



CSJ Newsline

for the friends of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Albany Province

Fall 2005

Volume 22, Number 3

Planting Seeds and Pastoral Presence...

by Laura Bufano, CSJ

For some members of the Cortland County Pastoral Care Area (PCA) these summer days have been “not-so lazy, creatively crazy, hot and hazy.” On September 26, 2004, when I arrived at the parish house at St. Stephen’s in Marathon, I could hardly have imagined what the summer of 2005 would hold. I hoped this new ministry would be fruitful and indeed, it has been! These summer months have found me planting seeds, pruning to produce further growth, nurturing and harvesting with joy seeds that were planted in faith by me and by others over the past several years. I am daily amazed by God’s grace as it is revealed in the faith-filled people that I encounter. I invited various people with whom and among whom I have ministered during these months to offer comments on their experience of my “ministry and presence” in the PCA and I have included some of their responses in this article. Though I’ve been here for only eleven months, I have seen richness and beauty beyond words in and around the “Seven Valleys” of Cortland County.

You may be wondering – Exactly what is Sister Laura Bufano, CSJ “doing” in Cortland County? How did she get there? My ministry is the fruit of seeds that were planted in me years ago as I grew up in Syracuse, New York, was nurtured by my family, and taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Vincent de Paul School from grades two through twelve. It was the spirit of our sisters, their enthusiasm for life and the Lord that attracted me to religious life. Sister Jerome Joseph helped me discover and develop my vocal and musical ability. All that she taught me is still part of me and echoes within me. So often phrases



Sister Laura Bufano at the podium as she teaches a class this summer at St. Mary’s Parish Center in Cortland.

she used find their way to my lips as I work with lectors, cantors, choirs and other liturgical ministers.

“Let us go forward on the road that brought us to where we are.” (Phil. 3:16) After completing my undergraduate degree in music education at The College of Saint Rose, my ministry began in the fall of 1972. Teaching music at St. Anthony’s School in Syracuse [1972-1976] and St. Luke’s School in Schenectady [1976-1982] brought me great joy. During those years I spent my summers studying and in 1981, I received my masters in music education from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. While in Schenectady and Syracuse, my ministry also included music and liturgy in the parish. I served

on the Liturgical Commission in the Syracuse Diocese from 1974-1976. My love for liturgy and parish life drew me to St. John’s in New Hartford [1982-1985] where I served as pastoral associate, responsible for coordination of all liturgical ministries, music and liturgy.

In January 1985, during a thirty-day Ignatian retreat in Guelph, Ontario, the alternative opening prayer for the third Sunday in Ordinary Time spoke to my heart and continues to speak to me. I pray it, share it with others and still meditate on it, continuing to probe its meaning. *O God, the love you offer always exceeds the furthest expression of our human longing, for you are greater than the human heart. Direct each thought, each effort of our life, so that the limits of our faults and weaknesses may not obscure the vision of your glory or keep us from the peace you have promised.* Little did I know

what God had in mind for me! In June 1985, Bishop Frank Harrison appointed me as Co-director for Church Vocations and Seminarians in the Diocese of Syracuse, a ministry in which I served until 1990.

Further study followed, as I pursued a master of liturgical music degree at the Catholic University of America [1990-1992] and then became a pastoral associate and coordinator of

liturgical ministries at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Liverpool [1992-1993]. During that time there, the need

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*Tom Kelly and Bill Staley
Coffee hour at
St. Lawrence’s DeRuyter*



FROM THE PROVINCE DIRECTOR



CSJ Newsline

Fall 2005 Volume 22 Number 3

CSJ Newsline is published three times a year by the Albany Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet for our families and friends.

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Stimulated by the Holy Spirit of Love and receptive to the Spirit's inspirations,

the Sister of St. Joseph moves always toward profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction

from whom she does not separate herself and for whom, in the following of Christ, she works in order to achieve unity both of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God

in humility, the spirit of the Incarnate Word, and in sincere charity, the manner of St. Joseph whose name she bears.

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As I write this the last days of summer are upon us. This edition of *Newsline* is focused on how many of our sisters have spent their summer. As you can see our lives reflect much of yours – continuing to be engaged in our mission and service to others as well as time for our families, friends and leisure.

Religious life is about mission. This mission is inclusive of community and ministry for the sake of the Gospel. Community calls us to continual conversion of heart, to a deepening of our understanding of the vowed life. Our ministry as Sisters of St. Joseph, from our foundation, has been dedicated to “all of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy of which woman is capable and which will most benefit the “dear neighbor.”

Our ability to respond to our mission has been multi-faceted over these past few months. Sister Joan Mary Hartigan, our Vocations Director, has invited the sisters to pray a particular prayer weekly for the future of religious life. During this past year, our novice Marianne Comfort returned from the Federation Novitiate and began her second year by visiting the community and ministry of our sisters throughout the Albany and Syracuse Diocese. Sister Jeanne Marie Gocha renewed her temporary profession and Sister Debbie Timmis transferred her vows into our Congregation. In addition, Sister Joan Mary is in dialogue with several women in their twenties who are exploring religious life. Prayer is a very powerful grace. We invite you to join us in asking for God’s blessing for the future of religious life.

In addition, we have been about the implementation of the Master Plan which has been shared with you throughout the past few years. During the summer the Board of Trustees reviewed and selected an architectural firm to work with us on designing the concept of a conference center to enhance our ministry of hospitality. These changes will enable us to use the parts of our home no longer needed for us, to serve a need in our community for “not for profit” organizations. We continue to explore options for other dimensions of our planning.

Hopefully as you read the articles in *Newsline*, you will have a glimpse of the diverse way our sisters respond to our call to be of service to the “dear neighbor” in our ministry and with one another in community. You will also note that your participation in prayer and in partnership with us through the donation of your time, talent and treasure has enabled us to continue to respond to the call of God to be about our mission.

Thank you for walking with us.

Blessings,

Sister Kay Ryan, CSJ
Province Director



FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

In this Newslines you will learn what some of the CSJ sisters have been doing over the course of the summer. There are many faces to our mission. Jesus prayed that “all may be one.” As you read the articles you can further realize that this “oneness” includes our relationships with everyone we meet – relationships with community, family, friends and those we meet in ministry. Jesus’ prayer is our prayer as well.

Through our lives we hope to be at one with the human family and all creation. We hope to become more whole, more united and more one in relationship. It is what we strive to do as a congregation, in the places we serve and through sponsored ministries: The Carondelet Music Center, The College of Saint Rose and Ascension Health which includes St. Mary’s Hospital (Amsterdam, NY), Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital (Binghamton, NY), Mount St. Mary’s Hospital and Health Center (Lewiston, NY), and Seton Health (Troy, NY).

We, as the CSJ Community, have many relationships with the people affected by the two hurricanes in the Gulf States. I had the opportunity to speak by phone with a couple of our supporters in the area. Thank God they are doing all right. As a community, along with the other members of the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, we have made a donation to our “cousins” the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille. This community had many sisters in the New Orleans area. Their infirm sisters were in New Orleans and they were evacuated to a nursing home in Arkansas. Sister Rose Irene Parkhurst is personal friends with members of another smaller community of sisters, the Sisters of the Holy Family located in New Orleans. On Monday, October 3rd, Sister Rose organized an in-house telethon for the Provincial House sisters.



The sisters could tune the television to the Provincial House channel and see entertainment and call in their pledge to Sister Rose and other sister phone answerers. Everyone was so touched all wanted to help in some way. I’m sure you too, through your parish or otherwise, gave to help these people who have lost so much. Responding to those in need comes naturally as we all strive to follow Jesus’ example. *(Continued on page 4.)*

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Like most of the sisters I chose the summertime for my yearly retreat. This year I went to Maryknoll Sisters Center in Ossining to participate in one of their summer institutes. It was such an enriching experience. There were both men and women in attendance and they came from all over the world. In addition to wonderful presentations made by Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC, the presenter, there was plenty of opportunity to engage in small groups and exchange ideas and hear the stories of the participants. It amazes me that no matter the culture one comes from or ministers in, the movements of the heart are the same.

Father O'Murchu has become one of my most favorite authors. Some of his books which I recommend are: *Consecrated Religious Life: The Changing Paradigms*, *Our World in Transition: Making Sense of a Changing World*, and *Evolutionary Faith: Rediscovering God in Our Great Story*. He stretches us into a broader vision; helps us be positive and to make sense of the "new story."

One of the most delightful happenings at the retreat was to be reunited with Sister Maureen Robinson, OP. Maureen is a Sparkill Dominican. She has been a Maryknoll Associate for over twenty years and serves as the head of the well baby clinic in Lima, Peru. We first met in 1989 when we were participants in a sabbatical program at Wellsprings in Glens Falls. Neither of us knew the other was going to be at the institute. It was one of God's wonderful surprises. Having shared at such a deep level of friendship at Wellsprings it was easy to pick up where we left off at our last visit when Maureen was home in the mid 1990s.

It is truly a wonder to think of how many people touch our lives and how we are all "touching" each other. I believe we are coming closer to Teilhard De Chardin's saying: "In the end there will be one Christ loving himself."

Thank you for your support of the Sisters of Joseph and for partnering with us as we continue to reach out to the "dear neighbor."

Blessings!

Sister Carol

Sister Carol Rohloff, CSJ



I share with you this picture of Jesus where the artist incorporates scenes from Jesus' life in the rendition. What if the Christ was shown with humans making up the BODY OF CHRIST!

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arose for someone to assume the responsibilities of Director of the Office of Liturgy, combining the Office of Pastoral Music and the Office of Worship in the Syracuse Diocese. I was appointed to that position by Bishop Joseph T. O’Keefe and served in that capacity for seven years (1993-2000). From August 1996 to 2000, in addition to my diocesan ministry, I was also a member of our Province Leadership Team. From August 2000 until August 2004 I served on the leadership team with province administration as my full-time ministry, necessitating a move to the Albany area.



Choir members of St. Lawrence’s DeRuyter.

“Let us continue on the road that has brought us to where we are.” These words capture the essence of how my ministry has evolved. I now serve as “liturgical ministry specialist” for nine faith communities that comprise the Cortland County Pastoral Care Area. In the Syracuse Diocese the term “cluster” was changed to pastoral care area (PCA). The nine faith communities include eight parishes: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Cincinnatus; St. Anthony and St. Mary in Cortland; St. Lawrence, DeRuyter; St. Margaret, Homer; St. Stephen, Marathon; St. Patrick, Truxton; St. Patrick, Whitney Point and O’Heron Newman Hall at SUNY Cortland. Those who know the area may realize that some of these parishes are in other counties. In fact Broome, Chenango and Madison Counties are part of the mix.

