by Sister Barbara Campbell, CSJ, in 1984 and has been supported by the congregation for many years. They were greeted by director Tara Crews (second from left), and spent time holding babies in the infant room and interacting with pre-school children and their teachers in one of the playrooms. The little ones sang nursery rhymes, performed their abc's in sign language, and participated in an interactive story book. As a token of their appreciation, the sisters gifted the classroom a poster collage they had made of the book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.



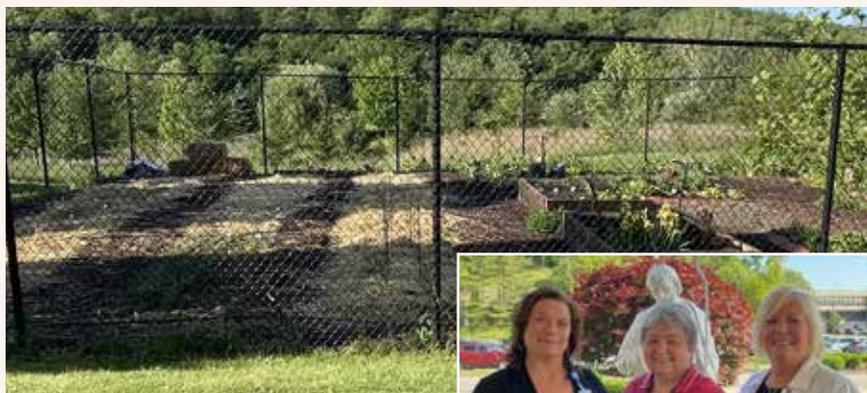
ABLE Families

In observance of Black History Month in February, Marlene Spaulding, Executive Director of ABLE Families in Kermit, WV, chose the book, "Who Was Rosa Parks" for their Roll & Read station during Dr. Seuss Literacy and Math Night. "Rosa Parks' refusal to move to the back of the bus was such a key moment for combating racial segregation that I saw this night as an opportunity to share the inclusive love that the congregation has nurtured in me for so many years," she said. She is pictured left with her son Joshua who helped staff the table. ABLE Families is a member of our Mission Network and is dedicated to empowering families caught in the net of poverty in the rural Tug Valley area of northern Mingo County. Their mission is to confront the systemic causes of poverty by supporting low-income families as they make positive changes in their lives. ABLE is an acronym for Affirming, Believing, Learning and Empowering.



Wheeling Hospital

When Wheeling Hospital wanted to expand their free employee vegetable garden recently, Sister Mary Ann Rosenbaum, who serves as Director of Pastoral Care at the Hospital, had an idea. With her encouragement, the congregation offered space on the grounds at Mount St. Joseph and some financial support for the expansion. The garden (right) was constructed and planted this spring, and when ready, the vegetables will be harvested and taken to the hospital to be made available to employees. Sister Mary Ann (center) helped coordinate the project with hospital employees Tami Magruder (left) and Kelley Hicks, who work in the Quality Management, Population Health department. Also helping with the garden project is Sister Kathleen Durkin (not pictured).



Sister Molly Retires from Sisters Health Foundation



For over 25 years, the Sisters Health Foundation has been listening to and collaborating with neighbors, colleagues, and area non-profits to respond to the healthcare needs of the Mid-Ohio Valley community. For 19 of those years, Sister Molly Bauer helped fulfill this mission.

Earlier this year, Sister Molly announced she would retire from the foundation and her position as Senior Program Officer in June.

Sister Molly came to the foundation in 2004 to serve as Health Ministry Initiative Program Director. In this role, she shepherded the establishment of new health ministries in faith-based congregations, and supported the growth and development of existing ministries.

When the Health Ministry Initiative concluded, Sister Molly transitioned into the role of Program Officer in 2013, and to Senior Program Officer in 2017 where she led the creation of the Basic Needs/Direct Service Program which places a priority on the basic needs of vulnerable populations.

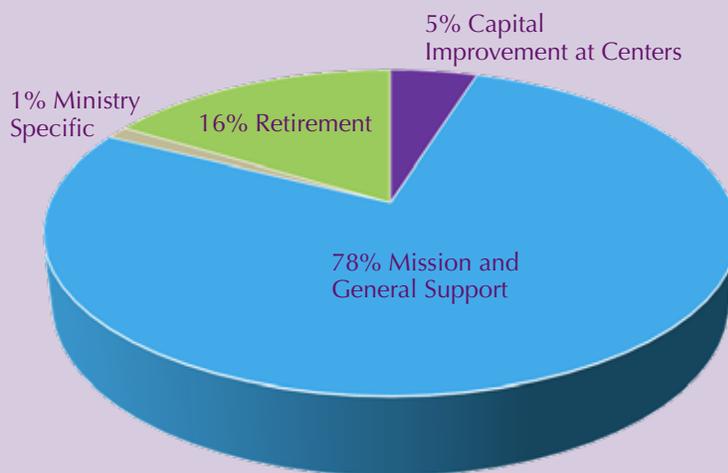
“Words can’t truly describe what Sister Molly has meant to the foundation and to the Mid-Ohio Valley community over the past nineteen years,” shared Executive Director Renee Steffen. “She has helped so many people grow as individuals and as a community and I’m grateful for the legacy of compassion she instilled in so many.”

A retirement party was held for Sister Molly on June 22 where she celebrated with colleagues, sisters, friends, and leaders of some of the ministries she and the foundation have worked with.

“What a privilege and blessing it has been to be part of the Sisters Health Foundation for the past nineteen years,” said Sister Molly. “It has been wonderful to work with such dedicated, enthusiastic, and caring staff. I am profoundly grateful that the Congregation of St. Joseph had the vision and foresight to establish the Sisters Health Foundation twenty five years ago. I am richly blessed to have been part of both.” ●

Thank You!

We are so very grateful for your prayers and your financial support. Here is how we used your charitable contributions this past year:



Did You Know?

There are two unique ways to support the sisters that you may not have considered:

Make a Charitable Distribution from your IRA

You can use your required minimum distribution (RMD) to support the Congregation of St. Joseph and reduce your taxable income by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). To do so, contact your IRA administrator and provide our EIN No: 83-0481134.

Invest in a Charitable Gift Annuity

By making a large gift now (\$10,000 or more), you can support the Congregation of St. Joseph, receive income payments for life, and receive tax advantages that include an immediate deduction for a portion of your gift, partially tax-free income payments, and no upfront capital gains tax (for appreciated securities). Returns are often at above market rates.

To Learn More, contact Melissa Haley O’Leary, Director of Development at moleary@csjoseph.org or **216-688-3474**

The Congregation of St. Joseph cannot give you financial or tax advice, so please consult with your financial advisor before making any final decisions.



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Spotlight Photo



Sisters Joan Singer and Eva Marie Schlag enjoy a visit with Lucky, a five-week-old baby cow from G&H Farms in West Liberty, WV.

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