

Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM THE SISTERS OF 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 Josephina Hirono and Kumiko Therese Yamamoto; Sisters Sarah Simmons and Lois O'Malley; Sisters Janelle Ann Brittain and Joan Burger; members vote to affirm a new visionary direction; Sisters Karen Salsbery, Ann Letourneau and Kathy Brazda.

Life at

The Mount

As Sisters of St. Joseph, we believe relationship is at the heart of who we are. This philosophy extends to our residential centers, which are vibrant places of activity that offer a warm and friendly community environment, places for gathering and quiet reflection, and activities for mind, body and spirit. There are also opportunities for service to others.

We invite you!

A limited number of apartments on our Wichita campus have recently become available to women and men who are looking for assisted or independent living, or skilled and short-term rehabilitation residence.

If you are interested in a unique kind of living experience and want to learn more, we invite you to consider joining us!

For more information, contact Michael Rajewski at 316.686.7171 or mrajewski@csjinitiatives.org.



Sister Teresa Waner enjoys baking in one of the shared kitchens available to residents on each floor at Mount St. Mary.



Sister Antonella Bayer enjoys playing the piano during liturgy in the chapel at Mount St. Mary.

One way the congregation honors its commitment to care of creation and to Laudato Si' is by investing in electric vehicles. Here, Sister Susanne Daniels, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, test drives an electric riding mower for use on the grounds at Mount St. Mary.





In May, over 200 students from nearby All Saints Catholic School came to Mount St. Mary as part of a practice evacuation. At left, Sister Anne Dolores LaPlante in Resurrection Chapel lets the students know that Mount St. Mary is a safe haven for them in case of an emergency. At right, Center Administrator Michael Rajewski and Sister Lois O'Malley pass out juice pouches to the students before their return to school.



This past spring, sisters enjoyed an outdoor visit from their “grandpals”- 5th graders from All Saints Catholic School. The students come to the center once a month to play games, do crafts and other activities, and visit with the sisters.



Recently, Sister Lois O'Malley held a CPR training for interested associates and sisters in Wichita. Attendees learned how to use an AED (automated external defibrillator), which is used to help those experiencing cardiac arrest. After part two of the training, attendees will be officially CPR Certified. Thank you Sister Lois!

St. Francis Ministries at The Mount

Continues Legacy of Service

Five years ago, the Sisters of St. Joseph welcomed St. Francis Ministries and those that they serve to our campus in Wichita. As part of our ongoing efforts to collaborate with others who would use our properties to continue serving the dear neighbor, we partnered with St. Francis Ministries, which leases a large portion of the former motherhouse to provide an array of innovative, mission-driven services for specialized populations, including child welfare. The building and operations is known as Saint Francis at The Mount.

St. Francis Ministries long history as providers of mental health, youth residential, foster care, and child welfare systems, allows them to have a unique perspective on child welfare and foster care systems. Today, St. Francis at the Mount houses Foster Care Homes (FCH) which recruits, trains and supports licensed foster families in order to provide the least restrictive, out-of-home placement for children and youth in state's custody. FCH staff provide professional support, training and support groups, crises intervention, and other services for foster families.

St. Francis Ministries at the Mount also operates In-Home Services and Outpatient Behavioral Health Services. In-Home Services include Family Centered Treatment and Seeking Safety. Family Centered



Treatment is an evidenced based model of intensive in-home treatment services for youth and families aimed at improving caretaking and coping skills, enhance family resiliency, develop healthy and nurturing relationships, and increase children's physical, mental, emotional, and educational well-being through family value changes. Seeking Safety is an evidence-based treatment program designed for families dealing with substance abuse who are at risk of having their children removed from the home. The program provides treatment that addresses trauma and substance use at the same time. Services are provided in-home to help teens, parents, pregnant women, and new parents with infants heal from trauma and substance abuse so they can strengthen their families and reorient their lives.

As two organizations committed to serving vulnerable populations in our world, the partnership between the Congregation of St. Joseph and St. Francis Ministries is important and continues to benefit our community. ●



In May, St. Francis Ministries was invited to join our sisters in celebrating St. Joseph the Worker Day. The sisters and St. Francis staff enjoyed food from local trucks as well as visiting with one another. Proceeds went to Dear Neighbor Ministries, a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph's Mission Network.

In Memoriam



Sister Patricia Ann
Regan, CSJ

Entered into eternal
life on June 11, 2023,
after 74 years of
religious life.



Sister Elizabeth Ann
Engels, CSJ

Entered into eternal
life on December 2,
2022, after 77 years
of religious life.



Sister Rosina
Van Leeuwen, CSJ

Entered into eternal
life on June 11, 2023,
after 74 years of
religious life.