I came to Cortland County because I

was “called,” invited by leaders from the PCA who meet on a regular basis. A significant part of my discernment was witnessing how seeds planted during my ministry as Director of the Office of Liturgy [1993-2000] had taken root and were flourishing in the people who are now leaders in the faith communities of Cortland County. The prospect was exciting – the ground was fertile, an opportunity to till new soil – to be among the people again, serve as a resource, encourage and enable them to go deeper and empower others to share their gifts and talents.



Shown at a meeting at St. Margaret’s, Homer are (l to r) Anne Caratelli, Kathleen Heffron, CSJ, Jo Caratelli and Maureen Burns, CSJ. Sisters Kathleen and Maureen minister at Cortland-Chenango Rural Services.

Jo Caratelli, a lector and member of St. Anthony’s Parish, shared these observations about my ministry in the PCA: *Your presence here has been immeasurable. You are everywhere; you have met and come to know so many in such a short time. Your valuable insights*



Phil Corsi and Sister Laura outside of St. Anthony’s, Cortland.

have been my strength in these hard times and I know there are others you have touched in the same way. Your quiet gentle voice, among the clergy and ministers who function in the areas covered by your expertise, has brought new light and new hope in this time of trying to be Church in the best sense of that word. Your times of reflections, your Liturgy class, your willingness to share from your heart and from your own spirituality has been a wellspring of grace for those in our area. Thank you for who you are, for all you do and for your willingness to share the love and grace of Jesus with all of us.

The ministry description defined my role to “coordinate and facilitate PCA-wide efforts to improve liturgy through a focus on hospitality and quality in liturgical ministries and functions, thereby enhancing the PCA’s core evangelization goals.” This ministry would bring together my education, experience and expertise as well as my knowledge of the diocese and leadership skills. Hospitality is a hallmark of who we are as Sisters of St. Joseph, reaching out to the dear neighbor without distinction. After months of attentive listening, inquiry, dialogue, and prayerful reflection, I said “yes!” How could I resist the call? How could I resist such an invitation?



Father Dan DeLorme, the Sacramental Minister at St. Margaret’s, Homer with Sister Laura Bufano, CSJ.

Gary Smith, a member of the Pastoral Team at St. Margaret’s in Homer stated: *“When our Pastoral Care Area hired Sister Laura as its Liturgical Ministry Specialist, we had our future in*

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mind. Not a future limited to each individual parish, but rather one that foresees the great importance of sharing ministries and working together to build the community of Christ. Since beginning her ministry, Sister Laura has helped us deepen our sense of community, improved our liturgies, and helped us understand what true hospitality is all about. I particularly like her spirit, because it is filled with genuine friendship, a solid sense of great worship, and a commitment to draw people closer to God."

I offered two courses during the month of July at St. Mary's Parish Center, where my office is located. Thirty-two people participated in an intensive four-week course that was an "introduction to liturgy" and twenty-one others availed themselves of a three-week refresher course, which served as an update, focusing on the study of the most recent revision of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) and other liturgy documents. Faithfully people of all ages came, week after week, some traveling from other regions in the diocese, completing the reading and written assignments that were required each week. What a privilege it was for me to see and hear the movement of God's Spirit in them as they discovered who we are and what we are about as the Body of Christ – indeed a profound experience!

Karen Shirley and her daughter Lauren, an altar server and in 10th Grade - are members of St. Mary's Parish and together participated in the Introduction to Liturgy Course in July. Karen commented: *I very much enjoyed hearing Sister Laura's insights and stories. They were enlightening! As a teacher myself, I appreciated her teaching style and lessons*

For years, I have been saying that my ministry has been about presence, about planting seeds. I am passionate about my love of the Lord and about music and liturgy. I believe that this is "caught not taught." *I enjoyed her*

enthusiasm in her work, and her love of God she shared with us; it was very contagious. (Carol Partigianoni, St. Anthony's)

Her obvious love of Sacred Liturgy is contagious to anyone who has had the pleasure of being around her. Once you experience one of her classes, you find yourself clamoring for more because you have come to understand that there is so much to learn and that Sister Laura is a superb teacher. (Dolores Boykin, St. Margaret's Church)



Members of the class – (l to r) Marie Agen, Ann Marie Mooney, Betty Lou Isaf, Eileen Hills and Charlie Lawrence – pose with Sister Laura.



Betty and "Lefty" (Agotino) Cannetti of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Cincinnati.

The enthusiasm and excitement for liturgy that she emits is so contagious . . . I took a course from her this summer – Liturgy Documents. The insights she gave and the excitement she has for all these documents was contagious. I went in thinking these were dull and not laity friendly. But I came away with a new appreciation for the documents. I now see that these need to be studied and they need to be understood by all who have anything to do with the liturgy. (Bonnie

Barker, pastoral associate St. Anthony's, Cortland)

For the first three months my posture was one of listening, observing and participating. That stance continues to be part of my ministry. From the first weekend in October until the first weekend in January, I was engaged in informal and then formal "participant-observation" in each of the faith communities in the PCA. This meant participating at least twice in every weekend liturgy in each place.

Having achieved that goal, January found me preparing written feedback, which was then shared with pastors, administrators and pastoral teams. After they signed off on my report, the information, which included my observations and recommendations, was shared with those responsible for planning, coordinating and directing music and liturgy in each faith community and liturgy committees/teams.

Father Dan Muscalino, who teaches at Bishop Ludden Junior-Senior High School in Syracuse and serves as sacramental minister at St. Lawrence, DeRuyter and St. Patrick's, Truxton commented: *I see your ministry as helping the individual parish maintain and/or develop their sense of involvement in and ownership of the liturgical life of their parish and through that experience the larger church as well. I see you as being someone that can help me also as a priest in my ministry to the people by helping me keep my own liturgical and ministerial skills as prayerful and 'fine-tuned' as possible. You always have practical and appropriate insights and suggestions.*

By June I had met with the Pastoral Council of each parish in the PCA to share the feedback from my participant-observation. In each of these diverse groups, an opportunity was provided to discuss, question and dialogue about my observations and recommendations. Throughout the process we were building a relationship of trust, growing

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deeper in our understanding of what is entailed as we attempt to enhance the “full, conscious and active participation of the assembly.”

What followed those months of observation and participation were several PCA-wide workshops offered for lectors and cantors. These were well received and continue to bear fruit. Marilyn Mayer, a lector at St. Anthony’s commented: *“What I liked about your training is your positive energy... As I told Annamaria Maniaci, the director of our lectors at St. Anthony’s, I felt so affirmed after your training session, and I thank you so very much! You emanate a love of life and your radiance is much appreciated by all of us in your pastoral area!”*

Mary Alice Bellardini, lector coordinator, St. Margaret’s, Homer noted: *I can see, or maybe it’s “hear” in this case, the fruits of your labor with the lectors at St. Margaret’s. We’re reading more clearly, with more eye contact with the congregation, and with a better sense of the readings.*



Pat, Karen, Christopher and Aaron Enright of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Cincinnati.

Marie Agen, Director of Campus Ministry stated: *Through working with our student cantors Sister Laura not only helped them to become more confident leaders of song, but helped them to begin to understand their role as leaders of prayer. The prayerful beginning of her time with them has set a precedent for their weekly rehearsals.*



Colette LaDue, Samantha LaDue and Father Jerry Katz are shown at St. Patrick’s, Whitney Point.

Jan Argentine from St. Margaret’s wrote: *... I want you to know there has been a definite change in the way the readings are being presented. There is definitely more eye contact, better phrasing, a slower pace and in general more enthusiasm to really prepare in advance. Your efforts and coaching have definitely made a difference at St. Margaret’s.*

Char Snyder, a lector and member of St. Mary’s shared: *“... I find that one of the most important things I feel about your being here is, simply, your presence. All of us have heard, for several years, of the changes that are and will be implemented. We’re aware of the closing of some churches, the sharing of priests and deacons and the general configurations. I can only speak for myself, but I’ve experienced a disjointed feeling, one of “loose ends.” Some folks are deeply involved with the PCA but, for those who are not, we really don’t have a feel for what’s happening. When you arrived, you brought with you a cohesive spirit, a feeling that there really was someone who knew what was happening through our area. Common sense tells me that there are many who do, but you personify and represent the PCA. Your very presence is comfort in troubled times. It goes without saying that the workshop for lectors was wonderful and I gained a great deal from all aspects of it. However, having you here goes above and beyond.*

Since the day I arrived and to the present, the people of the PCA and members of the ecumenical community welcomed me into their midst. Even before I had my boxes unpacked I received an invitation to speak at a morning meeting of Cortland’s Church Women United. I gave the “message” at the Thanksgiving Interfaith Service in Cortland, an Advent talk at Marketplace Spirituality and gave Lenten presentations in Homer, Cortland and Taylor. The ecumenical and interfaith dimensions of my ministry have stretched me in ways that were new to me, calling forth freshness and creativity. Each of these experiences included members of the Roman Catholic faith communities among whom I serve. Norma Rhodes, a member of St. Mary’s Parish in Cortland and chair of their Pastoral Council commented:

On Monday, August 8th, Sister Laura presented a program at the Cortland County Chautauqua, an annual event sponsored by the Council of Churches held in Homer over five days in early August. Sister’s program, “Praying with Poetry and Song,” was attended by an ecumenical group (maybe 18 to 20.) Those attending were attentive, cooperative and appreciative. One woman, visiting from Maine, remarked with great enthusiasm, that it was nothing like she expected. This well-done event, as well as Sister’s program with Marketplace Spirituality, have brought her expertise to our larger community and have helped to enlighten some people who still have unrealistic ideas about what Catholics are like.

Ann Marie Mooney, a lector and Eucharistic minister at St. Margaret’s who was also a participant in the Chautauqua evening wrote: *Sister Laura brings many gifts and talents to the Cortland PCA and she willingly and generously shares them with all of us.*

I meet the people where they are and together we have moved forward, deepening our understanding of “who we are” as church and how we experience

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the presence of Christ in liturgy and in our life. Dot Forbes, a member of St. Patrick's, Whitney Point who



Marge Babcock of the Western Region Resource Center; Tom Andino, Music Director at St. Michael's, Onondaga Hill; Lois Barton, CSJ Southern director of Religious Education; Jennifer Collins of the Eastern Region Resource Center and Laura Bufano, CSJ met to plan upcoming events in the Syracuse Diocese.



