



Connections

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SISTERS, ASSOCIATES AND STAFF
OF THE CONGREGATION OF ST. JOSEPH



Photos by Sr. Theresa Hafner

THE BEGINNING OF SPRING

The Lenten moon filled the sky on March 18 this year, a harbinger of spring. Though darkness and snow still intermittently linger, days of promise are in the wind. Like our journey through Lent, we find ourselves still walking in shadow, looking for signs - of life, of truth, of purpose and of what was whispered to us before our days began.

We feel an anticipation and the need to do more, to prepare more, in the short time remaining before Easter. With the warming of the earth and air and the vibration of new life, we look closer and more deeply.

Do I feel the newness in me, the energy growing? As you look inward, may your spirits rise with new awareness and discovery as the journey brings us closer to God's promise fulfilled.

APRIL 4, 2022

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated across the Centers with lilting songs and jigs, wearing of the green and lots of shenanigans and good-natured tomfoolery.



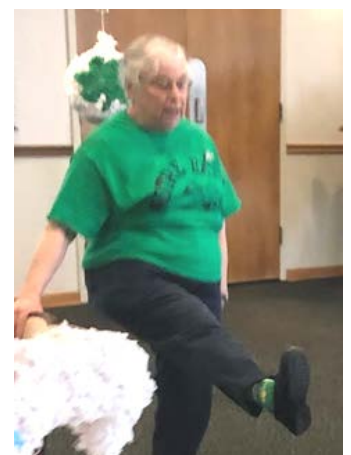
(Top) At Hundred Oaks, **Sisters Frances Landry, Julie Kraemer, Adele Lambert, CNA Corliss, Sr. Sandra Blanchard** (front) and **Sisters Joan Laplace, Cynthia Sabathier and Annie Ramagos** (behind). (Above left) **Sisters Evelyn Mee and Janet Roesener** (above right) **Sister Kathleen Babin and Bishop Muench** (sitting) and **Sisters Joan Laplace and Cynthia Sabathier** (standing). All were there to enjoy the weather and cheer on marchers in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.



In Wichita, Sisters celebrated St. Patrick's Day and March birthdays at a social. (Far left - **Srs. Anne Meyer and Zita Oberle**; (left) **Srs. Doris Vigneaux, Carol Gonsoulin and Anne Dolores LaPlante**. All enjoyed a day of festivities and fun.



Sisters in Wheeling were busy in the kitchen making Irish soda bread and butter for their St. Patrick's Day celebration. Sisters **Theresa Metz, Alicia Weiskircher** and **Mary Clark** worked with **Sharon Mendelson** to produce the bakery as part of the delicious meal planned by Scott McGuire. St. Patrick was celebrated by the Sisters with stories, activities and music.



In La Grange, **Michelle Dinneen-White** performed beautiful Celtic music for the Sisters and staff while they enjoyed tea and Irish bakery. Michelle Dinneen-White is the founder and CEO of Play Smart Literacy, a program in Chicago that our Sisters in LaGrange volunteer with and support. Play Smart Literacy empowers parents and caregivers by bringing awareness to the connection between talk, play and child development. As thanks for her work and performance, Sr. **Pat Willems** presented Michelle with her published book on Irish history as **Sister Mary Beth McDermott** looked on. Sr. **Joellen Sbrissa** regales the Sisters with an Irish jig.

We Honor Saint Joseph on Our Feast Day



Saint Joseph - father, husband, protector, carpenter, patron and friend. His orientation - always directed toward excellence, tempered with gentleness, peace and joy. Humble and with a profound love of God and neighbor without distinction, he offered love and charity to all for the sake of unity, so that we may each know God's all inclusive love.

...from a reading about St. Joseph



For the first time in two years, because of Covid, we were able to attend mass at St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge to celebrate St. Joseph's Feast Day. Mass was celebrated by **Archbishop Michael Duca** and was attended by the students and our Sisters, **Annie Ramagos, Frances Landry and Julie Kraemer.**



Sisters in Wheeling shared a special dinner for St. Joseph's Feast Day. Pictured here are (left) Sr. **Mary Palmer, Sr. Helen Skormisley, and Sr. Theresa Metz;** (center) Sr. **Ruth Kettmann;** (right) Sr. **Kathleen Durkin, Sr. Ruthann Scherer, Sr. Nancy White, and Sr. Anna Marie Cole.**



During Lent, our Centers have been holding various programs and prayers for inspiration and reflection. In Cleveland, Sr. **Pat Kozak** offered a 3-part series, "Becoming the Body of Christ," which included prayer, discussion and the opportunity for sharing.



Peace & Justice



In Kalamazoo, Srs. **Marge Bassett, Wanda Wetli, Margot Eder, Betsy Meagher** and local friends, **Ann Kaiser and Michele Gossman**, joined Srs. **Kit Kaiser and Mary Ellen Gondeck** for their weekly “Stand for Peace” in front of the former Nazareth Center entrance on Gull Rd.



Across the Congregation, CSJ Sisters, Associates and staff have been meeting via Zoom for Anti-racism Hour. During these meetings, participants pray, discuss, share information and ideas, and take part in letter-writing or contact campaigns. In March, the meeting addressed Critical Race Theory. Pictured here: **Sr. Rita Shinhearl** of Cleveland.



During During Catholic Sisters’ Week, we realize the importance of Gratitude as an important part of our charism, so the Sisters at the Wichita Center decided to write notes of gratitude to each staff member. The notes will be distributed on March 19th as we celebrate St. Joseph’s Day. (Left) Sisters **Margaret Nugent, Susanne Daniels, Anne Dolores LaPlante**, and Lay Resident/Associate in formation, **Shirley Besette**; (Right - clockwise from left side) Sisters **Mary Catherine Sack, Patricia Ann Regan, Irene Regan** and **June Horning**



Welcome Home!

Sister **Carol Gonsoulin** of Hundred Oaks was warmly welcomed to her new home in Wichita on March 4th. She was greeted by the community with love and smiles, ready to help her settle in. Sister **Carol**, pushed by Sister **Anne Dolores LaPlante**, was greeted by: (from back by the door going forward) Sister **Doris Vigneaux**, **Kristy Roubique** (CCL at Hundred Oaks), **Sisters Gerry Riendeau**, **Anne Meridier**, **Dorothy LeBlanc**, and a staff member. **Sister Carol** is greeted by **Sister Sharon McCauley**, while **Sisters Irene Regan**, **Jacklyn Duncan**, and **June Horning** look on.



The CSJ New Orleans-Houma Local Associate Planning Team (LAPT) had its first meeting March 12, led by newly installed Associate co-coordinators, **Kim Shackleton** and **Suzanne Price**, to share and plan for post-COVID activities through 2022. The meeting was instructional and resulted in productive idea-sharing.

Pictured, top to bottom: (Top) **Rhonda Doucette**, **Sr. Margaret Maggio**, **Brenda Babin**, **Jonelle Foltz** and **Kim Shackleton**. (Middle) **Carol Louviere**, **Suzanne Price**, **Merle Harris** (Bottom) **Sr. Janine Beniger**, **Carolyn Johnson**, **Debbie Pelitere**, **Sr. Barbara Hughes**