Sister Mary Magdalene
Hayashi, CSJ

Entered into eternal
life on November 11,
2022, after 63 years
of religious life.



Sister Mary Ellen
Proulx, CSJ

Entered into eternal
life on May 4, 2023,
after 60 years of
religious life.



Sister St. Joseph
Wakabayashi, CSJ

Entered into eternal
life on November 10,
2022, after 63 years
of religious life.



Sister Judith
Couturie, CSJ

Entered into eternal
life on January 16,
2023, after 67 years
of religious life.



Sister Mary Josephine
Smith, CSJ

Entered into eternal
life on September 12,
2022, after 71 years
of religious life.

We Remember We Celebrate We Believe

Sister Diane Leary

Champion of Women's Sports Recognized by Newman University

Former coach, athletic director and athletic hall of famer Sister Diane Leary was recognized recently by Newman University and the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association as a Title IX Champion.

Title IX refers to a law passed in 1972 prohibiting sex discrimination in federally funded educational institutions. It revolutionized athletic programs for girls and women.

Over her more than 30-year career in athletics, Sister Diane, who passed away in 2019, was also a trailblazer and champion of women's sports. She was posthumously recognized during a halftime ceremony of the Newman University women's basketball team.

One of Sister Diane's former assistant coaches, Sister Lois O'Malley, thinks the acknowledgment of Sister Diane was well deserved.

"She was one of the heroines of the Title IX movement," Sister Lois said. "I have always had a special place in my heart for her because she was one of the leaders."

Prior to arriving at Newman University, she worked in athletics at St. Mary. In 1983, she was named director of



athletics at St. Mary, becoming the first woman to hold that title at the college level in the state of Kansas. In the 1991-92 season, five of the seven teams at St. Mary of the Plains won or shared Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference titles and she was named the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Administrator of the Year.

In 1992, Sister Diane arrived at Kansas Newman College, now Newman University, where she coached volleyball, taught history and was later named athletics director. After posting a 150-61 record at Newman and an overall career coaching record of 724-323, Sister Diane transitioned to the role of athletics director from 1999-2002.

In 2007, Sister Diane was named to the Newman Athletics Hall of Fame inaugural class, and in 2012 received the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa from Newman.

Sister Pam Young served with Sister Diane in leadership of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Wichita and also lived with her at St. Mary.

"She was a fiercely competitive person and a fiercely competitive coach," she said of Sister Diane. "At the same time, she knew her players, not just as athletes, but as students and as human beings. I think that's why they continued their relationships with her after their college careers ended."

The halftime ceremony and recognition showed that Sister Diane will long be remembered for more than her 700-plus coaching victories. She was loved for being a difference maker for women's sports and for all the athletes who played for or knew her. ●



Sister Diane with the women's volleyball team at St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City.

Jubilee 2023

The following sisters are celebrating Jubilee this year in Wichita and Japan. Jubilee is the anniversary of a sister's entrance into religious life.



Sister Mary Louis
Hermann, CSJ

70 Years

Sister Sharon Marie
McCauley, CSJ
(Sister Assumpta)



60 Years



Sister Rosa Mystica
Miyake, CSJ

60 Years

Sister Maria
Murata, CSJ

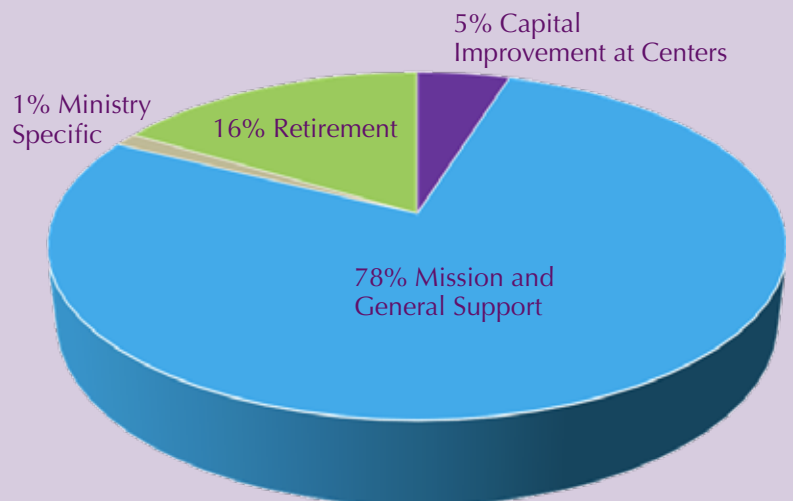


50 Years

To view sister biographies,
visit our Jubilarians page at [CSJoseph.org](https://www.CSJoseph.org)

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



Associates help prepare for the 2023 Jubilee celebration at Mount St. Mary.

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Hosted by Sisters
Colleen Gibson, SSJ
and Erin McDonald, CSJ