Sister Laura serves on the Ritual and Worship Committee of the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. She is shown here with other committee members (l to r) Sister Rita Woelke, SSJ of Philadelphia; Sister Chris Ludwig, CSJ of the St. Paul Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Sister Mary Ann Mulzer, SSJ also of Philadelphia.

volunteered as their "interim" organist and choir director shared: *Sister Laura continues to work very hard to bring new, vibrant life to our parish liturgies. She's welcomed me to cantor training, invited me to concerts in places I never knew existed, and I've met many warm, beautiful people as a result! I have to say that I was unhappily unaware of the*

rich resources of our diocese until she arrived on the scene, and I am VERY grateful that she's working with us! Sister Laura has the ability to include everyone in ministry with great understanding and sensitivity to their gifts, needs and interests...

The ministry description is expansive, encouraging me to "continue participation in the broader church by working on diocesan activities and participating in national conferences." Where has that led me? It has allowed me the freedom to serve on the diocesan Review Board, as a music/liturgy consultant on the sub-committee planning the concert for the Journey of Faith in the Syracuse Diocese, explore associate membership in the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, respond affirmatively to requests for presentations on liturgy (as time permits) for other regions and pastoral care areas in the diocese.



Sister Laura Bufano conducts for the Monks at Weston, Vt. as they record for a new album in the making.

The beginning of summer included attending the National Pastoral Musicians Convention in Milwaukee. July brought our novice, Marianne Comfort, CSJ, to Marathon for an extended weekend to observe my ministry in the PCA. It was wonderful to share that time with Marianne. In mid July, I was off to Weston Priory for a weekend, rehearsing and working with the brothers in preparation for their next recording session.

In August, I gave an evening of renewal at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Syracuse - "Say Amen to Who You

Are!" I also planned the liturgy and was the cantor for the Sunday Eucharist at the CSSJ Lakes Region Federation "Roots & Relatives" weekend held at Christ the King Retreat House. From a contact made at Sister Paula Jude's jubilee in April, I accepted an invitation to share reflections on what it was like growing up in an Italian-American family. In mid-August, accompanied on the piano by my brother, Mel, I shared stories and songs with members of the American-Italian Heritage Association in Syracuse. This, too, was a faith-filled experience! I was delighted and surprised to see Rita Alcorn there. She is a member of St. Anthony's Parish in Cortland and wrote: *I have attended a class on Introduction to Liturgy and lector workshops presented*



Sister Laura poses with Father John Fenlon and Deacon Larry Brickner.

by Sister Laura this past year . . . I hope she will continue in the Cortland PCA and provide opportunities for others to deepen their faith and understanding of Catholicism as she has for me.

This venture by the PCA is exploring new ground, offering a new model for ministry which seems to be working in our area and could easily be adapted in other settings. There is no road map; we're in uncharted territory. There is no precedent for it and we're creating it together as it continues to evolve, assessing, learning and evaluating every step of the way. Deacon Larry Brickner who serves at St.

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Lawrence, DeRuyter and St. Patrick, Truxton shared this reflection:

The newness, the complete absence of precedent, the untrodden land before us fills us with hope and anticipation. Even when other things seem to have stalled or even gone backward, Laura's presence reminds us that the church is alive, growing, and still evolving. What is not yet, might still be. The last word has not been spoken.

Who would have believed that a few parishes bound only by neighboring zip codes could act in concert and shared purpose? Who

would have believed that little places and big places could look to each other and find value there? Who would have believed that both would find new strength and direction in the eyes of the other?

As we looked ahead, our choices were few. We could stand and wail our misfortune or we could band together and build a new future different than the one that was coming. Through Laura, we have chosen the latter.

One of the joys of community is being able to share with one another our lives and our stories. After a visit in July, Sister Marion Honors, CSJ

attached this note to my directions for harvesting the garlic in my garden: "How lovely to visit with you and to hear about how you are touching hearts and being touched, too. What a gift you are giving to our beautiful beleaguered Church in telling about who she really is." Her insight touched me deeply and confirmed my experience.

In case you haven't figured it out, I LOVE being a Sister of St. Joseph and have loved my ministry wherever I have been called to serve!!! With St. Paul, I can sincerely say: ***"Let us go forward on the road that brought us to where we are."***

Sister Barbara St. Andrews recognized in Who's Who

The 2005 edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers recognized Barbara St. Andrews, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet and an Educational Opportunity Partnership (EOP) Senior Counselor at SUNY Canton.

Sister has taught and was principal for several elementary schools in the Albany and Syracuse Dioceses. In 1990, she began working with SUNY Canton as a Reading and

Writing Coordinator. In 1995, she began working with the EOP Office to help educationally and financially disadvantaged students access a complete college education.

Sister is now involved with many different SUNY Canton organizations, including the Character Development Committee, the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society and the Recognition and Awards Committee. Sister is also looking forward to the Fall 2005 semester at SUNY Canton, when she will have the chance to work with Sister Bethany Fitzgerald and other staff to



create the College's new Peace Garden.

Outside of the College, Sister Barbara is a Lector and Eucharistic Minister at St. Raphael's Church, Heuvelton, and is a Secretary on the Executive Board of the Ogdensburg Diocese's Council of Religious. She also is a member of the

Ogdensburg community singing group, "Heart to Heart" and "Showtime." In her spare time, she enjoys music, reading, cross country skiing, camping, and swimming.

CSJ Community Receives Grant from The Community Foundation for the Capital Region

The Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Albany Province, is pictured with E. Kristen Frederick, President and CEO of The Community Foundation of the Capital Region. (L to r) Sisters Christine Partisano, Kay Ryan, Anna Mae Collins, Ranah Phelan, Kristen, Johanne McCarthy and Sharon Ann Whellehan.

In September, the development office received word that the Community Foundation for the Capital Region had responded positively to a grant request. A grant for \$3,580 was to be awarded for automatic doors for the "ambulance entrance" at the Provincial House. The grant was given from *The Community Foundation for the Capital Region's Community Health Grant / Albany's Hospital for Incurables Fund*. On September 26, E. Kristen Frederick, President and CEO of the Community Foundation, came and presented the check to the CSJ leadership team. The accompanying picture shows Kristen with the members of the leadership team.

Benefiting from the new doors, in addition to the Provincial House residents, employees and visitors will be the varied publics that frequently use that entrance, especially the attendees of the Bright Horizons Program, their transporters and the students and families of the Carondelet Music Center. In total it is estimated that over 900 individuals will benefit from the improvement of this entrance way. The Sisters of St. Joseph are most grateful to the Community Foundation for their support.

The mission of the Community Foundation for the Capital Region is to strengthen our community by attracting charitable endowments both large and small, maximizing benefits to donors, making effective grants, and providing leadership to address community needs.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

by Lou Delaney, CSJ

When I was introduced to the book *Knitting Into the Mystery* by Susan Izard and Susan Jorgenson, and read the beautifully written pages about this prayer shawl ministry, I knew I was hooked. As the mystery was unfolding, there was stirring within me, a strong desire to introduce the idea of comforting others with our prayerful support through the gift of a shawl.

Our community has graciously and generously agreed to sponsor this spiritual ministry by funding the purchase of our yarn and needles. We make shawls for the women, lap robes for men and crib blankets for babies. These garments are given at no cost to those who request them. However, if it is necessary to mail it we do ask for a \$5.00 donation to defray the cost of shipping and handling. Donations are always welcome.

The Carondelet Weavers, as we are called, gather monthly to weave and pray for those who have or will receive the shawl. While this is an important aspect of the ministry, much of the work is done at home by individuals. In our own way, we pray as we weave. Anyone who donates time, treasure, or talent to this ministry is remembered in our prayers every day. At our meeting we knit, pray and take the time to lay our hands on the finished shawls or lap robes and pray a blessing for the needs of the individual who will be receiving it.

We have given over 300 shawls in less than a year. Many of the recipients struggle with sickness, chemo, addictions, loneliness, grief issues, nursing home placement, etc. Others celebrate special occasions such as birthdays, new beginnings, pregnancy etc. The true significance of these shawls is the comfort they provide and the knowledge that the recipient is remembered daily in the prayers of our sisters and associates.

Despite the name, this is not a garment

Back Row (l to r): Sisters Gen Glennon, Jane Gossin, Jean Martin Hyde and Mary Denise Linehan.

Front Row (l to r): Sisters Margaret Bonville, Lou Delaney, Rosita Joseph Finnerty and Jeanne Anne Collis.

given to wear while one prays, though it could be. It can be placed on the bed, back of a favorite chair or worn for comfort and warmth. The most important aspect of the prayer shawl is knowing one is embraced by a number of people supporting, loving and praying for an individual. There is no commitment or obligation on the part of the recipient – it is total gift to one who knows and appreciates the power of prayer.

We would like to invite you to gift someone you know with a shawl or lap robe – someone who would benefit from being drawn into our circle of prayer. As was mentioned earlier, we will send the garment anywhere. Each item is wrapped, an explanation of the ministry is given and a prayer for the recipient to say is enclosed.

We have received many heart-warming expressions of gratitude from recipients. A young woman who has had two miscarriages and is now pregnant wears her shawl each visit to the obstetrician. A husband receives comfort from wearing a shawl given to his now deceased wife. We received a picture from a mother who wraps her injured 6 week old baby in his prayer blanket. It is very humbling to receive many letters whereby people are so grateful to be held in prayer.

If you are interested in requesting a shawl, want to know more about what we

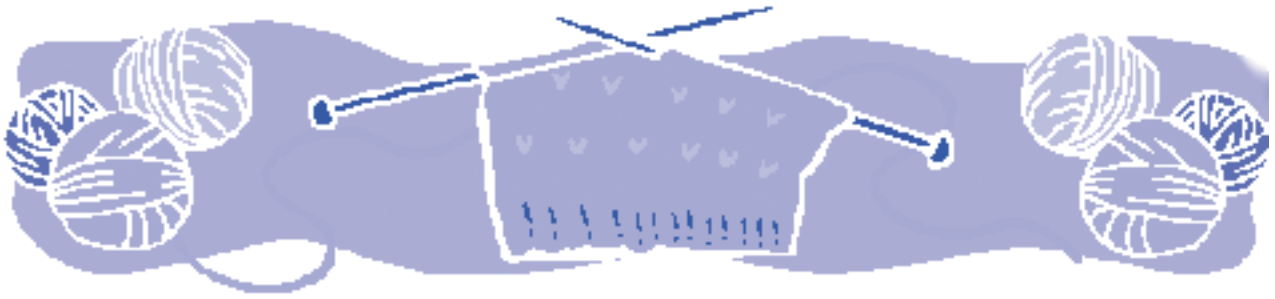


do, or even partner with us to knit or crochet these garments to be given, please feel free to contact S. Mary Lou Delaney at St. Joseph's Provincial House, 385 Watervliet-Shaker Rd., Latham, NY 12110 518-783-3533 or e-mail ldelaney@csjalbany.org. We would be grateful for your involvement.

Just recently, we welcomed into our knitting circle some staff members and students from The College of Saint Rose. It is gratifying to see so many who want to reach out and bring happiness into the lives of those who are suffering. Sisters, CSJ Associates and friends who have heard about the ministry are some of the other people involved.

Continued on page 11.





Continued from page 10.

If you live in the Syracuse area please feel free to contact S. Mary Ann Fetcho at 315-457-3070.

S. Johanna Ryan would be the one to contact in the Amsterdam area at 518-842-0473 or maryjohannaryan@csjalbany.org.

If you are in the Binghamton area please call Carol Hall at 607-797-6403 or knittingnana1215@aol.com.

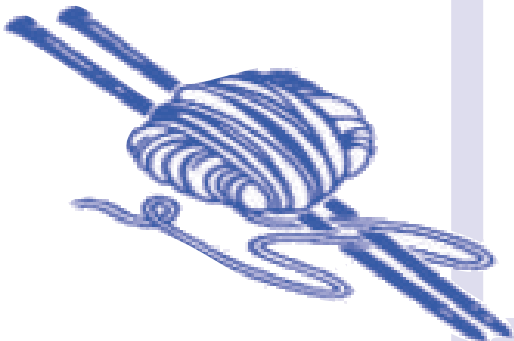
Please be sure to leave your name, where you can be reached and the name of the person you are requesting an item for. If the shawl needs to be sent, we will need the person's address. We would also ask you to let us know the reason you are asking so when we pray the blessing, we might name the need.

Because so many people are depending on our prayers to help them through difficult times, I am inviting you as faithful friends of the Sisters of St. Joseph, to join us in saying this prayer each day for those whom we have promised to pray.

Prayer for the Prayer Shawl Ministry

All knowing and loving God, I praise and thank you for all the gifts you have given me. You are ever present and always gracing me. You know what I need before I speak it. I ask your blessings for all those who participate in the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Please bless the recipients of the shawls, lap robes and blankets. Help those individuals who are experiencing very difficult times as well as those who celebrate special occasions. Strengthen them with the knowledge of your special love and presence in their everyday lives.

Bless and take care of those who generously donate time, talent and treasure. May our community continue to be blessed as we reach out to the *dear neighbor*. We ask this as we ask all things, in Christ Jesus' name. Amen.



Honorials

Honorials

During the fiscal period
June 1 - September 30,
2005 contributions were
made in honor of the
following people.

Geraldine Abrams
Father Peter Ajayi
Antoinette Albarelli
Al and Fran Amico
Answered Prayers
Thelma Archambeault
Tom and Lee Armstrong
Kathy Arsenault
Wayne Arsenault
Marcus Atkinson
Joanne and Bob Backer
Richard Baldwin
William E. Bardon Jr.
Sister Mary Catherine Barron
Donny Batchelor
Rose Bazan
Anne C. Benson
Larry Berber
Susan Black
Connie Bocklet
Sister Marianna Boehr
Erin Brady
Sister Ann Christi Brink
Fred Britting
Sister Anne Theresa Brown
Mary Browne & Family
Sister Mary Bruce
Rev. Geoffrey D. Burke
Doris Byrne
Fred Caldwell
Mrs. Marie Agnes Caldwell
Caitlin Callahan
Mr. and Mrs. Rocco J. Camerato
Rob Campano
Rosanne Campbell
Rev. Walter Cannan
Sister Jean Canora OSF
Candee Carden
Loretta Carpenter
Nancy Casey
Rev. John V. Casey, OSA
Sister Eleanor Ceccucci
Mrs. Eleanor Ceccucci
Deacon Joseph Celetano
Mrs. Marian Q. Choppy
Bob and Mary Christaffel
Jeannette Christoff
Sister Jeanne Anne Collis
Sister Mary Collis
Sister Frederick Connors
The Cook's
Joyce Copprecar
Eileen and Stan Corbett
Betty Corrigan
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Michael and Thomas Daly
Ronald R. Davis
James Dawsey
Sister Frances Patricia Degnan
Edith Delaney & Joe
Sister Mary Lou Delaney
Kathy DeMarco
Peter and Donna Demarse
Mrs. Frances Dewey
Betty DeWitt
Vi Dickerson
Cecile Dolan
Donato Family
Frances Donnelly
Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Donovan
Sister Margaret Donovan
Sister Marguerite Edward
Donovan
Dolly Dougherty
Sister Catherine Doyle
John Droz
Sister Margaret Louise Duffy
Rev. Msgr. Thomas Duffy
Sister Joseph Andrew Dunham
Mark C. Durfee
Mrs. Elizabeth Eagan
Gary and Janet Eagan
Mark and Kristine Eagan
Phyllis Eckel
Marie Ann Eckler
Sister Ellen John Emmons
Sister Frances Eustace
Evancho Family
Sister Caroline Fahey
Peggy and Marty Fannings
Sister Lamese M. Farhart
Margaret Featherly
Clifford Feese
Sara Fenaughty
Julio R. Fenocchi
Glen Ferguson
Patricia Finn
Barbara Fiore
Sister Claire Frances Fitzgerald
Sister William Aloysius
Fitzpatrick
Doris Flater
Sister Margaret Fogarty

Margaret and Louis Fontaine
Arthur R. Foo
Shirley Forts
John and Theresa Fox
Sister Janet Furman
Sister Joan Geannelis
Sister Catherine Gibbons
Mary Anne Giblin
Helen Giglio
Sister Doreen Glynn
Sister Jeanne Marie Gocha
William D. Good
Mary Goodnow
Rita Graham
Steven Grifferty
Walter and Lillian Gross
Sister Joan Teresa Groth
Sister Mary Lucille Grouchy
Don and Jane Grovine
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Guiltinan
Jess Gulley
Sarah Guth
Marion Hager and family
Casey Haley
Sandra Harran
Helen Hart
Sister Marilyn Hayes
Carol and David Hebert
Jean Hefferon & Son, Kevin
Mary Louise Heintz
Makayla Hel mold
Ann H. Hennessy
Dorothy Herman
Bob and Josie Herrick
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Hesler
James Patrick Hesler
John Michael Hesler
Wilfred R. Hesler
Kay Hickey
Judith Holmes
Sister Rosemary Hoodack
Sister Patricia Houlihan
Most Rev. Howard J. Hubbard
Catherine M. Hulihan
Ernie Iachetti
Rev. Dominic Ingemie
Joanne, Steve and Sons
Mary Jones
Jubilarians 2005
Sister Jean Keating
Lucille Kelleher
Gertrude Keller

Sandra Kelley
Rev. Joseph Kennedy
Michael King
Josephine Kingsland
Robert Kinsey
Joseph Koch
Sister James Miriam Koeppel
Margie Kolothros
Christine Korson
John Krupka
Aaron Landsman
Pauline Lanthier
William Lape
Sister Maria Jude LaPoint
Judy Larkin
Sister Martha Vincent Larkin
The Larkin's
Bernadine Lawyer
Sara LePore
Constance and Edward Lewison
Rev. Angelo Libera
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Livoti
Harry Lobdell
Sacha Loer
Mrs. Eileen Luker
John P. Lupa
Eleanor Lyke
Michael MacFasco
Betty Maculey
Rev. Charles M. Major
John Mallick
Sister Shirley Maloney
John E. Maloy Sr.
Sister Mary Catherine Marrone
Josephine F. Massara
Sister Marie E. Matthews RSM
Rev. Francis Mawn
Betty McAuley
Helen McBride
Sister Johanne McCarthy
Sister Maureen McCarthy
Mrs. Anna McDermott
Pat McFerran
Sister Mary Kenan McGowan
RSM
Mary A. McIntyre
Donald McKay
Donald McLaughlin, Jr.
Rev. Lawrence G. McTavey
Richard Medved
Sister Catherine Roberta Metsker
Joseph T. Micheletti, Sr.

Have you ever thought about becoming a Sister of St. Joseph?

We welcome inquiries from single women who have a love for God's people
and a desire to live the Gospel. For more information please contact:

Joan Mary Hartigan, CSJ

385 Watervliet Shaker Road, Latham, NY 12110

(518) 389-0605

Honorials

Honorials

Johanna Miller
Anne Millham
Edna Milonovich
Daniel Minch
Mary Minnaugh
Peter Mirabito
Patricia Mitola
Rodney Mitton
Lorraine Moore
Gina Morrissey
Dolores Muselbeck
Richard Nash
Mrs. Barbara Nass
Mr. and Mrs. James Nass
Mrs. Marion Nass
Puz Nelson
Sister Mary Rose Noonan
Rev. Alfred E. Nortz
Bill Notaro
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Notebert
Mr. and Mrs. Joey Notebert
Arlene Oakley
Jane Oakley
Mary Beth and Frank O'Brien
Family
Anna and John O'Brien
Patricia O'Connor
Dan Odishoo
Nanci Odishoo
The O'Mara's
Edward F. O'Neil
Sister Janice O'Neil
Kathleen R. O'Neil
Mary Ormsby
Our Lady of Lourdes parents
Sister Maddie Pallotta

Peiffer/Riley Families
Imogene Peiffer
Sister Clare Pelkey
Lester Peters
Florence Petretti
Pfeiffer Family
Catherine Phelisse
Eileen Pillsworth
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Catherine F. Reinisch
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Sister Mary Catherine Rich
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Sue Roti Roti
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Mr. Joseph Rubino
Ruigrok Family
Sister Catherine Bede Rupprecht
Sister James Michael Ryan
Sister Mary Laurentia Ryan
Sister Marion Rypski

Bertha Sabatini
Mae Salafia
Rev. Joseph Salerno
Dr. A. Salvatore
Livia A. Saraceni
Sister Carolyn Schanz
Sister Rose Miriam Schillinger
Mary Schremp
Walter and Sherry Schubert
Sherry Schubert
Sister Helen Marie Schumacher
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Rita and Vincent Sheeran
Robert Shenise
Ron Shepherd
Rose Shook
Wilmot R. Shows and family
Jane H. Shutlock
Michelle Shutlock
Mary Jane Sims
Kathy Sinnott
Sister Lois Marie Sivero
Rev. Ted Sizing
Jane Slezak
Sister Mary Karol Smolka
Irma Smollin
Janet H. Snyder
Rose Solazzo
Frank G. Sorbero Sr.
Joanne Speanburg
Special Intentions
Harvey Sperry
Mrs Lillian Stern
Paul Strazz

Rita Sturgis
Margaret Sullivan
Sister Elizabeth Sweeney F.O.M.
Onalee Sweet
Mark William Taubner
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Taylor
Catherine and John Tempest & Family
Victoria Testani
Sister Catherine Paul Theiss
Sister Maryellen Tierney
Sister Margaret Totten
Rev. Marc L. Touchette
Raymond Urtz
Sister Marie Marce Valentine
Gloria Vassullo
Sister Linda Vendetti
Rev. Ralph A. Villani
Bernard Walsh Family
Rev. Francis Wapen
Sister Regina William Warhurst
Elaine A. Webber
Georgia Weber
Bette Whalen
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Phil Wilhelm
Sister St. Joan Willert
Joyce K. Willson
Anna Belle Winslow
Theresa Yang
Sister Christine Joseph Yanone
Doris Yeatts
Mary Ann Yeatts-Peterson
Sister Rose Therese Zaloom
Mary Rose Zogby

SAVE THE DATE!

Ziti Dinner

to benefit the Mission and Ministry

of the Sisters of St. Joseph

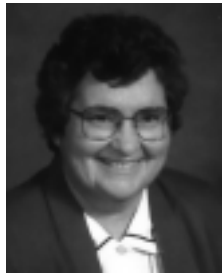
- Saturday, April 1, 2006 -



The Summer of 2005

by Kathryn Arseneau, CSJ

When invited to write something to share with our donors, I was happy to do so. At the time I was preparing to organize a prayer service for the religious men and women who are buried in our diocesan cemeteries. You wonder how I came to this. Well, after more than 20 years as a catholic school administrator, I began ministry in the Diocesan Cemetery Office. Here I serve as the Family Service Representative. We oversee seven cemeteries in Albany and Rensselaer counties from our office located at St. Agnes' Cemetery, Menands. It is a wonderful ministry that allows me to assist and support families in grief and also families that are pre-planning their funerals. My responsibilities include: conducting committal services, selling graves and crypt spaces, helping to plan memorial masses, giving information, taking complaints, helping families choose and order markers and just listening to people who have lost a loved one. After losing my own mother in 2003, I have renewed empathy for people who have been separated from those they love by death. I genuinely feel my mother's presence as I interact with these families.



The Prayer Service was conducted by the members of religious communities who minister in the Albany Diocese. (l to r) are: Sister Mary Aloise Almond, RSM; Brother Peter Furlong, FSC; and Sister Katerune Arseneau, CSJ.

So that you know the Sisters do strive for balance in their lives I was encouraged to also share with you a bit about our relaxation and re-energizing time.

Brothers, Daughters of Charity, Dominican Sisters, Little Sisters of the Poor, Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Religious Sisters of Mercy, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of the Good Shepherd and Sisters of St. Joseph. As the pictures show it was our privilege to pray for these members of the communion of saints. We will continue to make this service a yearly practice to recognize the dedicated men and women who have gone before us as religious. We continue on the road in their footsteps. If you are in the Menands area know we will welcome your presence next year.



Deceased Religious Men and Women Honored

Each Holy Thursday, flowers are placed on the graves of all the priests interred in our seven cemeteries as a sign of respect and gratitude. When I asked if I could organize a like project for the Sisters and Brothers, I was given the go-ahead. In between my assigned tasks, I developed a comprehensive list of all the Sisters and Brothers buried in our cemeteries. There are 540 sisters and 39 brothers in total. (I was surprised to find out that the number included 19 CSJs buried in St. Agnes' Cemetery, Menands and 2 CSJs buried in St. John's Cemetery, Troy.)

The prayer service was held on August 14; more than 50 Sisters and Brothers and a few lay people attended. Honored at the prayer service were members of the following religious communities: Christian

Sisters of St. Joseph, Maria Charles Norton, Christine Barton, and Nancy Schmidt received their wreaths after the prayer service and are shown placing the wreaths on deceased sisters' graves.



A Very Big Family Reunion

Since my sister Donna retired, she has become very interested in researching the Arseneau genealogy. She took a Continuing Ed class at Syracuse University on tracing ancestry and has succeeded in building our family tree back to 1614 in France. With this information in tow, we traveled last Thanksgiving weekend to Louiseville, Quebec. Louiseville is the birthplace of our great-grandfather (Louis Arthur) and our great-great-grandfather (Louis) and it is located about seventy miles northeast of Montreal. We were thrilled to stay in a B&B right across the street from the village church, Saint Antoine de Padue. On Friday morning of that weekend, we were able to secure the baptismal certificates at this church for both Louis Arthur (dated 1854) and Louis (dated 1830). In addition, we were able to confer with people at the village Bureau of History and Records and obtain copies of additional information about our ancestors.



Donna, Sister Rita Duggan (see article When God closes one door, He opens another) and Sister Kate on the ferry.

While in Florida last winter, Donna made the acquaintance of a couple from New Brunswick, Canada. When she mentioned her last name to this couple, they remarked that they knew many Arseneaus near their home and that the Arseneau family was having a reunion in Nova Scotia during the summer of 2004. When the couple returned home, they e-mailed Donna the website address for the Arseneau reunion. She was excited about the event and we decided to go. We never dreamed what we would find! We had been to Nova Scotia once before and found it to be just beautiful...but FAR! It took us two days to drive there. The first time that we went, we drove to Bar Harbor, Maine and then took the "Cat" ferry to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. This time we decided to drive the entire coast of Maine and then through New Brunswick to get to Amherst, Nova Scotia, the site of the reunion. The reunion was held on a Friday

and Saturday in mid-August in a Junior High School. There were **850** Arseneaus there and we didn't know any of them! There was an Arseneau family there from Taiwan, every province of Canada, and several states in the USA. There was a very large group of Arseneaus from Louisiana who spelled their name with an "x" on the end. These were our Cajun relatives! As you can see from the picture accompanying this article, there were many spellings of our name. Probably the most common spelling was Arsenault.



We found "ARSENEAU"

The organizing committee for the reunion had arranged for several workshops during the day on Friday. Most of these workshops were related somehow to genealogy, but there were also information sessions on the history of Acadia. Most of the workshops and assemblies were given in French since 95% of the Arseneaus there were French speaking. Believe it or not, I think I did pretty well in understanding the French even though my four years of high school French is 40 years old! Thank you, Sister Margaret Laurene!

My sister's research had produced a name and birthplace for the Arseneau tree as far back as 1614 with one exception. The last person on the tree (ten generations from us) was Francois Arseneau, but we did not have a birthplace. During one of the workshops, we discovered that Francois was born in France and, when he came to the "New World," he came directly to Montreal, not to Acadia. The geneologists at the reunion believe that all of the Arseneaus in North America are descendents of either Pierre Arseneau who came from France in the 1620's to Nova Scotia (Acadia) or Francois Arseneau who came from France in the 1620's directly to Montreal. Our "line," then, was Francois which meant that we were not Acadian! This was a big discovery.

Despite the fact that we were not Acadian, we enjoyed FIVE hours of Acadian music and dancing on Friday night of the reunion, all performed by Arseneaus! The fiddle-

playing and step-dancing was terrific.

2004 marked the 400th anniversary of the founding of "Acadie," the areas populated by the French when they came from France. "Acadie" includes areas of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick. These areas are still French-speaking today. There were many celebrations throughout "Acadie" to mark this anniversary, along with family reunions of many Acadian names (the largest family reunion was held by the LeBlanc family). As luck would have it, the grand closing celebration of the 400th anniversary took place on the Sunday of our family reunion weekend. The final event of the celebration was a Mass on the site of the first place the French settled in Nova Scotia, Beaubassin (now known as Grand Pre). We attended the Mass and it was a profound experience. There were **9,000** people in attendance on a hillside! It was a bright, sunny day. The Bishop of Halifax, Nova Scotia was the main celebrant. There was a sixty voice Acadian choir and a thirty piece orchestra to provide music. There were fifty communion stations, twenty-five up each side of the hill, marked by posts with the Acadian Flag. The Acadian flag is actually the flag of France with a gold star in the upper left-hand corner. The star is for the Blessed Mother, patroness of "Acadie." At the Offertory of the Mass, we sang the Acadian national anthem... "Ave Maris Stella." Everyone was waving their Acadian flags during this hymn and there "wasn't a dry eye in the place."

After the Mass, we were addressed by the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premiers (we would probably call them Governors) of NS, PEI, and NB...along with the Governor of Louisiana whose name is Babineau. She is Cajun. In case you don't know, during the Revolutionary War, British troops invaded Acadie and wanted the Acadians to give their allegiance to the British throne. They refused and what followed is what is called the "Great Deportation." Many of the Acadians fled into Quebec, went into hiding, or settled in the woods of northern New England. In addition, a large group of Acadians fled all the way to Louisiana. When they arrived, they were asked where they were from. Their response, "we are Acadien" gradually evolved into "A Cajun."

This reunion was a thrilling experience for my sister and me and, now that we know that our ancestry is based in Quebec, we have the desire to do some more exploring there!

During the fiscal period
June 1 – September 30,
2005 contributions were
made in memory of the
following people.

Dr. Murat Aceamuglu
Olga J. Acosta
Alfred E. Adams
Joseph and Charles Alaskey
Elizabeth Alavosius
LeRoy Alexander
Jennie J. Ali
Sister Dorothy Bernadette Allard
Mary Virginia & James Sheridan
Allen
Mary Costello Allen
Mary K. Allen
Virginia Allen
Sister Agatha Alln
Louis Alonzo
Mr. Gerald Ames
Maria Anastasio
Nancy Anderson
Duane J. Andrews
Esther Anthony
John Armstrong
Albina Arvonio
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Charles Ashline
Mary C. Ashline
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Gabriel Baidoo
Stuart J. Balderston
Michael Balfe
Ralph Barbarossa
Gloria E. Barber
Cora E. Bardon
Linda Barkman
Paulina Barnes
Robert Barnes
John Barringer
Ann Barry
Sister Eileen Barry
John Barry
Sylvia Bartolomeo
Abigail Bashant
Joseph Bassney
John Beale
Mildred P. Beale
Dianna (Dolly) Beaudry
Patricia A. Beck
Julie Becmer
Marcel Bedard
Fred Behling
Arlene Benaquista
Judith Benz
Eileen M. Bercharlie
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Margaret Bialobok

Henry Bickel, Jr.
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Sister Mary Susanne Bonville
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Geraldine Bova
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Wendy Boyd
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E. Joseph Bradley
Dr. Joseph Bradley
Thomas Brady
William F. Breen
Gabriel Brennan
Sister John Marie Brennan
Marion P. Brennan
Sister Mary Fidelia Brennan
Barbara Breslin
Carolyn A. Bresnahan
Constance S. Brevig
Robert T. Brier, Sr.
Alice Brilbeck
Louise DelSignore Brooker
Sister Jane Therese Brooks
Ruth H. Brooks
Zina Hajeris Brown
Walter Buck
Ancilla Buckley
Kathleen McCormick Buczek
Marge Buda
Marge M. Buda
Catherine Bullis
Thomas Bullis

Lou Ann Bulmer
Thomas J. Burch, Jr.
Ernest D. Burkart
Helene Burke
Kenneth Burke
Mary Lou Kiser Burke
Mrs. Teresa N. Burke
Thomas Burke
Sister Nancy Burkhard
Miss Bessie M. Burns
Theresa Bush
John Bussey
Harriet R. Butler
David Cadirao
Edward Cahill
Anne C. Calicchia
Frank Campbell
Michael Campolieta
Maria Cantanucci
Mary Capasso
Josephine Capp
Louis N. Capri
Rita Caravaglio
Carol Carcone
William J. Cardello
Sister Rose Marie Cardillo
Deceased members of
Carello/Oriente Family
Arlene Carey
Mary Lou Carey
Mabel Carpenter
Mary Carr
Robert J. Carro
Sadie L. Carson
Elizabeth Caryl
Eileen Casey
Vivian Cassalia
Jean Castiello
Mary Castle
Philip Castor
Nancy Cayer
Joan Celeone
Agnes Champitto
Leo Charbonneau, Sr.
James Ciccarino
Eleanor Ciotti

Marie Cirando
Charles Clark
Gary Clark
Deceased members
Cloonan/Moylan Family
Henry H. Clough
Sister Vincent Gregory Cody
Jimmy Coffey
John Coffey
Nicholas Colacicco
Frank A. Colangelo
Mary Swain Colby
John Cole
Dr. Patrick B. Coleman
Margaret Corcoran Collings
Gerald E. Collins
Grace Lou Collins
Daniel Colose
Christine Conkling
Louise Connell
Ann Molan Connor
Carolyn Connor
Delores Connors
Sister Frederick Connors
Ruth Connors
James Conroy
Robert Consadine
Mary Conte
Ellie Corbin
Kathleen Corbishley
Thomas J. Corcoran
Thomas V. Corrigan
Charles Costello
Florence E. Cotter
George E. Cottrell
Janet Couser
Rita Coveney
Gladys Cramer
Robert J. Crangle
James C. Crisafulli
Joann Hunt Crites
Joseph Crosby
David Crossley
Genevieve C. Cummings
Gus Cuscianna
Jerry Cusumano

GOLFERS,

Mark your calendars now!

**PLAN TO JOIN
THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH
FOR THE 10th ANNUAL
CSJ CLASSIC
MAY 15, 2006**



Memorials

Dixie Czeski
 Gene Dahl
 Eileen R. Daley
 Charles E. Dalpiaz
 Joseph Dalton III
 Eleanor Daly
 Sister Emily Joseph Daly
 Patricia Daly
 Anthony Dama
 Catherine D'Amato
 Diane Dana
 Dora D'Archangelis
 Timothy J. Davern
 Madeline Davey
 Jeannine Davies
 Gerald W. Davis
 Howard Davis
 Jerry Davis
 Dr. Richard Dawkins
 John De Mare
 Nick DeCarlo
 Edith DeCarr
 Eileen Carroll DeCelle deceased
 family & friends
 Lewis J. DeCrescenzo
 Patti Clickner Deeb
 Catherine V. Deep
 Angelina D. Defazio
 Ethel C. Delaney
 Josephine DeLano
 Rosa DelRocco
 Diane DelSignore
 Joseph DeLuca
 Mrs. Mary DeLuca
 Dorothy M. Delwo
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 Constance Dempsey
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 Anthony Dignazio
 Criss DiJoseph
 Lawrence Dillon
 Leonard V. DiTrapano
 Betty Dobies
 Joseph Doherty
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 Sister Rose Celestine Doran
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 Jack Doyle
 Helen Dreher
 Sister Mary Michael Druke
 J. Leo Dugan
 Jason Dunn
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Fred J. Dzewit
 Conley Eagan
 Mary Kulzer Eagan
 William Eaton
 Joseph Ebert
 Mary Eckelman
 Albert Eckermann
 Sister Anne Gabriel Edgeworth
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 Theresa Fitch
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 Andrew Hart
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 Robert L. Hart
 Doris Harwood
 Jusuf Hasan
 Mildred E. Hausmann
 Jack Hayes
 Sharon Hayes



Christmas in July was celebrated at the Provincial House. Shown entertaining (l to r) are: Sisters Mary Clare Lussier, Linda Vendetti, and Rose Irene Parkhurst at the piano. An appreciative audience looks on.

Memorials

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Isabel K. Healy
Barbara Heck
Dorothy Heffernan
Jeannie Heizman
Evelyn Helmedach
Jack Henderson
Robin Henkel
Phyllis Herring
David Hicks
John Jack Higgins
Richard Himpler
Mary Hmuva
Andrew Hock
Paul D. Hoffman
Genevieve Hogan
Dr. Richard Hogan
Lloyd Hollenbeck
Michael Holoboski
Gordon Holtzer
Ruth Hooper
R. B. Horseman
Sister Sara Eusebius Houlihan
Nancy Howard
George Huempfer
Mark Hughes
Thomas M. Hulchanski
Anna M. Hunt
John E. Hunziker
Sister Janet Huppman
Frances Hurley
James Donald Hurley
Jean L. Hurley
Rosemary Hutchins
Mary Hutchinson
Dorothy Fusi Iachetti
John P. Iapichino Sr.
Vincenza R. Inserra
Avelena Iovino
Michael Iselo
Ruth Izzo
Walter Jablonski
Francis H. Jackson
Jean Jacques
Evelyn D. James
Edward Janiak
Ray Jarvis
Robert J. Jarvis
Leo Jenkins
Howard John
Donald Johnson
Eileen L. Jones
Penny Jones
Duncan Joseph Jr.
Nannette D. Joyce
Mrs. Judge
Sister Mary Elizabeth Judge
Mary T. Jura

Vincent Kadtko
Spencer Jacob Kaiser
Stanley Kalwicz
Marion Kaminski
Mary C. Kane
Jenny O. Karasek
Edward F. Kardas
Richard L. Karpen
Ted Karpluk
Robert J. Kaucher
Edward Casey Kawczynski
Nellie J. Kazanjian
Leona Keadin
Sister Noreen Keenan
Sister Mary Augustine Keiflin
Teresa Kelley
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John F. Kelly
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Marjorie Kelly
Eva Kendall
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Debbie Kimball
Irene Kinner
Howard J. Kinnicutt
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Alfred Klasen
Margaret M. Klein
Stella E. Klimkewicz
David Klingaman
Sister Elenita Kloster
Eleanor Kobylard
Sister M. Virginia Koehler
Anthony Koenig
Joseph Kogut
Nomie Kolesar
Anna M. Konopka
Andrew Koval
Pauline Kowaleski
Dorothy C. Krouse
Richard A. Krukowski
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Helen P. Kupiec
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John Lasko

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Margaret Lavin
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Joseph Leary
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Daniel Loiselle
Sister Eileen Lomasney
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Giff Miller
Myrtle Miller
Kaye Millington
John L. Mills
Leo Milonovich
Frank T. Minehan
Nancy Minnitti
Allie Minutoli
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Leo Miron
Veronica Mitchell
Mary Mollnow
Frank J. Molloy Jr.
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Joseph Montana
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Helen Hart Mosca
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Maria Veresano
Vincent Vicinanza
Wendy Ann Vien
Mary L. Vigliante
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Alice Waer
Catherine Wagoner
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Art Walkinshaw
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Skylight Paths Publishing announces

Does God Ever Sleep?

By Joan Sauro, CSJ
Illustrations by Anthony W. Zullo

Written and with photo illustrations by Joan Sauro, CSJ

**A charming night-time reminder that God is always present
in our lives.**

This gentle bedtime story guides children through the steps God might take each night to tuck the world into bed. From dimming the lights with the colors of the sunset, to the hushed lullaby of evening's breeze in the leaves, to God's gentle nod for the flowers to slip into slumber, it engages children in the wider, waking world by showing the commonality all things share as God's creation. It then eases night-time anxiety with soothing reassurance of God's continued blessing and watchfulness as we sleep.

Not a book to be read and then relegated to the book shelf, this bedtime companion will likely become a child's night-time ritual. The simple yet profound text, accompanied by gorgeous, colorful photographs, captures the experiences common to children of all faiths and backgrounds as they begin to understand the many ways God is there for us. Filled with wisdom and love, *Does God Ever Sleep?* delights the senses and expands the ways we think about God and God's presence in our lives.

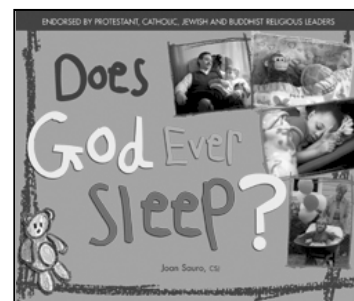
Praise for *Does God Ever Sleep?*

"A playful and engaging journey through the mind of the child and the childlike to answer an important God-question. Delights the eyes and the imagination. Every child of God will read, re-read and love this book!"
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—*John S. Mogabgab, editor, *Weavings**



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Joan Sauro, CSJ

To Remember Family and Friends with Prayers . . .

A variety of birthday, congratulations, sympathy, thank you, get well and thinking of you cards are available. If you would like to place an order, please contact:

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Encouraging Vocations – “Neighbor to Neighbor”



By Joan Mary Hartigan, CSJ

I know that this sounds strange, but I do not always look forward to the summer months. Don't get me wrong - I love the weather, vacation and retreat, but I delight in my teaching ministry at Maria College in Albany, New York. A feeling of sadness often sweeps over me when the last student hands in his/her final exam in May.

As the Albany Province's Vocation Director, I took a longer break than usual from teaching this year (I did not teach summer courses) in order to do vocation ministry. It was a *wonderful* experience. I'd love to share a little bit of my summer with you.

In June, a group of young adults, campus ministers, and CSJs gathered with me to do some strategic planning for vocation ministry. From that meeting, facilitated by Sister Sean Peters, a new vocation initiative has begun. It is called **Neighbor to Neighbor**. Small groups of sisters in various areas of our province are inviting women (college age to 40) to share prayer and conversation with us. Sharing prayer in our homes is a natural for Sisters of St. Joseph; our congregation began with six women who gathered in a kitchen.

In June and July, as I have prepared prayer materials and contacted sisters, I have been touched by how receptive our sisters have been to **Neighbor to Neighbor**. Sisters of St. Joseph of the Albany Province know what a precious gift God has given us and desire to invite others into this profound experience of God in prayer.

During the past few months, I have been in communication with a number of interested women - either by email, phone or interview. Every vocation director I know says that it is a privilege to be a part of a person's discernment as she/he and God dream together. How true that is!

In August, I attended a picnic for women interested in religious life, organized by Sister Lynn Abdelnour and the CSJs in Utica, New York.

Throughout the summer, the sisters who live and work at our Provincial House have been a marvelous support for vocation ministry. Their kind words of support and their daily prayer for vocations have inspired me. I have been so grateful for the Provincial House staff's generous help as we work to update promotional materials.

This fall, I return to the classroom enriched by the graces that I have experienced doing vocation ministry this summer. Perhaps, when the last student hands in his/her exam to me in May 2006, there will not be sadness but great joy!

My vocation office is in our Provincial House. Each day at morning prayer, the sisters pray a prayer for vocations.



St. Mary's Hospital, Amsterdam, Honored Employees

St. Mary's Hospital celebrated National Hospital Week and celebrated years of service with an awards dinner to honor its long time employees. In addition to the persons pictured, also honored were: Sisters Mary Johanna Ryan and Catherine Sean Croghan, each with 30 years of service.

Pictured left to right are: Marlene Vunk, Sister Mary Anne McCafferty, Margaret Farry, and Claudia Maryzak. All were honored for 35 years of service.



Sisters Share Summer Ministry at Sunnyside

Sister Claudette Harris, Sister Raphael Barry, and Sister Frances MacFarland share a sense of joy in working with the children at Sunnyside Center throughout the year, and the summer gives them an additional chance to shine. Sunnyside serves the poorest of the poor, and these three amazing sisters do whatever it takes to provide Sunnyside's precious children with opportunities for fun, learning, and caring that they do not receive elsewhere. Summer at Sunnyside is just a reason for the sisters to shift their focus to bringing a little extra fun into the children's lives, giving them what they otherwise might not have had the chance to experience.

Sister Claudette Harris has been Sunnyside Center's Executive Director for over 20 years, and her normal work advocating for the children during the school year transitions in part to working toward making sure that they have enjoyable and educational activities to participate in during the summer. Sister Claudette knows how important it is to add a little amusement to each day to bring delight to the lives of children who have to deal with so many troubling issues in their young lives. Each Friday during Summer Camp, she takes part in a special day of events with the children, including a Scavenger Hunt, a Hawaiian Luau, an All-Camp Birthday Party, and the Sunnyside Olympics, just to name a few. Every summer, Sister Claudette invites Bishop Hubbard and Sister Maureen Joyce to come to Sunnyside to spend a day with the children of whom she is so proud. This year, Bishop Hubbard and Sister Maureen visited during the Circus Carnival, and the very brave Bishop even got in the dunk tank! Sister Claudette remarked that seeing the Bishop dunked several times "more than made up for the two years that he was unable to attend." She also organizes field trips for the children, including a visit to Magic Forest for the younger kids and a trip to the Great Escape for the older children, providing them with fun-filled



Sister "Cathy" Kruegler stopped by Sunnyside with some donations and also brought to the staff a copy of a Sunnyside Program dated 1967. In 1967 Sister Cathy was a high school camp counselor at Sunnyside. (l to r) Sisters of St. Joseph - Mary Raphael Barry, Frances Celine MacFarland, Catherine Anne Kruegler, and Sister Claudette Harris.

days to take their minds off their problems. Of her hard work on behalf of the children, Sister Claudette says, "Seeing the looks on their faces makes everything worth it!"

Sister Raphael works in Sunnyside Center's Pre-School Room with the children whom she calls a group of "energetic, intelligent, and happy 3, 4, and 5-year-olds." Their summer days are filled with lots of outdoor activities, many of which take place on Sunnyside Center's beautiful playground. Sister Raphael helps the children learn how to swing and climb, and watches them with delight as they enjoy playing in the sandboxes and chasing each other up and down the hill. Each morning during the summer, a music teacher comes to the Pre-School room, and Sister Raphael and the children learn active songs, rhythm, and songs that teach them of God's love. Not even a little bad weather can stop Sister Raphael from

Continued on page 23.

Sister Raphael has her hands full as she enjoys the smiling faces as the pre-schooler group enjoys lunch.



"Let the little children come to me" is certainly Sister Claudette and Jeanine Ellers hold the lived reality at Sunnyside in inner city Troy...

"babies" in the nursery program



Continued from page 22.

making sure that the children have a good time; she says, "If it rains, we do art projects. We love to paint!" Sister Raphael is obviously very proud of the children and their artwork, which she displays around the room in a beautiful tribute to the youngsters' creativity. She challenges the children and keeps them busy, but even enjoys the quieter moments of the day, remarking that, "Lunches are delicious! Naptime is serene!" Thanks to Sister Raphael, when the parents come at the end of the day they are greeted by tired but happy children, all of whom are better off because of her caring and dedication.

For the summer, Sister Frances decorated Sunnyside's Activity Room in the theme "We Are As Busy As Bees," not realizing just how true that statement would turn out to be. Two hundred children arrived for Sunnyside's Summer Program, looking forward to fun activities, and Sister Frances took them—in groups of 10 at a time—to participate in her cooking program, which she calls "Recipes by Sunnyside Chefs." Of the program, Sister Frances says, "Armed with a blender, a griddle, and an electric frying pan, we flipped pancakes, grilled cheese sandwiches, decorated cookies and cupcakes, and made crunchy bananas." One of the most popular treats was the Monkey Shakes, a delicious blend of chocolate milk, bananas, and vanilla ice cream. The rice cake smiley faces mirrored the smiling faces of the "little chefs," and of Sister Frances herself, who obviously enjoyed every minute that she spent with the children. She says that, "Cupcakes frosted by 5 and 6-year-olds are far more



Sister Raphael's kindergarten graduates enjoy waving as they are decked out in graduation hats.



Making fruit kabobs is fun and reinforces the idea of patterns...

Learning to make grilled cheese apple, banana, apple, apple etc. sandwiches will come in handy for They are also a nutritional snack. young cooks.

delicious than those from any bakery," and added that, "My busiest summer was the best summer of my career." The children enjoyed every moment that they spent with Sister Frances, and benefitted not only from her company and her compassion, but also from the valuable cooking skills that she taught them.

Summertime at Sunnyside is even more wonderful thanks to sharing our ministry together!



Remember the CSJ Sisters in Your Will

Your will is one of the most important documents you write in your lifetime. From time to time, your will may need to be updated to reflect current family members or to add to your favorite charity.

If you are making out your will or planning to add codicil, we invite you to remember the Sisters of St. Joseph in your plans. In this way, you will have a special share in the prayers and works of the CSJ Sisters and the Sisters will benefit, too. Our legal corporation title and address is to be used:

The Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph, 385 Watervliet Shaker Rd., Latham, N.Y. 12110.

Where Are They Now

by Sister Patricia Allen

We are winding down on the sharing of sister relatives but we do have a few more for you in this edition.

"Sister Sisters" Geraldine Marie and Marianne Kennah, formerly (Sister Marianne John), graduated and "entered the convent" from St. Ann's Parish, Albany.

We also have cousins - Sister Mary Mahar (formerly Sister Cyrilla) and Sister Charleen Marie Bloom (formerly Sister Albert Joseph). Sister Mary graduated and entered from St. Columba's Schenectady and Sister Charleen went to Vincentian Institute and entered from St. Vincent de Paul's Parish, Albany.

Sister Geraldine Marie's ministry of teaching grade school began at St. Mary's Oswego and she then went on to St. Mary's Institute, Amsterdam; St. John's, Oswego; Cathedral Academy, Albany and St. Joseph's School, Schenectady. Sister then taught high school math at Bishop Scully High School in Amsterdam. Following this assignment, Sister Geraldine served as Principal at Cohoes Consolidated Catholic Schools. Then she returned to Amsterdam. This time she served as Administrative Assistant for Student Services at St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing. She worked at The College of Saint Rose and also did Pastoral Work at Villa Mary Immaculate. Sister Geraldine Marie Kennah and at St. James in Albany. At present, Sister Geraldine is

working in the Province Treasurer's Office at St. Joseph's Provincial House in Latham.

Sister Marianne began her ministry as a Catechetical Teacher at St. Joseph's Fort Edward. She then began teaching primary grades at St. Luke's Schenectady, Sacred Heart Troy, St. Mary's Institute Amsterdam, and at her home parish, St. Ann's Albany, where she also served as Principal. From there, she taught in grades 5-8 at St. Joseph's Troy and then again served as principal at St. Francis de Sales, Utica. She then returned to teaching at St. Peter's School, Saratoga Springs.

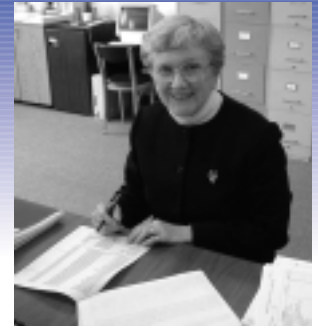
For fifteen years, Sister Marianne was Director of Religious Ed/Pastoral Ministry at St. Joan of Arc Menands. After that, she worked as Spiritual Care Coordinator at Schuyler/Woodlawn Nursing Home, Clifton Park and then became Residency Chaplain at Albany Medical Center. Presently, she is Chaplain at Our Lady of Mercy Life Center Guilderland. Sister Marianne Kennah

Sister Mary Mahar began teaching first grade at Sacred Heart, Troy. From there she went to St. Joseph's Fort Edward as a catechetical teacher. Sister then became a music teacher at St. Brigid's, Watervliet and then at Catholic Central High School, Troy. From there she served in Pastoral Care as Chaplain at Villa Mary Immaculate Albany. Presently, Sister Mary is back to music,

teaching piano at Blessed Sacrament Albany.

Sister Mary Mahar

Sister Charleen Marie Bloom began teaching at St. Ann's Albany and then taught at St. John the Baptist Syracuse; St. Aloysius Academy, Rome and St. Anthony's, Troy. Sister then studied and received her doctorate from the University of Illinois. Following graduation she has served at The College of Saint Rose in Speech Pathology and Audiology and as a Professor of Communication Disorders. Sister has also had an opportunity for advanced study at the University of San Francisco.



“When God closes one door, He opens another”

by Rita Duggan, CSJ



I thought I'd be a teacher or principal in a Catholic School all of my working years. I spent many enjoyable years in a junior high classroom and then a principal's office. During those years, my life included children's voices, lesson plans, school and parent meetings and yes, school vacations. Nine years ago, an opportunity came my way that both intrigued and called me! Sacred Heart Parish in Troy was looking for a parish administrator and I was encouraged to apply for the position. I did apply and was offered the position. No longer was my schedule determined by bells and the arrival of school buses. Rather, my days took shape depending upon the needs of the parish and individual parish members on any given day. My days can include any of the following: meetings with individuals or groups, bringing the Eucharist to the home bound, contacting a repairman when the boiler doesn't work (the buildings are 80+ years old!), dealing with frozen pipes, budgets, payroll, etc. Although I may plan to work with finances and be involved in some reports, a single message on my voicemail can take me in a totally different direction, sometimes for the entire day. I'm also prepared for the little jobs as I reach into my bottom desk drawer for pliers, hammers, screwdrivers, duct tape and a variety of batteries and other tools for emergency situations. Gone are the days of a somewhat stable schedule!

My role of administrator expanded beyond Sacred Heart a few years ago, upon the retirement of the

pastor of our neighboring parish, St. William's. The diocese asked me to administer both parishes so now my scope of vision and planning has widened to include two communities and two properties. This added dimension brings a twofold responsibility. I am challenged to recognize and incorporate the blessings of each parish when planning and scheduling worship and social activities. At the same time, I am challenged to be sensitive to the needs of parish members of two parishes who have very different histories.

In addition to the planning in our two parishes, I am also involved in Pastoral Planning for all parishes in our city and surrounding area. On a monthly basis, parish leaders and a number of parishioners gather to evaluate our current programs and identify needs. This is enabling us to set goals for the future based upon the needs of the faithful in Troy. This goal-setting process calls upon each of us to be both realistic and creative. Interaction with other parish leaders is both stimulating and supportive for me.

Having Sacred Heart School located very near my office keeps me connected to my roots in education. I often begin the day looking out my office window and hearing the three and four year old children say goodbye to their parents when they enter the Early Childhood program. Occasionally there's a tear, but in the

afternoon when parents return, the children excitedly share the day's activities. Because of the proximity of the school to my office, I have the opportunity to interact with both teachers and children on many days. The parish staff receives invitations to plays, concerts and special assemblies...and even birthday cupcakes!

One of the graces of my ministry is meeting so many people in all walks of life. I encounter families new to the parishes, senior members moving to an assisted living experience, repairmen who often share their life's stories, school parents bringing new babies for everyone to see, persons experiencing questions of faith, and families needing food and/or shelter. Each one wants to share his/her joy, sorrow, uncertainty...or just wants a listening ear. Frequently, when I reflect on the events of a day, I recognize and am grateful for how these people, all of them, have graced my day. Unlike the school calendar of scheduled vacations and holidays, my personal time can be much more flexible. Vacations and retreats no longer have to be scheduled for the third week in February or the week after Easter. Although I did spend a week at Cape Cod in August, I also enjoyed retreat in May and will travel to Quebec in mid-September. I remember hearing a long time ago that "when God closes one door, He opens another." This certainly has been true in my life and I'm grateful that he opened the door to the life of a parish for me!

Continuing On a Life-Long Journey

by Deb Timmis, CSJ

photosmall
and low
resolution

Dear Readers of the *Newsline* Magazine

I was asked a few months ago by Sister Carol Rohloff to write to you about "What I Did Last Summer." I am known for answering questions in my own unique manner. Here is my reflection on that question and on the transfer process which I completed on September 4, 2005.

It is my hope that after reading this article, you will have some answers to the following questions:

- What does it mean to transfer from one community to another?
- Why would someone transfer to the Sisters of St. Joseph in the Albany Province?

I hope to situate historically my reflection to the first question with some information for you to consider. In the Vatican II document "Perfectae Caritatis," which directed its attention to the relationship of religious life to the Institutional Church, the Gospel and the needs of the world, religious men and women were urged to rediscover their charisms, the particular gift of spirituality and ministry of that congregation as begun by its founders and as lived out by its members. In working with small children, I often remind myself not to ask the question if I don't want to hear the answer. I wonder if the Church some forty years ago when it began to ask these questions really had any idea where the search for charism would lead. Though I was young at the time this document was written, I never had the slightest inkling where these few good questions would bring me as I live out my vocation and relationship with God. I do know, that as communities began to return to their roots and took steps to be authentic in a rapidly changing world, surprises abounded. Old documents revealed new truths.

As Sisters of St. Joseph, we read "The Eucharistic Letter," returned to our roots in France and wrote about our history in the United States. Our ministries changed as we pondered "dividing the neighborhood and serving the needs of the dear neighbor." The Sisters of St. Joseph were not alone in their search. Communities lived out the answers to these questions in a variety of ways. Some identified "essentials" of religious life and equated authenticity with fidelity to these values. Others experimented, changed and questioned. The expansiveness of some answers was as death dealing to some religious as the protection and control were to others. Yet, as charisms began to emerge and be re-defined, members found themselves in communities quite different from the communities they entered as teenagers and young adults. Accompanied with the desire for authenticity and convinced of their vocation to religious life, some members began to transfer vows from one community to another. The vows of religious chastity, poverty and obedience exist by their very nature in a particular community, in a particular place and in a particular time. They don't exist autonomously anymore than marriage exists outside of a relationship with a particular man or woman. For those of us who have transferred our vows, there are similarities to "entering a community" for the first time:

- A sense of belonging
- A discovery of how the new community lives out its consecration in its membership
- An understanding of the history and charism of the community to which the person is transferring
- A sense of disorientation and loss of the original community from which a person is transferring

To sum up my response to the first question about transferring vows from one community to another, I



would like to quote from the book "Finding the Treasure" by Sandra Schneiders, IHM, "It can happen that a member of a Religious Congregation discovers that she is more at home spiritually and otherwise in a different congregation and eventually transfers. ..that very fact makes it clear that each congregation is quite distinct no matter how much they are alike."

I think the second question is important to this readership because of its connection to the ministry and life of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Sisters of St. Joseph in the Albany Province have a rich history of welcome to sisters who transfer. Some reasons I have identified for transferring to this particular community are:

- A wonderful spirit of hospitality
- A charism of unity and reconciliation that is lived by its members
- Authentic, mature religious who are concerned about the needs of the dear neighbor
- Women who hear the call to justice and compassion.
- The CSJ's ask big questions. You have only to read the calls of the Chapter to become aware of that.
- The Sisters of St. Joseph are committed to excellence.



This is the short list in why I think someone would find a home here with this congregation and why I am grateful to you readers of *Newsline*, who have made possible with your assistance all the works of charity of St. Joseph are able to accomplish.

**photo small
and low res-
olution**

Shown entering chapel are Sister Kay Ryan,CSJ
and Sister Deborah Timmis, CSJ

Sister Deborah signs her papers
as a Sister of St. Joseph.

Shown witnessing the signing are Sister Kay Ryan (left) and
Sister Francis Anne Gilchrist. ~~Place the pictures wherever you can!~~

St. Theresa's Prayer:

May today there be peace within.

*May you trust God that you
are exactly where you are meant to be.*

*May you not forget the infinite
possibilities that are born of faith.*

*May you use those gifts that you have received,
and pass on the love that has been given to you.*

May you be content

knowing you are a child of God.

*Let this presence settle into our bones,
and allow your soul the freedom to sing,
dance, praise and love.*

It is there for each and every one of you.



Sister Monica Murphy, CSJ is surrounded by CSJ supporters. Sister was one of three recipients of the Monsignor Burns Memorial Award at Catholic Central High School, Troy. Shown (l to r) are: Michael W. Piatek, Jr., Principal of CCHS; recipient John J. McNulty, Jr., former Mayor of Green Island and lifetime active civic leader; Sister Monica Murphy, CSJ; and recipient Dr. R. Mark Sullivan, President of The College of Saint Rose.

Commitment Liturgy

On June 5, 2005, ten women made their first commitment as CSJ Associates, joining nearly 90 associates who were making their recommitment. In the photo above, the new associates pose after the commitment Liturgy at St. Joseph's Provincial House, Latham, NY: (left to right, front row) Arlene Chamberland, Mickey Piacentino, Anne Fazio, Evelyn Kudla, Sally Starkweather; (left to right, back row) Marie Talerico, Mary Ambridge, Joan Stanavich and Monica James. The CSJ Associates are men and women who embrace the charism of unity and reconciliation and participate in the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. For more information about the program, see the Associates' section.




*Mark your
Calendar...*

**ZITI Dinner
Saturday
April 1, 2006**

**10th
Annual
CSJ Classic
Golf
Tournament
Monday
May 15, 2006**

Sisters of St. Joseph, Albany Province

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Translation: **Anyone for Tennis**